



DHS Celebrates Fifth Anniversary

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) celebrated its 5th anniversary on March 1, 2008. Five years ago, former Secretary Tom Ridge took part in a historic effort to stand up, in a short period of time, the majority of organizations which now operate under DHS. What occurred on September 11, 2001, is engrained in all our lives and remains a defining moment in recent history. Since that tragic day, DHS has taken significant steps to address the threat of terrorism and natural disasters by closing the security gaps that once existed. During this special time, the Department reflects on its progress on priorities and how it's managed to protect and secure the nation throughout the past 5 years. Secretary Chertoff's five Homeland Security Objectives are listed below:

- 1) Continue to Protect the Nation from Dangerous People
- 2) Continue to Protect the Nation from Dangerous Goods
- 3) Protect Critical Infrastructure
- 4) Build a Nimble, Effective Emergency Response System and a Culture of Preparedness
- 5) Strengthen and Unify DHS Operations and Management



President Bush, Secretary Chertoff and other key note speakers delivered speeches of DHS accomplishments and praise at the Anniversary celebration which was widely attended by supporters and staff. For more information on progress of DHS Objectives and priorities please visit: http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1204819171793.shtm.

Important DHS Dates and Deadlines

- **Due Monday, March 31, 2008:** State Preparedness Reports due
- **Due March 24-31, 2008:** Homeland Security Grant Program Investment Justifications due for mid-term DHS review (optional); DHS to provide comments back no later than April 10, 2008
- **Due April 1, 2008:** Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) must contact DHS and submit risk information for consideration as an eligible Urban Area
- **Due April 4, 2008:** FY 2008 Assistance to Firefighters Grants. Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).
- **Due May 1, 2008:** HSGP, Urban Area Security Initiative, Non-profit Security Grant Program, Stonegarden, and Regional Catastrophic Planning Grant Program applications due to DHS



Letter from the Director



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

Dear Partners in Community Preparedness,

March is a great month for us in FEMA as it includes the Anniversary of the Department of Homeland Security. It is also a great month for celebrating Citizen Corps. In a recent op-ed, featured in the Sacramento Bee, Secretary Chertoff and Former Secretary Ridge wrote:

“How should we respond? We must begin by charting a resolute course between hysteria and complacency. We are all in this together. We face serious challenges, yet we can each contribute to making America safer, more secure and better prepared. Through Citizen Corps and the READY program operated by DHS, communities and families can create preparedness plans for themselves and their loved ones. Businesses can take stronger steps to protect their infrastructure. And government can continue to enhance sensible security for our borders and national assets”.

As you can see, the Secretary is continuing to advance preparedness and publicize it as a high priority within the Department. And we here, at Citizen Corps, are doing the same. We've recently spoken at State conferences in Louisiana and North Carolina and at the American Legion National Conference about our 2008 priorities and progress. Some of those priorities include the launch of a new Citizen Corps website and tools for Councils that address issues such as volunteer liability, Council structure and ways Councils can leverage existing and new relationships with Partners. Speaking of Partners, another priority for 2008 is to revisit our 25 Affiliates in hopes of strengthening existing relationships nationally and in addition to rebuilding those bonds, we are looking for new avenues with which we can leverage initiatives in preparedness and disaster response. I would like to introduce Ms. Penny Burke who has been with us in the FEMA Community Preparedness Division for nearly a year and who has taken on this enormous task.

I'm also making it my own personal priority to meet with each Affiliate and have already met with each Federal Partner. I urge State and local Councils to do the same in order to further leveraging relationships and resources for Councils and members of your community.

As always, we enjoy hearing about preparedness and Council activities in your area. Please send us your stories and events through citizencorps@dhs.gov.



Minor League Baseball Supports Preparedness Outreach



This year marks the fifth year that Minor League Baseball is partnering with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's *Ready* Campaign and Citizen Corps to spread the emergency preparedness message to local communities.

For the 2007 season, more than 40 teams educated fans during designated "*Ready Nights*" on how they can better prepare themselves, their families, businesses, schools and communities for an emergency. Teams worked with local Citizen Corps Councils, Boy Scouts and other local organizations to distribute literature at games, running *Ready* public service advertisements during inning breaks and placing free ads in their team's program.

