



# The Citizen Corps Bulletin

Volume 2, Issue 4: August 2008

Relevant Stories. National Coverage. Ordinary Citizens. Safer Communities.

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## Hurricane Season 2008: FEMA Holds First-Ever Hurricane Awareness Day for Above-Normal Season



FEMA Administrator David Paulison, right, looks at the Geospatial Information Systems Solutions Branch's display. Photo by Barry Bahler, FEMA.

On June 1, to mark the start of the 2008 hurricane season, FEMA sponsored its first-ever Hurricane Awareness Day, bringing together partners who share a responsibility in preparing the nation for disasters. Federal Agencies, volunteer organizations and nonprofits staffed informational booths that supported the day's theme of "Get Serious, Be Prepared." The strong preparedness message was reinforced at a news conference with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Michael Chertoff, the Federal Emergency

Management Agency's (FEMA) Administrator David Paulison, and Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Thad Allen. Each spoke about the need for individuals, families, and businesses to be ready throughout hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to December 1.

In the August update to the Atlantic hurricane season outlook, [NOAA's Climate Prediction Center](#) has increased the likelihood of an above-normal hurricane season and has raised the total number of named storms and hurricanes that may form. Forecasters attribute this adjustment to atmospheric and oceanic conditions across the Atlantic Basin that favor storm development - combined with the strong early season activity.

NOAA now projects an 85 percent probability of an above-normal season – up from 65 percent in May. The updated outlook includes a 67 percent chance of 14 to 18 named storms, of which seven to 10 are expected to become hurricanes, including three to six major hurricanes of Category 3 strength or higher on the Saffir-Simpson Scale. These ranges encompass the entire season, which ends November 30, and include the five storms that have formed thus far. (Source: [www.noaanews.noaa.gov](http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov))



For more information on hurricane awareness visit FEMA's website at [www.fema.gov/hazard/hurricane/hu\\_season08.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/hazard/hurricane/hu_season08.shtm) for English or [http://www.fema.gov/spanish/hazards/hurricanes/hu\\_season08\\_spa.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/spanish/hazards/hurricanes/hu_season08_spa.shtm) for the Spanish version.

## A Letter from the Director



Dear Partners in Community Preparedness,



*Brock D. Bierman  
Director, Community Preparedness Division  
Small State and Rural Advocate*

As the summer draws to a close, we must be mindful of the seasonal hazards this time of year brings; hurricanes are still forming and wildfires continue to be a concern throughout the country. And while our commitment to community preparedness is year round, every September, the Department of Homeland Security brings heightened awareness and attention to the importance of preparedness by sponsoring National Preparedness Month every year in September. While National Preparedness Month provides a national, unifying platform, we recognize that the true driving force for preparedness is what happens at the local level – in neighborhoods, in schools, in churches and synagogues, and in the workplace. I want to thank you for all your efforts throughout National Preparedness Month to educate and inform, to train and prepare, and to volunteer your time to make your communities safer. If you have not registered as a National Preparedness Month Coalition member, please go to <http://ready.adcouncil.org/> and sign up today.

This issue of the Citizen Corps Bulletin includes information on several recent reports of importance for Citizen Corps Councils. Volunteerism in America, The Role of Transit in Emergency Evacuation, and the Report of the National Watch Groups Summit all offer important findings to help you improve your community preparedness efforts. I also want to call your attention to the upcoming Digital TV Transition, which will end analog broadcasts. Persons with an analog television who do not obtain a digital-to-analog converter box will not receive any sound or picture, including vital emergency and disaster alerts and warnings. I urge all Citizen Corps Council and partners to reach out to members of your community - especially older adults and homebound individuals – to ensure that this vital source of communication is not interrupted.

This week, I will be hosting the Citizen Corps Leadership Forum in Oklahoma City with State Citizen Corps leaders and National Partners. This Forum will provide an opportunity to review our past successes and to focus on future goals and objectives as we continue to pursue our ultimate goal of building resilient communities through ensuring everyone in America is aware, trained, and practiced on how to prepare for and respond to disasters. I look forward to reporting out on the Forum proceedings in the next Bulletin.

Finally, I am pleased to report that the recent Citizen Corps Call to Serve requesting support for the Meals on Wheels Program, experiencing a loss in volunteers due to high gas prices, generated over 1,000 new volunteer inquiries to their headquarters and countless other inquiries that went directly to local programs. This tremendous response demonstrates the value of the Citizen Corps network and the willingness of Americans to help when asked. I want to thank all of those who offered to help during this time of economic hardship.

