



EMERGENCY RESPONSE !

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DID YOU KNOW that St. John Ambulance works in collaboration with Health Canada and the Government of Canada's Office of Critical Infrastructure Protection and Emergency Preparedness in matters of emergency response?

During recent world events, St. John Ambulance volunteers in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario and Northwest Territories assisted in airports and reception centres across Canada providing a variety of services to displaced passengers and air crews including:

- first aid,
- basic health care services,
- transportation of ill and injured to medical facilities,
- assistance with personal hygiene items and medications,
- distribution of personal care items solicited from local businesses,
- and, emotional comfort and support.

Every St. John Ambulance Council had personnel and material resources on stand-by across Canada for deployment, domestically or internationally, as requested by provincial/territorial and/or federal governments.

In addition, two St. John Ambulance volunteers worked side-by-side with American Emergency Response teams in New York City. Paul Harding and Dan Elliot assisted with search and rescue efforts at the World Trade centre and surrounding area following the attacks in that city. Under the auspices of the New York City Fire Department, Paul and Dan assisted with the extrication of civilians, fire fighters and police officers. They were also tasked with transporting victims to medical facilities.

Disasters often require resources beyond the scope of any one organization. The needs of those affected are best addressed when organizations and governments work together. On November 15, 2001, St. John Ambulance, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency, the Canadian Red Cross, the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee of Canada, the Mennonite Disaster Service and the Salvation Army will confirm their intent to work together to provide optimal service to victims of emergencies and disasters. At a ceremony during the national headquarters Annual Open House, representatives of these agencies will sign the *Guidelines for Cooperation*. These guidelines are intended to encourage local offices to assess the local needs and cooperatively share the service provision workload. Open consultation, dialogue and mutual support are the guiding principles under which members of local affiliates are urged to work with their sister agencies, while recognizing their unique identities and missions. We encourage you to ensure your emergency response plans are up-to-date.

International Volunteer Day, as declared by the United Nations, is Dec. 5, of each year. The 2001 event is also the official close of the International Year of Volunteers (<http://www.iyv2001.org>).

DID YOU KNOW?
AN INFORMATION SHEET FOR ST. JOHN AMBULANCE MEMBERS