

**Living/Learning Center Programs**  
The University of Vermont  
<http://www.uvm.edu/lcenter/>

## **Emergency Services**

### **Program Overview:**

The Emergency Services Program will give students interested in and/or involved with the emergency services the opportunity to live in a community of others with similar interests, as they learn more about emergency service and about the demands and sacrifices that people who choose this path must accept and endure while serving those in need. Hands-on training and informational collaboration, both formal and informal will help to accomplish these goals. Both experienced and inexperienced individuals are welcome, as long as they are dedicated to teamwork and are willingly open to learn more about emergency service.

Emphasis will be placed on the skills and attitudes that are required of emergency service providers, such as teamwork, personal fitness, and a will to help others. Support will be given to those trying to balance their schedules of service and academic achievement while building a tight-knit community of leaders. The young learners of today are the future of emergency service!

### **Learning Objectives:**

*Learning Objective One: Skills awareness and development.*

#### Action Steps:

- All group members will be required to have CPR certification (Adult, Child, and Infant) by the end of first semester, valid at least until the end of the academic year. The program will pay for anyone in the group who does not already have certification.
- Group members will participate in various trainings and discussions, both formal and informal, based on the knowledge of experienced members.
- Riley is a member of Shelburne Volunteer Fire Department and is in the process of earning Firefighter I certification, and he is willing to conduct various training exercises and learning exercises at the Shelburne Fire Station.
- Group members will develop skills of teamwork, professionalism, displaying confidence under pressure, and leadership through living in the program and through the skills gained while in the program.

*Learning Objective Two: Building of awareness of, and trust for what the emergency services do.*

Action Steps:

- Group members will participate in tours of different emergency service centers, specifically, a Rescue Squad (UVM or Shelburne), Fire Station (possibly Volunteer and Career, such as Shelburne VFD and Burlington or South Burlington FD), and a Police Station (UVM, Burlington, and/or Williston State Police Barracks).
- Members will go on a Ride-Along with UVM Police, and if they are really enthusiastic, the VSP.
- Members will hopefully ride as a 4<sup>th</sup> crewmember with UVM Rescue for a shift, contingent upon their CPR certification.
- Hopefully, all of the members will be able to travel as a group to tour the Coast Guard base on Lake Champlain, depending on clearance requirements.
- We will bring in guest speakers from area departments, to give all students the opportunity to ask questions and find out more about what emergency service personnel do in certain situations, what to expect, how to cooperate best with them in emergencies, and possibly how to pursue emergency service as a career, job, or volunteer opportunity. We will present emergency response documentaries in the Fireplace Lounge for all students to view.

*Learning Objective Three: Building of a close-knit community and team atmosphere.*

Action Steps:

- We will have meetings at least twice a month to discuss activities and the progress members have made. We would like to have food at these meetings, as incentive for people to show up. We plan to have small teams of members cook or prepare these meals, and the responsibility will rotate throughout the year.
- We will participate in team-building activities, such as ropes course activities, and Riley said he would be willing to hold team-building drills at Shelburne VFD.
- Each suite will be expected to discuss living arrangements on opening weekend, such as how to deal with common spaces and study times, and how to deal with cleaning equally.
- Because all emergency responders need high physical fitness to be effective, we will either schedule a workout session or participate in group fitness at least once a month formally. Informally, if group members are planning to go exercise, it would be expected that they would say something like, “Hey, dude. I am going swimming at 8. Wanna come?” Also, Latimer plans to show program members a bit of what police officers must do for personal fitness at Police Academy.
- We will support anyone taking emergency service classes, such as EMT, WFR, FR-ECA or Firefighter classes, and hold group study sessions as necessary and/or desired.
- Team fun is also important to emergency service providers, so we should “hang out” together, perhaps watching movies and critiquing emergency service providers in them.
- We would like to be identifiable as a team/program when we are present at different events, so we would like to have a uniform T-shirt that represents the group.

## Community Service:

This program is theoretically based on service to people in need. Specifically, we plan to promote the program and raise awareness for campus fire safety at at least one “big” event, such as Homecoming Weekend. We plan to sponsor at least one Red Cross blood drive on campus. We will help facilitate connections between area emergency response services and prospective new members. Also, depending on the future of the event, members will be expected to volunteer to help at the Naked Bike Ride, unless they are participating in the event. Members will be expected to participate in as many of the group’s activities as possible. We would like to offer a prize to the member who attends the most program events, such as a gift certificate or food. Further, we would expect that each program member contribute a minimum of 10 hours of their time to volunteer community service per semester. This could be done by attending many of the planned events, volunteering at blood drives, helping the Red Cross supply emergency workers with food at scenes requiring a lot of time, shoveling out fire hydrants or public safety centers, cleaning emergency vehicles, improving safety in/around the L/L center (i.e. shoveling sidewalks perfectly), etc. It is a given that anyone who is a part of an emergency service while in the program will be exceeding the expectations for time commitment.

## Interactions with other programs:

It is definitely our hope to interact with other programs. We will bring in speakers for the entire student body to learn more about emergency service providers, and hold viewings of documentaries in the FPL. We can co-sponsor our blood drive(s) with other programs. As of now, it is difficult to plan based on other programs, and not knowing what will be in the Center next year, however, as fitness will be a part of the program, we could have fitness sessions with other programs, or offer guided fitness (based on the needs of emergency service personnel) to the entire L/L community. This year, the Emergency Services program worked on supplying the Animalia suite with old fire hose for them to make toys for tigers in captivity. The Emergency Services program would likely fall under the category of either Health Professions and Wellness, or General and Professional Interest, more likely the former.

<b>Event/goal</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Individual or as a Group?</b>
Tour Fire Dept. Career and Volunteer	Beginning of year	Group
Tour Rescue Squad	Beginning	Group
Tour Police Station	Beginning	Group
Ride-Along with Police	Ongoing	Individual
Ride with rescue squad	Ongoing	Individual
Fire Training Exercises	Ongoing	Group
CPR Certification	First Semester, October or November	Group/Individual
Blood Drive	Spring Semester	Group, possibly shared
Tour Coast Guard	Spring Semester	Group
Biweekly meetings and fitness	Ongoing	Group

Guest Speaker Events	TBD	Group, all invited
Documentaries	TBD	Group, all invited
Naked Bike Ride???	Ends of Semesters	Group/Individual
Suites working as teams	Ongoing	Group
10 hours per semester	Ongoing	Individual or with the group

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