

## **IDAHO**

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

Idaho's State Citizen Corps Council was established as an Interim Council in January 2003. In June 2005, Governor Dirk Kempthorne formally established the Council via Executive Order. State Citizen Corps leaders have accepted invitations to speak at functions to promote the ideals of Citizen Corps. These include the importance of being prepared for emergency and disaster conditions and focus on all-hazard preparedness and training for families, individuals, businesses, youth, seniors, and those with disabilities. At the State and regional level, brochures have been developed to advertise the national and State initiatives and encourage enrollment in Citizen Corps programs. Citizen Corps Council members throughout the State attended safety fairs, conducted CERT training, worked with county emergency managers to identify community needs, and distributed information to help citizens better prepare themselves for emergencies. Brochures with 72-hour kit information, family disaster plans, and information for special needs populations and childcare providers have been distributed throughout the State.

Since its inception, the Idaho State Citizen Corps Council has been active in advancing national Citizen Corps initiatives. Aggressive outreach efforts have resulted in an increased Council membership. In June 2004, the State Council merged with the Idaho Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (IDAVOAD). The instituted practice of bimonthly meetings track Citizen Corps activities Statewide and encourage innovative ideas.

During 2005, the State Citizen Corps Council worked with the Idaho State University to offer college credits for those who complete CERT and other advanced trainings that benefit their local communities in responding to and recovering from emergencies, disasters or other events of national significance.

### **Highlights of State Activities**

Idaho Citizen Corps Programs throughout the State have provided local communities with training in flood fighting, Emergency Operations Center Activations, Incident Command System (ICS), and the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The State also has formed a partnership with the Red Cross in shelter management training.

### **Public Education and Outreach**

The North Central Idaho Citizen Corps Council conducted an extensive five-county advertising program focusing on creating public awareness of Citizen Corps, CERT, and disaster preparedness. The program included an in-depth, four-month television campaign designed to cover the Citizen Corps initiatives, introductory news releases distributed to newspapers within the five-county area, and promotional flyers produced and posted throughout the area.

### **Training and Exercises**

The Nez Perce Tribe Citizen Corps Council completed CERT Training for the Lapwai High School junior class. The Council communicated and collaborated services with the Lapwai School District and Lewis-Clark State College in providing the training.

The North Central Idaho Citizen Corps Council has partnered with the Boy Scouts of America to provide CERT training to high school students. The Council has also trained a number of college students in CERT. Working with their local first responders, the North Central Idaho Citizen Corps Council has trained its volunteers in methamphetamine (“meth”) lab, traffic management, CPR, first aid, flood fighting to integrate their volunteers to assist first responders.

The North Central Idaho Citizen Corps Council also has trained their Citizen Corps volunteers to assist in the counties’ Emergency Operations Centers (EOC). Citizen Corps volunteers have staffed phone banks and served as backfill for employees.

### **Volunteer Programs and Support**

When the North Idaho Citizen Corps Council first began, Coeur d’Alene Police had a Neighborhood Watch program, but no VIPS. At the Citizen Corps Council meetings, they were so inspired by the VIPS program at Post Falls Police that they started a volunteer program at the station. After one year, their volunteer hours total 4,638 which equal a savings of \$83,484 to the city. Now they are starting a new program for retired law enforcement officers called “Project MO”. These volunteers will establish and maintain a database of detailed information about sex offenders.

The Pocatello Police Department Neighborhood Watch (NW) and VIPS programs have developed an active volunteer force to assist with all aspects of crime prevention and emergency preparedness. It has also developed The Alert Notification Network. The Department’s Community Services Assistant can activate the network by making nine phone calls to the NW Zone Leaders who, in turn, call their Area Leaders. The Area Leaders call the Block Captains and the Block Captains then call the individual participants. With just nine phone calls the department can reach approximately 8,500 homes. The network has been used to catch child abductors, vandals, vehicle burglars and hosts of other criminals.