Have a safe September and thank you for your support of National Preparedness Month. As always, we enjoy hearing about preparedness and Council activities in your area. Please send us your stories and events through [citizencorps@dhs.gov](mailto:citizencorps@dhs.gov).



September is  
**National  
Preparedness  
Month**

**Get a Kit, Make a Plan, Be Informed, Get Involved.**

ready.gov

Ready.



## September is National Preparedness Month

If you have not done so already, please register to become a Coalition Member and help support National Preparedness Month. Once registered, you will have access to the Coalition Member Web site where a toolkit with helpful resources is located, as well as an area to post your success stories. Motivate and inspire others by posting your NPM 08 Success Stories!

You can sign up to become a 2008 NPM Coalition Member at <http://ready.adcouncil.org/>. Please send any questions to [npm@dhs.gov](mailto:npm@dhs.gov), and post your events on the Citizen Corps Event Calendar: <http://www.citizencorps.gov/cc/showEvent.do?submitCalendar>



## Citizen Corps and Ready partner with Minor League Baseball and the Boy Scouts

Citizen Corps and the Ready Campaign would like to extend a special thanks to the local Boy Scouts, Citizen Corps Councils and the following teams for their participation in this season's efforts to educate fans and families on the importance of emergency preparedness:



- |                      |                         |                           |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Boise Hawks          | Kannapolis Intimidators | Savannah Sand Gnats       |
| Bowie Bay Sox        | Kinston Indians         | St. Lucie Mets            |
| Carolina Mudcats     | Lake County Captains    | Syracuse Chiefs           |
| Charleston RiverDogs | Lexington Legends       | Toledo Mud Hens           |
| Danville Braves      | Mahoning Valley         | Tri-City ValleyCats       |
| Eugene Emeralds      | Scrappers               | Tucson Sidewinders        |
| Everett AquaSox      | Midland RockHounds      | Williamsport Crosscutters |
| Fort Myers Miracle   | Mobile Bay Bears        | Wilmington Blue Rocks     |
| Fort Wayne Wizards   | Norfolk Tides           | Winston-Salem Warthogs    |
| Harrisburg Senators  | Palm Beach Cardinals    | Yakima Bears              |
| Huntsville Stars     | Salem-Keizer Volcanoes  |                           |
| Jupiter Hammerheads  | Salt Lake Bees          |                           |

\*\*If your team participated this year, but is not listed, please notify us of your efforts by e-mailing [ready@ready.gov](mailto:ready@ready.gov), and we'd be happy to include you.

## Ready ~ Citizen Corps Night with the Bowie Baysox



On June 13, the Bowie Baysox (MD) played the Harrisburg Senators (PA). The Baysox won the game 4-3, but the nearly 6,000 fans in attendance won too. Throughout the game boy scouts from around the area handed out emergency preparedness information and served as a reminder to all to "Be Prepared!"

### **Sam Miller gets the Gold**

Also at the game, Sam Miller was awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award at the gold level

by Brock Bierman, FEMA Director of Community Preparedness and David Eisner, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service. Sam is a Boy Scout from Troop 347 located in Calvert County Maryland. He has volunteered over 200 hours to help out younger scouts, between 8 and 10 years old at Den meetings and on campouts.



*Brock Bierman and David Eisner honor Sam Miller*



## February 17, 2009 ~ Digital TV Transition

Citizen Corps Affiliate, the Association of Public Television States (APTS) has expressed an immediate need to raise awareness of the February 17, 2009 switch from analog to digital television broadcasting.

Millions of American residents depend on television as a reliable source of information, to include vital emergency and disaster alerts and warnings. On February 17, 2009, all analog broadcasts will end. Analog television sets will only work after that date only if they are connected to a converter box that will change digital broadcasts back into the old analog format.

Analog televisions without a converter box will not produce any picture or sound, which means people without a converter box will not have television as a source of information during any type of emergency. Converter boxes are available from consumer electronics retailers.



Cable or satellite subscribers aren't likely to be affected by the DTV transition, but may want to check with cable or satellite providers with any questions about their service. Citizen Corps Councils are urged to inform members of your community - especially older adults and homebound individuals- of the digital transition to ensure they take any necessary action to receive and view over-the-air digital television signals.

