

## LCI LIONS ALERT PROGRAM

Lions Clubs International (LCI), already the leader in programs for the blind and visually impaired people, has mobilized resources after 9-11, the Japan Tsunami, various earthquakes, and Hurricanes and in view of this has launched a new emergency relief effort called the Lions Alert Program.

The mission of the **Lions ALERT** program as stated by LCI is:

*To provide Lions with a standardized structure and network to deliver needed service to people in emergency situations.*

The objective of the **Lions ALERT Program** is to develop a plan of action in case of a:

- **Level One** An emergency that affects a few people such as a local emergency (house fire, localized flood), where a single club may provide the affected people with assistance and supplies. The local club may be eligible for District or State grants.
- **Level Two** An emergency that affects a larger geographical area or community. Natural disasters of a larger scale such as tornado, hurricanes, which would require a coordinated, district response. At this level, government and other relief agencies may become involved. Districts may be eligible for District or State grants as well as a Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) Emergency Grant.
- **Level Three** An emergency that affects hundreds or thousands of people in a region. A Multiple District or several Multiple Districts provide aid for a catastrophic event. Government and other relief organizations would be among the first responders. Lions would work alongside of these relief agencies. Various grants may be available.

## DISTRICT 2-E2 LIONS ALERT PROGRAM

### LOCAL VOLUNTEERS TO FILL A COMMUNITY NEED

#### PURPOSE:

The purpose of this document is to establish a **District ALERT** plan for response to any level of emergency. District 2-E2 will have an ALERT Chairperson appointed by the District Governor. His/Her responsibility will be to establish a Lions Alert committee of volunteers keeping with the regional diversity of our District. This Alert committee can consist of as many volunteers and emergency service professionals as needed to execute the emergency response, efficiently and effectively. NOTE: It is important that the public knows LIONS are involved; therefore, take appropriate steps including wearing the Alert or Lions vest, using the Lions Banners, etc.

**Training:** All individuals participating in Disaster Relief Operations including the Alert

committee or volunteers must be "trained" either with the International Red Cross or Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) or similar organizations.

**Funds:** Funds necessary to provide emergency response items come from voluntary contributions and flow through District 2E2 Alert Fund. These funds may come from our local District or local and other Lions Clubs, other Districts, or private sources. Any excess will remain in the Alert Fund, which will be used as "Quick Response" funds for any future emergency. Any Emergency Grant money from LCIF must be used within 60 Days. If not used, the remainder must be returned to LCIF. Lions monies will only be disbursed by Lions and not contributed to another agency for disbursement. These funds will only be used for **emergencies**. Texas VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) has money for emergency supplies; e.g., food, water, etc. For a disaster in another district, the District Governor or District Alert Chair should be contacted to provide funds. Funds may be allocated to another District with the approval of 2E2 District Governor and Cabinet.

**District 2E2 Alert Fund:** An Alert Fund for District 2E2 has been defined and adopted by the District 2E2 cabinet and can be dispersed in accordance with the defining documentation for that fund in amounts up to \$1,000 per request.

#### **RESPONSE PLAN:**

When an emergency occurs, the President of or Alert Chair of the Club(s) in the affected region or the Lions Alert Committee member who is closest to the affected area is the contact. He/She would contact the District Chair and arrive at the site as soon as possible. The District Chair should meet the committee member at the site if possible. The District Chair along with the committee member should evaluate the situation as a team and make recommendations to the District Governor. For funds from the Texas Lions Foundation, the District Governor or Trustee can make the request. If funds are needed from LCI, the District Governor is the only individual to make the request. Emergency funding at the local level can be approved by the majority decision of the District Lion Alert Chair, Lion Alert Committee member who is present at the site and the District Governor of 2E-2 for immediate response.

If an emergency has already occurred, contact one of the committee members of the District Lion Alert Team. (See the contact information in Addendum A as updated from time to time)

#### **COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES:**

The response of the Lions is intended for immediate reaction to an emergency situation before or together with other agencies; i.e., FEMA, Red Cross or others arrive to take control. To accomplish this, the Lions Alert Program must interface with other State and local agencies. The Texas Department of Public Safety Command Center (DPSCC) is the Official agency to coordinate all relief activities. The County Judge is under the DPSCC and local law enforcement, Therefore, the Lion Alert Chair must contact these agencies as the program is developed to let them know;

- \* What we can do.
- \* What we are prepared to do.
- \* What do you need?

**Planning for initial response:** Some of the items clubs should investigate for initial response:

- Contact grocery stores and other sources for supplies
- Contact Salvation Army for clothing items
- Assets and resources that may be available and used (shelters, trailers, construction equipment, tools, and materials)
- Have a Neighborhood Watch contact for Handicapped, shut-ins, elderly

**Distirct 2-E2 Alert Committee near term action items**

Recruit Alert Committee members

Cert training or equivalent for Alert Committee members

Insure access to affected areas in event of an emergency

Encourage clubs to appoint Alert Chairs and set up Alert plans

Assist clubs with their Alert Plans

Training for Grant Applications

Inventory assets resources that may be available across the District

**ADDENDUM A:**

DG Lion Suzi Schnieder has appointed:

Lion Charlie Bethards, Colleyville Lions Club, Cell 817 999 4784, [bethards@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bethards@sbcglobal.net) , 1602 Royal Lane, Colleyville, Texas 76034 and

Lion Butch Beardsley, Keller Lions Club, Cell 817 366 4311, [butch@upsltd.us](mailto:butch@upsltd.us), 11424 Mistys Run, Ft. Worth, TX 76244

as Co - District 2-E2 Alert Chairs for the year 2013-14.

An Alert committee including the following Lions has been established. They are:

PDG Jim Coleman, Lewisville Lions Club

PDG John Panarisi, Roanoke Lions Club