



Ready Force Volunteers

The Ready Force team consists of resident volunteers who aim to help Rose Villa's independent-living residents prepare for and respond to natural disasters and emergencies. We are an inclusive organization and welcome everyone who wishes to contribute to our community. Examples of our volunteers' activities include

1. Taking responsibility to prepare themselves and their homes for various emergencies.
2. Advising and helping other residents needing assistance preparing for and responding to emergencies.
3. Helping organize and run neighborhood meetings to encourage preparedness at the neighborhood level.
4. Comforting neighbors and being available as "helpers" in times of need.
5. Promoting community preparedness by developing and implementing training programs and exercises.
6. Assisting Rose Villa administration in developing and updating emergency preparation plans.

During a disaster, a core group of Ready Force volunteers will self-organize and become an asset available to the Rose Villa Incident Command team. As with any emergency asset, the actual use of the core group of Ready Force responders will depend on the disaster and the number and capability of Ready Force volunteers available at the time of the incident. There are many ways to contribute to Ready Force without becoming involved with this core group of responders.

The core group of Ready Force responders commits to learning basic disaster response practices based on Rose Villa's CERT-Lite (Community Emergency Response Team) principles. They can then support Rose Villa staff, help organize community response efforts, and assist their neighbors in the immediate aftermath of a disaster.

While Ready Force responders can provide valuable support, they do not replace Rose Villa staff or professional first responders. By assisting with tasks that do not require specialized training, such as distributing emergency supplies or checking on the safety of vulnerable residents, Ready Force responders can free up Rose Villa staff and emergency first responders to focus on critical and complex aspects of emergency response.

The roles and capabilities of a Ready Force volunteer may include

1. **Disaster Preparedness:** Ready Force volunteers should know about potential hazards and risks to our community and take steps to prepare themselves and their homes for various emergencies. They may also assist in developing and promoting emergency plans and resources within their neighborhoods.
2. **Emergency Response:** A core group of Ready Force volunteers are trained in basic CERT-Lite disaster response skills and can assist Rose Villa's Incident Command Team during a disaster. Since Ready Force volunteers are seniors, some have mobility issues that could limit their deployment during an emergency. In addition, environmental situations, such as smoke emergencies and ice storms, may restrict deployment.
3. **First Aid and Medical Support:** Several Ready Force volunteers have a medical background or training and may provide immediate medical assistance to those in need until professional medical help arrives. This assistance could involve performing basic first aid, controlling bleeding, triage, and stabilizing injured individuals.
4. **Disaster Psychology:** Following a disaster, one of the more valuable roles Ready Force volunteers can undertake is providing emotional support and psychological first-aid to our neighbors. A willingness to listen and talk about an event can help neighbors relieve stress leading up to and following a disaster or emergency.
5. **Neighborhood Organization and Coordination:** Ready Force volunteers can help coordinate response efforts within their neighborhoods. During a disaster, they may assist in setting up and managing a neighborhood gathering place and staging area, distributing supplies, and maintaining communication with Rose Villa staff and other Ready Force volunteers. Ready Force volunteers will help organize neighborhood meetings to learn about their neighbors' skills and the disaster-relevant supplies and equipment they have.
6. **Communication:** Ready Force volunteers will use Zoom, cell phones, portable FRS radios, and runners to communicate between neighborhoods during an emergency. They can help relay information about the status of the disaster, available resources, and immediate needs to Rose Villa staff.
7. **Education and Outreach:** Ready Force volunteers will participate in ongoing training and exercises to maintain and enhance their knowledge and skills. They may advise individual residents who need assistance in preparing for emergencies. In addition, Ready Force volunteers may help organize workshops, seminars, and training sessions to prepare residents for disasters.
8. **Terrorism:** Ready Force volunteers can contribute as a watchful eye in our community and report any suspicious activities. Since Ready Force volunteers are not equipped or trained to respond to terrorist incidents, they should focus on their personal safety and not activate or respond to terrorist incidents in our community.