**Basic Requirements to become a Bulkley Emergency Support Service (BESS) Volunteer**:

* The minimum age to volunteer for ESS is 16; volunteers between 16 and 18 years of age require signed consent from their parent or guardian. There is no maximum age.
* Be personally prepared for an emergency or disaster
* Be capable of handling the physical and emotional demands required during emergencies
* Be concerned for people affected by disaster and want to help
* Have reliable means of contact e.g. phone, email,cell and transportation
* Be able to respond on short notice
* Have good communication and organizational skills
* Be flexible and work well as part of a team
* Be will to attend meetings and training sessions
* Volunteer training is provided free of charge through the Justice Institute of BC and other support organizations
* A criminal record check may be requested.

**Minimum Training Requirement for BESS Volunteers**:

Training opportunities are offered throughout the year either through face to face day long courses or online courses. **Course cost is free for ESS volunteers**.

Within the first two years of joining BESS, all volunteers are expected to complete the following training:

* EMRG 1600 - Introduction to ESS
* EMRG 1610 - Introduction to Reception Centres
* EMRG 1611 - Reception Centres Applied Training
* EMRG 1615 - Registration and Referrals

Additional courses will also be offered to all members.

Also, as well as responding to large events, BESS members often respond to smaller events like a house fire. Response events that involve fewer than twelve evacuees are referred to as Level One response. All Level One responses require a minimum of two trained ESS responders.

Team members willing to respond to Level One events must have taken:

* EMRG 1600 - Intro to ESS
* EMRG 1607 - ESS Level One
* EMRG 1615 - Registration and Referrals

***To learn more about ESS visit*** www.gov.bc.ca/EmergencysocialServices and www.jibc.ca/ess