For more information can visit the DTV Transition Coalition Website (<http://www.dtvtransition.org/>), which also includes information on the DRV Converter Box Coupon Program. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Web site provides more information, including how to apply for a TV converter box discount coupon (<https://www.dtv2009.gov/>).

## Volunteering in America

The most comprehensive research on U.S. volunteering ever assembled shows volunteering in America is strong and poised for growth, as momentum for service grows across the sectors and the need for volunteers is heightened by the economic downturn. Nearly 61 million Americans volunteered in their communities in 2007 giving 8.1 billion hours of service worth more than \$158 billion to America's communities, according to the Volunteering in America report released today by the Corporation for National and Community Service. This represents 26.2 percent of Americans age 16 and older. Announced today in partnership with USA Freedom Corps at the White



House, the report reveals an increase of one million volunteers over five years, as Americans answer President Bush's 2002 national call to service. The Volunteering in America report contains six years of data on volunteering, rankings of states and cities, and volunteer trends and demographic information for every state and 162 large and mid-sized cities at a new interactive website [www.VolunteeringInAmerica.gov](http://www.VolunteeringInAmerica.gov). Tools and resources, including webinars, for

strengthening volunteer management are available at the Corporation's Resource Center website at [www.NationalService.gov/resources/via2008](http://www.NationalService.gov/resources/via2008).

- **Intensive volunteering is on the rise:** The percentage of volunteers giving over 100 hours of service per year reached its highest level since 2002, with 35.6 percent of all volunteers contributing at this "intensive" level.
- **College towns are hot spots for volunteering:** College towns are home to students with strong volunteer habits and many highly educated adults. For example, the high rankings of college towns like Provo, Utah, Iowa City, Iowa, and Madison, Wis., reflect the known positive correlation between higher levels of education and volunteering.
- **Women volunteer more than men, and working mothers have the highest volunteer rate.** About 29.3 percent of women volunteered in 2007, compared to 22.9 percent of men. Women with children and women who work have higher volunteer rates than other women.



## Transit Systems are Not Well Integrated into Local Emergency Plans: Evacuation Planning for Special Needs Populations Inadequate

Millions of people each day rely on transit, yet few urban area emergency plans have focused on its role in an emergency evacuation, says a new report from the National Research Council's Transportation Research Board. Transit systems could play a significant role in transporting car-less and special needs populations in times of emergency, but these groups are inadequately addressed in most local emergency plans and evacuating them could easily exceed limited transit resources.

After reviewing 38 urban areas' emergency response and evacuation plans, the committee found that transit has a role to play in each of the four major elements that make up an emergency response plan -- mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The committee then conducted in-depth case studies of Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York City/northern New Jersey, and Tampa, Fla. The five case studies illustrate the roles transit could play in an evacuation, including transporting those without a car to area shelters or outside the affected area, bringing emergency responders and equipment to emergency incident sites, returning evacuees to their original destinations, and restoring service as expeditiously as possible.

Emergency managers should be realistic in their expectations for the use of transit during an emergency, the committee noted. Transit systems' capacity to assist depends on the nature of the incident and its location. Damage from an earthquake or other incident may prevent the use of affected transit systems. Transit operations could also be hampered by unavailability of drivers and lack of equipment, especially at off-peak times. During peak periods, congestion impedes travel in many urban areas even in normal conditions. Evacuating special needs populations by transit poses a major challenge that requires advance planning, working with nonprofits and social service agencies to identify groups that need assistance, and a targeted public information campaign and sheltering strategy. It may also require mutual-aid agreements with other transit providers to help meet surges in demand. This study was requested by Congress and funded by the Federal Transit Administration and the Transit Cooperative Research Program. Copies of THE ROLE OF TRANSIT IN EMERGENCY EVACUATION are available from the Transportation Research Board; tel. 202-334-3213 or on the Internet at <http://www.TRB.org>.

## Virginia Tax Holiday on Preparedness

To encourage Virginia residents to prepare for the upcoming hurricane season, the State provided a sales tax holiday. From May 25 through 31, Virginians received a break when buying generators, batteries, food-storage containers, first aid kits, and even bottled water.