Ready, Citizen Corps, and the Boy Scouts are looking forward to make this year bigger and better. As you plan for this season, we encourage you to join us in helping to make our country and its citizens more prepared. A toolkit has been developed that includes ideas on ways you can spread the preparedness message at your local games, as well as ways to inform your local media about your involvement and support, http://www.citizencorps.gov/doc/Ready_Baseball_Toolkit_2008-CC_FINAL.doc. To find out if there is a Minor League Baseball team in your community, visit <http://web.minorleaguebaseball.com/index.jsp>. If you have questions about how to get in touch with someone at the Minor League Team in your town, please email ready@dhs.gov or call Ingela Hartman at 717-232-5554.

Partnerships in Emergency Preparedness: Faith Organizations

The Citizen Corps mission supports the inclusion of many organizations and populations in disaster planning and emergency response, including faith-based organizations. Here are two stories focusing on efforts at the National and State levels, to include and learn from faith based organizations in emergency preparedness and response activities.

Partnerships in Emergency Preparedness: A Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Preparedness Training Workshop

FEMA's Center for Faith Based & Community Initiatives is hosting a series of workshops around the country to bring faith-based groups together with emergency management leaders and other homeland security stakeholders. The workshops will highlight the National Strategy for Homeland Security, the National Response Framework (NRF), the National Incident Management System (NIMS), Homeland Security Grant Programs, and the role of grassroots faith-based, community-based, and other non-governmental organizations in emergency management and preparedness.



The workshop will also provide faith-based and community organizations with a unique opportunity to meet and discuss pertinent issues with Department and FEMA leadership, as well as state and local emergency preparedness and emergency management officials. The next workshop will be April 30 in Denver, CO at the Riverside Baptist Church, with upcoming workshops planned for New Orleans; Washington, DC; Chicago; Los Angeles; New York City.

Leadership Forums for Faith and Community Leaders ~ New York City

The New York City Citizen Corps Council, in partnership with the American Red Cross of Greater New York, and Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in collaboration with NYDIS and other Citizen Corps members organized a series of forums in each



borough to promote best practices and support the networking of clergy at the neighborhood level in all boroughs.

Among the many subject matter experts on the forum faculty were NYDIS board members and staff. This conference focused on equipping faith-leaders from New York City with skills necessary to aid in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery initiatives. Participants engaged in scenario exercises, workshops, and panel discussions. Most importantly, the forum's setup created a dialogue between preparedness agencies and faith leaders.



The Disaster Planning and Training program sponsored by NYDIS provides mitigation education and preparedness training to clergy, religious leaders, houses of worship, and faith-based agencies, building their capacity to respond to all hazards with spiritual care, emergency relief, and long-term recovery services.

Citizen Preparedness Review (CPR) Issue 5: Fall 2007 Update on Citizen Preparedness Research

CPR 5, which was recently released on the Citizen Corps website, provides an update on citizen disaster preparedness research conducted since spring 2006. CPR 5 is a product of the ongoing research Citizen Corps has tasked Macro International Inc. (MACRO), an Opinion Research Corporation company, to undertake. Macro continues to research, track, and cross-analyze household surveys related to individual citizen preparedness. The Citizen Preparedness Surveys Database is the compilation of research used to develop the CPR's, which are prepared and distributed for public consumption. There are now 48 surveys included in this database.



CPR 5 uncovers several key studies that have been released to allow us to better understand how Americans' perspectives on disaster preparedness have or have not changed. Specific conclusions include:

- Individuals may be less prepared than they think
- Surveys are exploring preparedness measures beyond a kit and a plan
- New potential barriers to preparedness are beginning to be explored
- New factors have been shown to affect the level of personal preparedness
- Levels of preparedness depend on geographic location
- Evacuation is an emerging area of exploration

For more on CPR 5 and other CPR's visit:

<http://www.citizencorps.gov/ready/research.shtm#Issue5>.

