



## **WANTED: “Fire Evacuees” for Emergency Reception Centre Exercise on Saturday, October 26**

Date: Thursday, October 3, 2019

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – WANTED: Individuals and families to portray “Evacuees” who have been displaced from their homes due to a major fire. Break out your acting skills and volunteer to participate in Emergency Management Victoria’s emergency reception centre exercise on Saturday, October 26 from 12:30 – 2 p.m. at the Oaklands Community Centre, 2827 Belmont Avenue.

Emergency Management Victoria is the City’s resource for helping the community prepare for an emergency. The reception centre exercise will provide the Victoria Red Cross Emergency Support Services (ESS) team an opportunity to practise their skills, and volunteer evacuees will gain an understanding of how a reception centre works and the types of services provided.

Don’t be afraid to ham it up! The more realistic the exercise, the better prepared the Victoria Red Cross ESS team will be.

Volunteer evacuees will have an opportunity to win a Grab & Go emergency kit, and complimentary refreshments will be provided. (Please note that pets cannot be accommodated at this year’s venue.)

In the event of a major emergency, essential services such as communications, power, drinking water, and sanitation may be interrupted, and stores will quickly sell out of supplies. It could take several days for reception centres to be established. It is important to have an emergency kit with enough food, water and supplies for you and your family to cope up to seven days without outside assistance.

A reception centre is a safe place for those displaced by an emergency who have nowhere else to go, to obtain short-term services such as meals, clothing and toiletries, temporary lodging, assistance in re-uniting with loved ones, and information updates. Special services such as pet care and emotional support may also be offered.

This exercise emphasizes the need for everyone to be personally prepared by knowing the hazards that may impact Victoria, having insurance, emergency plans, and emergency supplies and equipment on hand to avoid needing to go to a reception or group lodging centre in the event of a major emergency.

For more information, visit: [www.VictoriaReady.ca](http://www.VictoriaReady.ca).

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### **For More Information:**

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