During Hurricane Preparedness Tax Holiday week, certain purchases were exempt from the normal 5 percent State and local retail sales tax. Sales tax was alleviated from generators costing \$1,000 or less, and on 22 other related products selling for \$60 or less each. Retailers also had the opportunity to pay the sales tax themselves on any nonexempt items, therefore passing an additional savings on to customers.

When the holiday was announced, Michael Cline, State coordinator for the Virginia

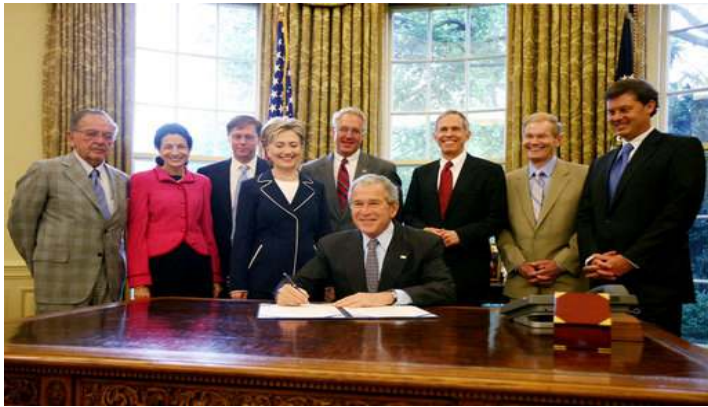
Department of Emergency Management, said, "All Virginians should take advantage of this tax-free opportunity to stock up on supplies they would need to make it through an emergency. Hurricane season starts June 1, and we should all be prepared."

The 2007 VA General Assembly approved the hurricane tax holiday through 2012 after which the holiday is scheduled to expire. Virginia also has a sales tax holiday for school supplies and clothing in August and another for energy-efficient appliances and products in. Information on the holiday for both consumers and retailers is available on the Department of Taxation's website at [tax.virginia.gov](http://tax.virginia.gov).



## President Signs 911 Bill into Law

President Bush signed into law the New and Emerging Technologies 911 Improvement Act of 2008 (H.R. 3403) at a ceremony at the White House. This law promotes and enhances public safety by facilitating the



rapid deployment of IP-enabled 911 and E-911 services, encouraging the Nation's transition to a national IP-enabled emergency network, and improving 911 and E-911 access to those with disabilities.

President Bush is joined by from left, Alaska Senator Ted Stevens (E9-1-1 Caucus Co-Chair), Maine Senator Olympia Snowe, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Kevin Martin, New York Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (E9-1-1 Caucus Co-Chair), Rep. John Shimkus from Illinois (E9-1-1 Caucus Co-Chair), Rep. Bart Gordon from Tennessee, Florida Senator Bill Nelson and Rep. Chip Pickering, from Mississippi.

(White House photo by Joyce N. Boghosian.) Greg Rohde, Executive Director of the E9-1-1 Institute said, "The enactment of this law will help move our country's 9-1-1 system forward and into the next generation of emergency communications services we need to better secure and protect individuals and communities. The strong bipartisan effort by the Senators and Representatives who pushed this bill through Congress not only demonstrates their commitment to public safety but also speaks to the high level of importance 9-1-1 is for our Nation."

The major provisions of the NET 911 Act of 2008 are as follows:

- Requires IP-enabled voice service providers to provide 911 service, including E-911 (enhanced 911) service, to their subscribers;
- Expands the scope of the ENHANCE 911 grant program to include IP-enabled 9-1-1 services;
- Requires the E-911 Implementation Coordination Office to develop a national plan for migrating to a national IP-enabled emergency network;
- Requires IP-enabled voice service carriers, IP-enabled voice users of 911 communications, and public safety answering points (facilities designated to receive 911 calls and route the to emergency personnel) (PSAPs), parity in liability protection with local exchange companies, non-wireless 911 service users, and non-wireless PSAPs, respectively;
- Authorizes a telecommunications carrier to use, disclose, or permit access to call location information in emergencies; and
- Prohibits the administrator of any database used to facilitate emergency services from using for any competitive purpose data obtained from unaffiliated telecommunications carriers or
- IP-enabled voice service providers in the course of maintaining and operating that database



Source: [www.e911institute.org](http://www.e911institute.org)



## Home Safety Council Research

To kick-off Home Safety Month in June, the national nonprofit Home Safety Council launched an interactive online safety destination – [www.MySafeHome.org](http://www.MySafeHome.org) – and announced new research findings that reveal what actions, if any, U.S. adults have taken to prevent the leading causes of home injury.

