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Did you know?

OUR volunteer surf lifesavers, paid lifeguards and rescue services perform more than 11,000 rescues each year around Australia's coastline.

In an emergency

EMERGENCY services are organisations which ensure public safety by responding to different emergencies. Some deal with specific types of emergencies while others deal with disasters or problems as part of their responsibilities. Many of these services also engage in community awareness and prevention programs to help the public avoid, detect, and report emergencies effectively.

PART 5



To the rescue

The symbol of hope

IN AUSTRALIA, the Red Cross has been responding to emergencies and providing humanitarian assistance since August 13, 1914 when the movement was officially founded.

Red Cross Australia has grown to become a strong, national organisation with around one million members, volunteers, donors and supporters helping people in need.

It cares for those who have been affected by tragedy and disaster and also conducts a number of vital services.

It collects blood for medical purposes, provides first-aid courses and first-aid products,

offers local services for communities to prepare, responds and recovers in times of emergencies and also runs Good Start Breakfast Clubs for schoolkids in areas of need.

Check out www.redcross.org.au for more information.

In the surf saving lives

The surf and sand draws thousands to the shores but there are potential dangers in our coastal environments that many people are unaware of.

Surf lifesavers, wearing the internationally recognised red and yellow patrol uniform and red and yellow quartered cap so they can easily be identified, volunteer their time to provide supervision and ensure the safety of all beachgoers

by patrolling these waterways.

Lifesavers are trained to understand the risks involved with the size and strength of the surf, the treacherous rips and gutters that can occur and the threat of some marine creatures.

Their role is to provide information to visitors to make safe and responsible choices about where and when they swim and to help someone if they get into trouble.

Through patrols, education and training and public safety campaigns, Surf Life Saving Australia promotes water safety and provides surf rescue services.

Guarding our waterways

Formed in 1961, the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard is an

DID YOU KNOW?

The address details you give to your phone company may be used to send help if you make a Triple Zero (000) emergency call.

organisation that aims to promote safety in the operation of small water craft, far out to sea and in our inland waterways.

It guards Australia's vast coastline in an effective way by undertaking marine operations, radio monitoring, safety patrols, vessel assistance, vessel tracking and search and rescue.

When waterway emergencies arise, the Coast Guard is often called upon.

➔ CHECK IT OUT

Emergency ready
EMERGENCY agencies recommend having a kit ready with items that will help you in an emergency situation.

Keep an emergency kit in a container or bag, in a handy location.

Some basic items to include:

- Battery-powered radio
- Waterproof torch
- Spare batteries for all devices
- First aid kit
- Toiletries eg soap, toilet paper, tissues
- Cash, ATM cards and credit cards
- Blankets
- Candles
- Waterproof matches
- Drinking water
- Dried and long-life food
- Can opener and utensils
- Waterproof bags for valuable items and documents
- Copies of essential documents eg passports, wills, photos, jewellery, insurance papers TIP: save copies on to a USB stick
- Contact numbers of family or neighbours
- Mobile phone charger
- Prescription medications
- Toiletries and a change of clothes

Emergency numbers

AUSTRALIA'S primary emergency call service number is 000.

There are also two secondary emergency call service numbers 112 and 106.

The 112 number is available from all GSM or GSM derived mobile phones. The 106 number connects to the text-based relay service for people who have a hearing or speech impairment.

All calls to emergency numbers are free of charge.

NEXT WEEK: Rivers on the run



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