FEMA praises PA Citizen Corps Program



The new FEMA Region III Administrator, Jonathan Sarubbi, recently sent a letter to Pennsylvania Citizen Corps at Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency headquarters in Harrisburg praising members of the Pennsylvania Citizen Corps Council for their outstanding leadership and service in 2007. PA Citizen Corps volunteers made sure to log their hours whether they spent time to train fellow citizens or conduct educational outreach to dozens of agencies and interested groups. We are proud of PA Citizen Corps who has shown great commitment to excellence and whose Citizen Corps volunteers contribute to the safety of all in the commonwealth.

Also, let us extend our congratulations to Michelle Troup, Union County Citizen Corps program manager, who has received the President's Lifetime Volunteer Service Award for contributing more than 4,000 volunteer hours during her lifetime. Congratulations, Michelle and PA Citizen Corps Council members!!

Partner Updates

CERT Responds to Hard Hitting Tornadoes Across 4 States



Tornadoes blew through Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee in February and local CERTs assisted with the response and recovery efforts

Kentucky – Reported by Jacklynn Otis, KY Citizen Corps Program Manager:



- Scott County CERT team members, who also act as Georgetown/ Scott County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) / Office of Homeland Security response officers, assisted with storm damage assessment and field recovery operations.
- Allen County CERT deployed in eastern Allen County where they performed search and rescue, debris removal and set up shelter for victims of the tornados. All the while, Allen County volunteers worked closely with the Red Cross in many of their efforts.
- Ohio/Muhlenberg CERT members were deployed as part of the Ohio County EMA in combination with other volunteers.

Mississippi – Reported by Todd Frier, MS Citizen Corps Program Manager

- DeSoto County had Ham radio operators first on the scene who applied CERT training, during search and rescue, by calling out for potential victims under debris and other dangerous material.
- Lafayette County called on Abbeyville CERT to assist the local Fire Department in search and rescue by clearing the roads of fallen trees and debris.
- Tupelo County had a CERT from Starkville respond to affected areas in the Tupelo area.

Tennessee – Reported by Anna Smith Citizen Corps Program Manager

- Tipton County / Munford CERT deployed with the local Fire Department to assist with damage/recovery efforts.
- Montgomery County CERT surveyed damaged neighborhoods and assisted in completing local damage assessments.

Fire Corps Coordinator and Local Program Honored

Sergeant Dwayne Thompson was recently honored as the Macomb County Firefighter of the Year from the Macomb County Fire Chiefs Association (MI) for his outstanding success in organizing the Macomb Township Fire Department's Fire Corps program. This award is bestowed to one firefighter annually who goes above and beyond his or her duties.



Under direction of the Fire Chief, Thompson established the department's Fire Corps program one year ago. Under Thompson's expert guidance and leadership, volunteers prepare kits for those who have suffered tragedy, perform child seat inspections, and are



assisting in the creation of an emergency translation book for the department. Thompson has secured \$34,000 in grants for the program since its inception.

In addition to Fire Chief Thompson's award, the Macomb Township (MI) Fire Department's Fire Corps program received the President's Volunteer Service Award, honoring Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment, inspire others to volunteer. The Macomb program registered with Fire Corps in April 2007 and has since grown to include 25 members. These dedicated volunteers have served over 750 hours.

Members also assist with fire safety presentations at local schools and other community events. They produce monthly fire safety messages and have created public service announcements which have brought the program national recognition. The Fire Corps volunteers also work closely with the local Community Emergency Response Team to receive training such as CPR and first-aid. Macomb's Fire Corps accomplishments helped the department secure funding from the [Urban Area Security Initiative: Nonprofit Security Grant Program](#), which will be used to provide uniforms and training for Fire Corps members and purchase additional equipment for the department. Visit www.firecorps.org for more information about the Macomb Township Fire Corps program.



Medical Reserve Corps supports President's National Challenge

The President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports recently launched the inaugural National President's Challenge (NPC) — a six-week physical activity challenge that encourages all Americans to get up and move at least 30 minutes a day, 5 days a week. The Challenge started on March 20, 2008 and culminates on May 15, 2008. MRC and Citizen Corps encourage you to join in this challenge by making a commitment to fitness and health. To register for the challenge, access the partnership toolkit, and learn more, visit the Web site at www.presidentschallenge.org.