This year, the Home Safety Council's annual Hands on Home Safety campaign calls on families to take a room-by-room approach to making their homes safer and protecting against the leading causes of home injury – falls, poisonings, fires and burns, choking/suffocation and drowning. By encouraging families to tackle safety dangers room-by-room and providing the simple steps they can follow, the Home Safety Council aims to curb the nearly 20,000 deaths and 21 million medical visits that result from home injuries on average each year.

The Home Safety Council's new research reveals that U.S. adults rank the kitchen, bathroom and stairway/hallway as the most dangerous rooms of the home. Although the majority of the adults surveyed recognize the presence of injury risks in these areas, nearly half (45 percent) admit they have not taken action to make any of the rooms in their home safer.

"Our new research shows that while most adults are aware of the common dangers found throughout the home, they continue to show a disturbing disregard for safety," said Meri-K Appy, Home Safety Council president. "To help people



take action and make the critical improvements needed to prevent home injuries, we are encouraging families to take a room-by-room approach. Start with simple and inexpensive changes in each area of your home, inside and out, and you'll make a real difference in your family's safety."

## 2008 ARRL Field Day: National Public Demo of Emergency Communications

On June 28-29, thousands of ham radio operators all across America showed off their emergency capabilities. "Field Day," is an annual event that concludes "Amateur Radio Week" sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national association for amateur radio.



Amateur Radio Week offers many opportunities for the public to come, meet, and talk with ham radio operators at various locations. Visitors can see what modern amateur radio can do, and learn how important ham radio operators are to the disaster response function. When essential communication functions are down in the event of a disaster, ham radio is the only way for emergency response personnel to communicate.

This year, ham operators constructed communication centers stationed at parks and shopping malls using only emergency power supplies. At

emergency power supplies. At these public demonstrations, individuals had a chance to meet and talk with operators one-on-one to learn about what amateur radio service is all about. Not only do hams describe the benefits and drawbacks of our historical form of communication, Morse code, they feature the newest digital and satellite capabilities as well as voice and data communications.



More than 34,000 amateur radio operators across the country participated in last year's event. "We hope that people will come and see for themselves, this is not your grandfather's radio anymore," said Allen Pitts of the ARRL. "The communications networks that ham radio people can quickly create have saved many lives in the past months when other systems failed or were overloaded."

When trouble is brewing, ham radio operators help provide a way to relay critical information to those who need it when other forms of communication are unavailable. During Hurricane Katrina, amateur radio was in most cases often the ONLY way people could communicate. Hundreds of volunteer "hams" traveled south to save lives and property during the storm.

In the past year, hams have provided, in some instances, life-saving communications in recent emergencies such as the California wildfires. Hams send messages in many forms without the use of telephone systems, Internet, or any other infrastructure that can be compromised in a crisis and its beneficial that communities recognize individuals capable of performing ham operations.

## Program Partner Updates



### Battery Park City, NYC: Exercise for Success

In a small community room in Battery Park City, before a hushed crowd of nearly 100, Hank Wisner described the unfolding of a disaster.

At the beginning of rush hour in an unknown year, nerve gas spreads through the subway tunnels from Bowling Green to 42nd St. Hundreds of people are dead and thousands more pour into the hospitals — and then, within the hour, a series of additional chemical explosions incapacitate the hospitals, too. Phone lines are dead and computers are down. First responders can't penetrate the West Side below Canal St., where at least 50,000 people need to evacuate — immediately.

Four Battery Park City CERT chapters had an hour to draft a response to this fictional chemical attack: "Red Cobra Shaking."

In an atmosphere of organized chaos, the CERT members broke into groups and started debating how to save lives. The Emergency Operations Center, which coordinates the response, envisioned spray-painted paths to route fleeing residents and workers through decontamination stations before packing them onto boats bound for New Jersey. The Search and Rescue Team planned to sweep residential buildings, knocking on doors and documenting those who could not evacuate. On the medical team, logistical questions abounded — how to triage, how to decontaminate, how CERT members should protect themselves — but moral questions arose as well. Dr. Patricia Hunt, who does medical work for the New York Stock Exchange, led the discussion and provided difficult answers.

