

**Creating Resilient Societies in the Face of Man-made Disasters:
Singapore Civil Defence Force's Community Preparedness and Engagement
Programmes**

Executive Summary

This presentation provides a comprehensive overview of SCDF's community preparedness and engagement programmes, emphasizing the goal of creating a resilient society in the face of man-made disasters.

The presentation begins with an overview of the Community Engagement Framework, which is guided by SCDF's Transformation Vision to "Build a Nation of Lifesavers". It addresses strategic and operational challenges, such as Singapore's aging population, surge in demand for emergency services, limited manpower resources, and the evolving threat of global terrorism. The framework aims to enable and empower the community to save lives, build community resilience, and level up the community's competencies during emergencies.

The presentation then highlights SCDF's support for the SGSecure national counter-terrorism movement by championing community resilience, equipping the community with essential lifesaving skills to protect themselves and help others in the event of a terror attack. Such efforts include educating households and actively engaging residents in both public housing (HDB estates) and private condominiums on SGSecure messages and advisories. Through these measures, SCDF ensures that the community is well-informed, fostering a prepared and vigilant populace.

The presentation moves on to SCDF's public education programmes, which are designed to inculcate fire safety practices from a young age, incorporating emergency preparedness and lifesaving skills into the formal public-school curriculum. Efforts are made to support the national SGSecure Movement, training members of the public in Emergency Preparedness skills to become Community First Responders. An example of SCDF's public education programme is the Responders Plus Programme (RPP), launched under the Civil Defence Ready Home initiative.

The RPP is SCDF's key emergency preparedness programme for the public, which equips learners with core lifesavings skills, namely First Aid, CPR-AED, and Fire Fighting. The RPP has 2 components, RPP Online which is a 45-minute self-directed e-learning course, and the In-Person component which is a hands-on practical session that will further hone participants lifesaving skills. This programme aims to foster a society where everyone is prepared to play a part in building a Nation of Lifesavers.

Subsequently, the Save-A-Life initiative is introduced. The Save-A-Life initiative aims to improve cardiac arrest survival rates in Singapore through the 3 components: hardware, heartware, and software. It involves increasing the availability of AEDs in public places as well as on public transport, simplifying CPR-AED courses into easily understood programmes, and the development of the myResponder mobile app. First launched in 2015, the myResponder app allows registered Community First Responders (CFRs) to attend to nearby cardiac arrest and minor fire incidents before SCDF responders arrive.

This aids in improving the survival rate for out-of-hospital cardiac arrests and addressing minor fires during the critical initial minutes. Building on feedback and input from various stakeholders since its launch, an enhanced version of the myResponder mobile app was introduced in July 2024. This updated version includes new features to improve user experience and response capabilities for CFRs, while maintaining the core function of activating CFRs to provide immediate assistance before SCDF's arrival.

To motivate more members of public to step forward as CFRs, the SCDF shows recognition and appreciation to them via the Community Awards; the Community First Responder Award (CFRA) and the Community Lifesaver Award (CLA). As a result of the continuous publicity campaign and recognizing the efforts of our community first responders, the SCDF presented a total of 443 awards in 2023.

Lastly, the presentation covers the SCDF volunteers, who form a ready pool of Community First Responders, complementing SCDF's work. Programs such as the Junior CD Lionhearter (10 to 12 years old), National Civil Defence Cadet Corps (13 to 17 years old), CD Lionhearter Club (18 to 21 years old), and Civil Defence Auxiliary Unit offer opportunities for individuals to serve the Civil Defence cause at various stages of their lives.

In conclusion, SCDF's community engagement initiatives are centred on empowering and training individuals to act as first responders during emergencies, fostering a proactive spirit, and building a resilient society capable of effectively responding to and recovering from man-made disasters.

Estimated time for presentation: 30 – 40 minutes.