

ALERT Program Cabinet Meeting Report 7-20-24

Lions International (LI) - ALERT / Disaster Preparedness Mission Statement

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

ALERT / Disaster Preparedness Objectives

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

Level One Emergency (affecting a few people)

Level Two Emergency (affecting a community)

Level Three Emergency (affecting hundreds or thousands of people in a region).

The emergency may be a natural disaster, a man-made disaster, or a public healthcare crisis such as a large-scale pandemic, influenza, or unforeseen medical outbreak.

Current District Goal

Our current goal is to start building a program that will allow us to be prepared to respond and provide relief to our local communities and fellow Lions in the event of an emergency.

This is a big animal and it's going to require us to take it one bite at a time.

I have provided some of the folks on our leadership team with some questions to get feedback that will allow me to understand the direction we need to go as a district.

Moving forward, we will continue to build our plan and improve our capabilities.

My thought is that we start small. We don't have the money, manpower or infrastructure to jump to a plan like S4 has done such a great job building.

I think we need to encourage our clubs to be prepared to help themselves. We can build a suggested list of things each club / family needs to have ready and available that won't cost them very much and can be kept in a "kit", backpack,

tub etc. I have several lists already built but I'll need to make them less detailed and arrange them better.

We can suggest both "bug-in" and "bug-out" options and put together a training program for each club. I'll put a program and a team together to travel to each club that wants to participate. My opinion is that if there are clubs that aren't willing to build a plan, prepare and train on that plan, they don't qualify for help from the district. I know that's harsh but we can't afford to help folks that don't want to help themselves. They need to have some skin in the game.

We could then build an inventory of large items, using grant money, that can be "checked-out" for use by any club that has an organized group of volunteers that know how to use the equipment. I think we should require them to have a formalized plan and dedicated, trained volunteers.

An equipment trailer could house small LP generators, LP, chainsaw kits, pole saws, DeWalt tool kits, fans, heaters, on board generators etc. The purpose of these items would not be to make their life easier but to help them survive and run oxygen machines, c-paps, refrigerators, help them stay cool, charge phones etc.

From there, we could discuss equipment needed to set up longer term relief stations where our district club members could come to take showers, wash cloths, charge phones, get diapers and formula, eat, get low trauma 1st aid etc.

Once I get some feedback on your expectations and what you want the program to look like, we'll get together on a call to discuss future goals.