

## **KENTUCKY**

### **Highlights of State Council Activities**

The Kentucky Citizen Corps Working Group is managed by the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security and meets on a quarterly basis. Membership includes representatives from: Kentucky Office of Homeland Security, Kentucky Crime Prevention Coalition, Civil Air Patrol, Kentucky Center for School Safety, American Legion, American Red Cross, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, State Fire and Rescue Training, Area Development District, Kentucky Department for Public Health, Kentucky League of Cities, Division of Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism & Service, and local emergency officials. The Working Group fosters collaboration and addresses the needs of innovative practices, assists with statewide marketing strategies, and documents accomplishments. This year the Working Group formed a Contingency Sub-Committee to ensure that Citizen Corps programs will be sustained by developing a 3-year contingency plan and a Recognition Sub-Committee to recognize the best practices of local Councils and volunteers.

### **Highlights of State Activities**

#### **Public Education and Outreach**

The Kentucky Office of Homeland Security is working to increase the preparedness of the Commonwealth by implementing the "Citizen Awareness and Outreach Program," an effort that is working to provide every Kentucky resident with the necessary information, knowledge and skills to be prepared for any disaster, whether it is natural or man-made. The program has been implemented by incorporating a statewide multi-media awareness campaign and the state's Citizen Corps program into one overall preparedness program.

Kentucky's Citizen Awareness and Outreach program recognizes the importance of ensuring that every individual has the ability to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from all threats and hazards. To support this effort, Kentucky launched a statewide marketing effort that directs citizens to an awareness website, [www.ProtectYourFamily.ky.gov](http://www.ProtectYourFamily.ky.gov), where they can receive the preparedness information they need. Through the marketing campaign and awareness website, Kentucky residents are informed of Citizen Corps trainings taking place in their local areas.

Kentucky Citizen Corps had many noteworthy accomplishments in 2005. Citizen Corps Councils were regionalized in each of the state's 15 Area Development Districts and the First Annual Citizen Corps Conference was held in June 2005. The Citizen Awareness and Public Outreach Program reached over 2 million people through the promotion of over 17,000 radio commercials, almost 200 billboards, Citizen Corps emergency preparedness training sessions, and the preparedness website, [www.ProtectYourFamily.ky.gov](http://www.ProtectYourFamily.ky.gov). The Citizen Corps curriculum has been streamlined to include a basic awareness level training. Citizen Corps volunteers are now incorporated into exercises and a recognition program for outstanding volunteers has been established.

## **Training and Exercises**

Through partnerships with the Kentucky Crime Prevention Coalition and the Regional Community Policing Institute, four regional Volunteers in Police Services and Neighborhood Watch Train-the-Trainer sessions were held, resulting in the establishment of numerous new Neighborhood Watch and VIPS programs in Kentucky.

The Citizen Awareness and Outreach Program partnered with the Kentucky Community & Technical College System (KCTCS) to streamline Citizen Corps trainings in order to provide Kentucky residents with the essential information they need to be prepared to support their communities in times of crisis.

## **Volunteer Programs and Support**

Kentucky's Citizen Awareness and Outreach Program, which includes local Citizen Corps Councils and Citizen Corps programs, has been working with organizations such as: VISTA, American Red Cross, Kentucky Center for School Safety, Kentucky Crime Prevention Coalition, University of Kentucky, Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism & Service, Kentucky Area Development Districts, Kentucky Community & Technical College System, Department of Criminal Justice Training, Kentucky Department of Public Health, Kentucky Division of Emergency Management, and many other public and private partners to continue to create a "Culture of Preparedness."

Citizen Corps volunteers perform countless acts of service and are one of Kentucky's most valuable assets. During the past year, volunteers throughout the commonwealth have reached out to their neighbors both near and far especially during the aftermath of the hurricanes on the Gulf Coast.

## **Support for Hurricane Katrina Response**

Kentucky Citizen Corps prepared to receive and assist evacuees as needed. Citizen Corps volunteers were placed on standby in Louisville and Lexington to assist with evacuees. They included: 12 Medical Reserve Corps units with over 1,300 volunteers, 6 Fire Corps programs, 38 Community Emergency Response Teams, and more than 700 citizens in Volunteers in Police Service/Neighborhood Watch. To increase efficiency, statewide registries of Community Emergency Response Teams, Medical Reserve Corps, Volunteers in Police Service, and Fire Corps volunteers who were willing to serve were updated and maintained. Specific volunteers were identified to work in emergency operation centers and to staff free medical clinics. Paducah-McCracken County free medical clinic was staffed to receive evacuees, and in Boone County, Citizen Corps volunteers assisted at the local donation centers.

## **National Preparedness Month**

During September 2005, the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security, in partnership with the Department of Education, Kentucky Education Cabinet, and the Kentucky Center for School Safety, distributed preparedness literature to every public school in the Commonwealth. Throughout NPM, the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security released weekly press releases and daily preparedness tips. KOHS also announced a partnership with DHS that brought the

SAFECOM program to Kentucky during a ceremony with Governor Fletcher honoring the events of September 11, 2001.