



Media release

Friday 17 October 2014

Volunteers needed for welfare exercise

Selwyn's Civil Defence staff are looking for volunteers to help with a welfare registration exercise which will test their skills as in a real-life situation.

Volunteers are needed for Exercise Liffey from 10am to 11.30am on Wednesday 29 October at the Lincoln Event Centre. Morning tea will be supplied.

The exercise will focus on how emergency services would cope with opening a welfare centre. In Exercise Liffey, a civil defence emergency will mean the Lincoln Event Centre has to be opened as a welfare centre and volunteers will play the roles of local residents who have had to leave their homes to take shelter at the centre.

Diane Chesmar, Welfare Manager for Selwyn says welfare staff are taking part in the exercise to check how the registration system and IT systems would work in a real emergency.

"The welfare of people in our communities during an emergency is a key responsibility for local authorities, so we are holding this training exercise to keep welfare staff familiar with the systems and processes they would use in the event of a real civil defence emergency."

"The exercise will also help to identify if there are ways we can improve our systems to register and care for people needing welfare assistance in an emergency," she adds.

Volunteers are being asked to arrive from 10am where they will be directed by welfare staff to the 'reception area' in the foyer for initial screenings. From here they will move to the waiting area where tea and coffee will be available before going through registration which will involve giving basic information such as address, contact information and medical needs. People will only be needed on site for about half an hour and tea, coffee and food will be available afterwards in the Baylis Lounge.

In the case of a real civil defence emergency there are a number of facilities around the district that may be set up as welfare centres, including the Lincoln Event Centre which has stocks of mattresses and blankets, and a generator which can power the centre in a power cut.

If you or your family would like to participate in this civil defence exercise, come along from 10am. For more information, contact Ryan O'Rourke, Emergency Management Officer, on 347 2715.

Ends

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