



Planning for Spontaneous Emergency Volunteers (non-frontline community volunteers)

Research suggests that spontaneous volunteers are sure to arrive following an emergency - it is invaluable to have a plan for when they do.

Table 1 depicts the stages to facilitate planning for spontaneous volunteers (SV) to be discussed during planning.

Table 1: Planning for Spontaneous Volunteers

Trigger point	Pre-approved Tasks	Number of SV per volunteer manager	Location	Duration of tasks	Limitations	Identification and registration
When to include SV	Tasks suitable for SV	Ratio could be 1:5 or 1:7	Evacuation centre or elsewhere	Hours, days or longer term	Any false reliance on resources?	

The Spontaneous Volunteer Lifecycle

A unique contribution of Volunteering WA's Report is the identification of the spontaneous emergency volunteer lifecycle, which is explored in detail.

“ The reality is you will always have untrained volunteers and they need to be given work” ~ (Participant 7)

“Keep in mind that if authorities do not organise quickly, the community will try to fill that void.” ~ (Participant 7)



Volunteering WA is the peak body for volunteering in Western Australia. During the recovery and response phases of an emergency, Volunteering WA helps connect members of the community who want to help, with community organisations who need additional support. www.volunteeringwa.org.au

This information sheet is an excerpt from Volunteering WA's 'Spontaneous volunteer engagement in recent emergencies in WA' Report 2024