MRC Members Participate in Seattle Earthquake Drill

Carnation-Duvall Medical Reserve Corps members were called into action at 7:40AM on March 5 as part of the Sound Shake exercise. Sound Shake '08 was an exercise testing emergency operations capabilities during a simulated earthquake. Players included emergency organizations from King, Snohomish and Thurston counties as well as the cities of Seattle and Bellevue. All entities were supported by Washington State Emergency Management Division. Volunteer organizations such as Carnation-Duvall MRC were invited to take part.

Twenty-two out of the 48 unit members were available to deploy during this event, 15 of whom were past / present medical professionals. For more information on Carnation-Duvall MRC and other local volunteer efforts got to: www.carnationduvallcitizencorps.org.



2008 MRC National Leadership and Training Conference

On April 8-11, hundreds of Medical Reserve Corps leaders, public health officials, volunteer management experts, and other supporters from around the country convened in Portland, Oregon, to discuss an array of topics in public health, preparedness, volunteer management, and other areas of MRC-related interest. The Surgeon General addressed the participants and congratulated everyone on the success of MRC Units, numbering 730 nationwide.

Neighborhood Watch Upcoming Training Opportunities



The National Sheriffs' Association is conducting training sessions across the country to familiarize law enforcement and community members with the Neighborhood Watch Toolkit. The training provides an overview to the curriculum and tools contained in the Toolkit including ways to improve Neighborhood Watch activities by providing formal training for law enforcement, Block Captains and community volunteers. The Toolkit also provides information and training on a wide variety of public and community safety-based topics, including volunteer management, partnerships and conducting effective meetings. In addition there are specialized presentations that are supplemented by numerous action-oriented Neighborhood Watch Tools. Upcoming training locations and dates are listed below. Go to www.usaonwatch.org/Resources/ToolkitTraining.php for more information.

April
Oakland, CA - April 20-22

June
Oregon - June 2-3

May
Missouri - May 29-30
Maryland - May 29-30

July
Indiana - July 1st

New Initiative!! Celebrate Safe Communities from October 2-4, 2008

The National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) have joined the Bureau of Just Assistance (BJA), U.S. Department of Justice to tackle the rise in violent crime through an initiative called *Celebrate Safe Communities*. The Celebrate Safe Communities initiative will kick off October's Crime Prevention Month, an annual celebration. During October 2-4, 2008 communities across the country will host crime prevention events in neighborhoods, with schools, and in collaboration with local businesses. Celebrate Safe Communities will strengthen the partnerships between law enforcement and communities to stem the rising tide of





violence. To learn more, visit: <http://www.ncpc.org/programs/celebrate-safe-communities>.



International Association of Chief's of Police (IACP)
To Recognize Outstanding Achievement in Law Enforcement
Volunteer Programs with Award

The IACP's Outstanding Achievement in Law Enforcement Volunteer Programs Award recognizes volunteer programs that demonstrate innovative, effective practices for augmenting sworn or civilian staff and/or improving service delivery to their communities. Up to three agencies are selected as winners each year and recognized at the IACP's annual conference. Programs must be registered with the national Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) Program (<http://www.policevolunteers.org>) to apply.

The 2008 application deadline is May 15. For more information visit <http://www.theiacp.org/awards/volunteerprogram/> or contact Carolyn Cockcroft at cockroftc@theiacp.org or 1-800-THE-IACP x206.

Affiliate Spotlights



Operation Hope Volunteer Recognized for Contributing
27,000 Hours of Service

Secretary Henry M. Paulson, Jr. of the Department of Treasury presented the President's Volunteer Service Award to Gayliene Omary of Oakland, California, as part of the USA Freedom Corps Volunteer Service Recognition Program. Gayliene has completed an amazing 27,000 hours of volunteer service through Operation Hope, a Citizen Corps Affiliate.

Ms. Omary is a Wholesale Account Executive for Bank of America through which she began her involvement with Operation Hope's "Banking on Our Future" and taught the importance of using your money wisely in grade schools, middle schools, and high schools. She received the Banking on Our Future Volunteer of the Year 2007 award for her efforts. In addition, Ms. Omary is a volunteer trainer for the Contra Costa Child Abuse Prevention Council, where she trains adults who are in contact with children to spot, and hopefully, end, any abuse to a child.

