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*This video explains the general role of a Safety Warden and that they are part of the ERT. Discuss some of their responsibilities and the need for ongoing training.*

**Transcript**

*Volunteers play a key role in responding to the wide range of emergencies that threaten organizations. They are key members of your emergency response team (also known as the ERT) and they significantly enhance the ERT’s capabilities. In many ways, they are the ‘eyes and ears’ of the Team and their observations can add significant value to post-event debriefings.*

*When speaking to prospective volunteers, begin by describing the responsibilities of the position for which you are recruiting. Safety Wardens are assigned tasks such as helping direct people to the proper assembly area, traffic control, and handing out supplies in a shelter.*

*Some groups use Safety Wardens to provide a layer of security by asking them to be present and visible at events. Often Safety Wardens are the last ones to leave a particular part of the facility and it is up to them to verify that no one is trapped or left behind. If someone is unable to negotiate the exit route, Safety Wardens may be asked to stay with this individual until help arrives. In a medical emergency, Safety Wardens may be called on to perform first aid or keep onlookers away while life-saving efforts are underway.*

*In extreme circumstances, Safety Wardens may be called on to assist with search and rescue efforts.*

*It is important that you recruit volunteers to fill these positions, rather than assigning these potentially stressful tasks to staff members. If assigned a position as a Safety Warden a staff member might be reluctant to admit that he or she couldn’t do the job. During a crisis, this would put everyone in danger.*

*You can’t expect Safety Wardens to perform these tasks without training. You must provide the initial training as well as ensuring the training can be renewed frequently.*

*Efforts should be made to distinguish these Safety Wardens from other staff members so that in a crisis people know to follow their directions. One way to do this is by giving them brightly colored clothing such as vests and baseball caps that are distinctive and visible in a crowd. Flashlights and whistles are also helpful tools when dealing with power outages or nighttime conditions.*

*Safety Wardens are key members of the ERT and efforts should be made to recruit, train, equip, and support them as they carry out their important mission.*

*For more information on Safety Wardens visit the* ***Ready Rating Resource Center****.*