Jean Grillo, chief of the Tribeca CERT, was happy to see the cooperation between several different teams at the drill. "It just underscores that if something happens in Lower Manhattan, all the CERT teams are going to be needed," she said in a phone interview. "The CERT teams need to know each other, need to train together."

Source: *The Newspaper of Lower Manhattan*



### Pioneer Queen is CERT Trained

84-year-old Gladys Paulus was crowned Pioneer Queen of Auburn Good Ol' Days during the 19th annual contest at the Auburn Senior Activity Center in Auburn, Washington. In addition to other volunteer



commitments, Paulus recently completed the City's CERT training course. "We just love her," said Sarah Miller, emergency preparedness manager for the City of Auburn and coordinator of the CERT classes. "She's such a hard worker. You don't even have to ask her to do something, she's just right there. "She volunteered for everything," said classmate Jeanie McDermott. "... She's very sweet, but she's also really tough, you'd be surprised," Miller added.

Ms. Paulus is a community activist in many ways. Every Monday Paulus pitches in at the food bank at the North Auburn Baptist Church. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays she helps out close friends dealing with various infirmities. For 50 years Paulus has also been involved with Job's Daughters, a girls organization associated with the Masonic Lodge. She also served for 15 years on the King County Elections Board.

Source: *Auburn Reporter News*





## Program Partner Updates

### Spotlight: Southwest Ohio Public Health Region

The Southwest Ohio Region for Public Health Preparedness coalition comprises 15 local city and county health districts that have joined together to more efficiently identify, plan, respond to, and mitigate public health emergencies such as a salmonella (bacteria) outbreak or Pandemic Flu. The region is diverse as it is comprised of urban areas, including the city of Cincinnati; suburban communities such as Mason; and rural farm communities such as Highland County. Collaboration on public health issues is important for this populous city. Most of the region's 1.6 million individuals reside in Cincinnati and Hamilton County. Since this Region includes rural farm land, communities need to be aware that the chance for zoonotic infections (those transmitted from animals to humans) is much higher than the Urban Area. Established in early 2001, the coalition's executive steering committee (ESC) consists of all local health jurisdiction health commissioners.



The ESC develops regional strategies and policies for emergency preparedness and response. For more information on the coalition's website visit: at [www.swoph.org/index.htm](http://www.swoph.org/index.htm). Some of the Southwest Ohio Region for Public Health Preparedness coalition activities includes:

- Assist residents in preparing for emergencies.
- Inform the public about activities the region is undertaking toward preparedness,
- Provide accurate and timely public health emergency information.

### Fire Corps Releases Educational Curriculum Webinars

Fire Corps enables community members to make a difference in their local fire/EMS department by assisting in non-emergency roles and increasing the department's capacity to provide critical services. In partnership with FireRescue1.com, Fire Corps has created a series of five webinar modules to help departments implement and expand a local Fire Corps program. These webinars provide insight for managing Fire Corps volunteers, networking with existing programs, and discovering how community members and departments nationwide are benefiting from the program.

[Click here to access the webinars.](#)



[FireRescue1.com](http://FireRescue1.com) is dedicated to serving the fire community by providing firefighters with the most complete range of information and resources available. In a profession where lives depend on thorough knowledge and training, it is vital that these individuals have a single, comprehensive resource to keep them informed about the most current fire news, products, and technology and help them easily locate timely research and analysis.

## Program Partner Updates



### Celebrate Safe Communities in October

Long-time partners in crime prevention, the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA), the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) are teaming up on Celebrate Safe Communities (CSC), an exciting new project designed to help local law enforcement agencies and their community partners kick off celebrations of Crime Prevention Month every October!

CSC is designed to spotlight communities' crime prevention efforts, enhance public awareness of vital crime prevention and safety messages, and recruit year-round support for ongoing prevention activities that help keep neighborhoods safe from crime. This initiative will help local communities organize safety-focused events. Local CSC activities held in October to coincide with Crime Prevention Month will help Americans of all ages recognize that a safer community is no accident and that crime prevention is everyone's business every day of the year. More information is available at: <http://www.ncpc.org/programs/celebrate-safe-communities/csc-home>



### Spotlight: St. George, Utah

The St. George Police Department Volunteers in Public Safety unit volunteers serve to supplement and enhance the police department's effectiveness by filling assignments that otherwise would require sworn personnel to perform, leaving them available for more demanding tasks.