Congratulations Ms. Omary!!



The Home Safety Council Focuses on Poison prevention

March was Poison Prevention Month and the Home Safety Council's poisoning prevention advice can help individuals and families keep their homes safer from poisonous and toxic products, chemicals and gases, regardless of the ages of the occupants.



Home Safety Council research shows that poisoning is the second leading cause of unintentional injury related death in the home. According to the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) more than 92 percent of the 2.4 million poison exposures reported in the latest year occurred in the home. Yet, the Home Safety Council found that most families are not taking the appropriate precautions to reduce the risk of poison exposure.

The first step to protecting yourself and / or others is to prepare for hazards involving poisonous substances. Some important tips include:

- Know to call 1-800-222-1222 if someone ingests poison
- Have a service person check heaters, stoves and fireplaces every year to see that they work well and / or not expelling dangerous gases that may be odorless and invisible
- Have a carbon monoxide (CO) detector near the bedrooms
- Know what's poisonous in your home
- Put poisonous items in a cabinet with a child safety lock

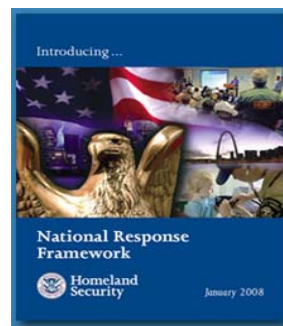
For more information on poison prevention visit:

http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/safety_guide/sg_poison_w001.aspx.

Important News and Dates from DHS

National Response Framework in Effect

The National Response Framework (NRF), successor to the National Response Plan officially went into effect on Saturday, March 22, 2008. On January 22, 2008, the NRF was initially released following an extensive process of outreach and coordination between the Department and key stakeholders representing federal, tribal, state and local governments, non-governmental agencies and associations, and the private sector. The NRF was posted in the Federal Register for sixty days, as required by law and now that the timeframe has passed, the NRF goes officially into effect.





The NRF focuses on response and short-term recovery, articulates the doctrine, principles and architecture by which the nation prepares for and responds to all-hazard disasters across all levels of government and all sectors of communities. The NRF also focuses on preparedness and encourages a higher level of readiness across all jurisdictions in a streamlined document that is less bureaucratic and more user-friendly than its predecessor.

The NRF is designed to be scalable, flexible and adaptable, always in effect, and articulates clear roles and responsibilities among local, state, and federal officials. Part of the educational and outreach efforts include the release of the on-line training course “IS-800.B National Response Framework, An Introduction,” which can be found at: www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS800b.asp

In addition to the NRF, the Emergency Support Function Annexes and Support Annexes are also in effect and can be accessed on-line at the NRF Resource Center (www.fema.gov/nrf). The annexes are a total of 23 individual documents designed to provide concept of operations, procedures and structures for achieving response directives for all partners in fulfilling their roles under the NRF.

To make the NRF a ‘living system’ that can be revised and updated in a more nimble, transparent fashion, the NRF Resource Center (www.fema.gov/nrf) was developed; an on-line repository of the entire component parts of the NRF. The Resource Center will allow for on-going revisions as necessary to reflect real-world events and lessons learned.

Upcoming Monthly Themes

Use the below upcoming monthly themes to sponsor an event, get yourself and / or others involved in local efforts and/or educate yourself and the community. The full 2008 Month-by-Month Themes for Community Outreach with suggested community event tie-ins is available on the web at <http://www.citizencorps.gov/news/themes.shtm>

April

- April 27-May 3, 2008: National Volunteer Week: Inspire by Example
- April 19-26, 2008: National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW)

June

- National Safety Month – National Safety Council
- Home Safety Month – Home Safety Council
- June 1, 2008: Hurricane Season Begins
- June 14, 2008: Flag Day
- June 28-28, 2008: ARRL Field Day



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 citizencorps@dhs.gov. We recommend that you also copy your State Citizen Corps program manager. For a listing of State contacts, please visit: www.citizencorps.gov/citizenCorps/statepoc.do.