St. George Police Department VIPS work in the front office of the department assisting records technicians with fingerprinting, filing, data entry and other such assignments in various divisions within the office. They also perform vehicle identification number inspections, sign off "fix-it" tickets and assist personnel from Victim Services.

The volunteers also perform field work, moving about the city in marked white vehicles with the VIPS logo on the doors and the flashing yellow light bars on the roof. These patrols are equipped with two-way radio, traffic cones, first aid kits, CPR equipment and crime scene tape barriers. They patrol parking lots for handicap zone violations and may issue civil violation citations. On the public streets, VIPS will issue warnings concerning parking ordinance violations, record and report abandoned vehicles and any observations that may require the services of an officer.

Field VIPS also perform subpoena service, VIN inspections, assist in missing or lost person searches, traffic control at accident scenes, parades, marathons, etc. In addition, field VIPS observe and report neighborhood nuisances such as illegal use of property, rundown or neglected buildings and weed abatement issues for the use of the Code Enforcement Unit. On occasion, field VIPS will provide school crossing guard substitutions for the regular crossing guards as needed.

The St. George Police Department VIPS volunteers share the vision of community policing and want to contribute their time and talents. They commit to 16 hours of service each month, and many do much more than that. They are proactive, yet cognizant of established policies and procedures. A VIPS possesses the traits of our officers in that they maintain their integrity to the highest levels, are loyal, trustworthy in every respect and conscious that their actions reflect upon the police department as a whole.

Source: The Spectrum

#### Upcoming VIPS Training

- September 04, 2008: VIPS and Disaster Response – Seattle, WA
- September 08, 2004: Advancing an Existing Law Enforcement Volunteer Program – Fairfax, VA
- September 17, 2008: VIPS and Disaster Response – Cleveland, OH



## DHS News and Events

### FEMA Announces Interim Release of Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 101

FEMA has announced the release of the interim Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101: Producing Emergency Plans: A Guide for All-Hazard Operations Planning for State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Governments. CPG 101 provides general guidelines on developing Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs). It promotes a common understanding of the fundamentals of planning and decision making to help emergency planners examine a hazard and produce integrated, coordinated, and synchronized plans. The interim guide was developed by a team of tribal, state and local officials from all around the United States who worked together to develop guidance that can aid jurisdictions in protecting their citizens. CPG 101 is the first in the series of publications developed through the FEMA National Preparedness Directorate's CPG Initiative. Future CPGs will discuss planning considerations for a variety of emergency functions, hazards and special preparedness programs. Example topics include: Response Catastrophic Logistics Planning, Evacuation Planning, Debris Management, Emergency Public Information, and Natural Hazards. The next guide scheduled for release is CPG 301 - Emergency Planning Guide for Special Needs Populations.



This interim release of CPG-101 focuses on the response and recovery planning process. The final release of CPG-101, scheduled for December, 2008, will include all mission areas – prevention, protection, response and recovery. We encourage all Citizen Corps Councils to use this tool to develop and maintain a viable all-hazard EOP that fully integrates government and nongovernmental assets and resources. View the Comprehensive Preparedness Guide ([PDF 2MB](#), [TXT 296KB](#))

### Conference Report on First National Watch Groups Summit

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Bureau of Justice Assistance released a conference report summarizing the first National Watch Groups Summit, which brought together representatives from 65 federal, state, and local sector-specific Watch programs. The report outlines the key principles of Watch programs and highlights their relevance in mobilizing citizen volunteers to support crime prevention and homeland security efforts. Co-hosted by FEMA and the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance in May 2007, the Summit produced a number of recommendations, which are outlined in the final report.



Based on the research and the discussions held at the Summit, eight recommendations have been presented as an action plan to achieve greater success among Watch groups of all types nationwide. The list of recommendations emphasizes that law enforcement organizations must continue their efforts toward involving community members as valuable partners in law enforcement activities, and highlighted the need for all levels of government to dedicate resources to crime prevention and to the Watch program concept. Concurring with the Summit findings, FEMA's Law Enforcement Advisor Chief Charles F. "Rick" Dinse stated that "law enforcement professionals welcome the needed contributions from citizens in both crime prevention and emergency response."



## DHS News and Events



### DHS Awards \$1.8 Billion in Preparedness Grants

Department of Homeland Security announced approximately \$1.8 billion in grants to bolster state, urban area and tribal government efforts to improve the nation's readiness, response and recovery capabilities for both natural and man-made emergencies. The department will award approximately \$3 billion in Fiscal Year 2008, and has provided roughly \$25 billion in grants since Fiscal Year 2002 to state, local, and tribal governments, as well as non-profit organizations.

The grant awards announced include:

**Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) - \$1.69 billion.** HSGP is comprised of four programs:

- State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) - \$861.3 million to enhance state, territorial and local capabilities through planning, equipment, training and exercise activities. States must dedicate at least 25 percent of SHSP funds to law enforcement terrorism prevention activities. This includes planning, organization, equipment, and training and exercise activities.
- Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) - \$781.6 million to build capabilities in high-threat, high-density urban areas across the country. The seven highest risk urban areas will receive a combined total of \$429.9 million, and 53 high-risk urban areas will receive a total of \$351.7 million.
- Metropolitan Medical Response System Program (MMRS) - \$39.8 million is divided evenly among 124 MMRS jurisdictions to enhance mass casualty preparedness and response capabilities.
- Citizen Corps Program (CCP) - \$14.5 million to states and territories to engage citizens and non-governmental organizations in community preparedness.

**State Homeland Security Program Tribal (SHSP Tribal) - \$1.6 million** will go to 12 tribes to build preparedness and response capabilities, and implement homeland security plans. This program provides supplemental funding directly to eligible tribes, pursuant to the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Act of 2007.

**Operation Stonegarden Grants (OPSG) - \$60 million** to land border states to enhance law enforcement border security operations. Dedicated OPSG funds will be provided, for the first time, to states on the northern border.

**Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (RCPGP) – \$60 million** to bolster catastrophic incident preparedness in designated UASI jurisdictions. Ten urban areas are receiving awards.

**Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) - \$15 million** to support target-hardening activities at 232 nonprofit organizations at high risk of an international terrorist attack.

Please visit [www.fema.gov/grants](http://www.fema.gov/grants) for additional information on Fiscal Year 2008 preparedness grants.

### FEMA Leadership Hails Citizen Corps During Congressional Testimony

This June, the National Preparedness Directorate Deputy Administrator Dennis Schrader, testified on Capitol Hill before the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs, Ad Hoc Subcommittee on State, Local, and Private Sector Preparedness and Integration on the subject of community preparedness. Also testifying were Russell Decker, Director, Allen County, OH, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security; and Suzy DeFrancis, Chief Public Affairs Office, American Red Cross. Deputy Administrator Schrader praised the contributions of Citizen Corps Councils nationwide and thanked the American people who have the ultimate stake in our national strategy to prepare the nation. All statements for the record are available at:

<http://hsgac.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?Fuseaction=Hearings.Detail&HearingID=ef12e138-5870-41bc-bbc4-7cb6da6391a4>

## Editorial Policy

Citizen Corps welcomes your stories and best practices. If you would like to submit a story for consideration, please review and follow our editorial policy.

- **Due Date:** All articles must be received by the 15th of the month to be considered for the next newsletter.
- **Length:** Articles should be between 50 and 150 words or one to three paragraphs.
- **Format:** Submit text as a Microsoft Word file using 12pt Times New Roman font or paste text directly into your e-mail. Articles submitted as a PDF will not be used.
- **Previously Published Articles:** If you wish to submit a published article, you must obtain and include written permission from the publication to comply with copyright laws.
- **Photos:** If submitting a photo, attach it to your e-mail as a JPG or TIF file. Include the names of people in the photo and a description of what they are doing and why.  
NOTE: Photos are assumed to be approved for publication.
- **Complete Information:** Be sure to include complete and accurate information including city and State, name of people or organizations involved, date of activity, contact information for author, and other relevant information.
- **Changes:** Citizen Corps retains the right to edit all stories for length, clarity, and accuracy.
- **Acceptance:** Submissions are selected based on a variety of factors, including but not limited to: activities of national interest, timeliness, space available, completeness of information, relevance, and other criteria.
- **Where to Submit:** Please submit your articles to your regional program managers and copy your State Citizen Corps program manager. For a listing of State contacts, please visit: [www.citizencorps.gov/citizenCorps/statepoc.do](http://www.citizencorps.gov/citizenCorps/statepoc.do).

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