

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Highlights of State Council Activities

The NH State Citizen Corps Council (SCCC) is a committee of Volunteer NH! (VNH!). This diverse committee is comprised of representatives from Department of Safety, Bureau of Emergency Management, American Red Cross, Corporation for National and Community Service, Law Enforcement, Health & Medical Networks, College Professors and Directors, Medical Reserve Corps, Local Citizen Corps and Volunteer NH!. Together, VNH!/SCCC, has crafted a five-year strategic plan and developed aggressive, attainable goals to better prepare the citizens of New Hampshire. Local Council and charter program growth continued to increase in 2005.

The State Council has focused its efforts on establishing regional collaborations throughout the state and building partnerships with agencies sharing a similar focus, while maintaining and developing individual programs with additional training and regional and statewide exercise opportunities. The New Hampshire Public Health Networks, which cover the majority of the state, have expressed an interest in becoming regional Citizen Corps Councils.

Highlights of State Activities

Public Education and Outreach

Consistent throughout the New Hampshire State Citizen Corps Strategic Plan is the need to collaborate and partner with state agencies, local business and volunteer organizations and faith-based groups. A considerable amount of planning, work and energy has gone into forging those relationships. As a result, Citizen Corps volunteers have provided preparedness brochures to residents and have assisted local law enforcement and fire departments whenever assistance is needed.

Training and Exercises

This year, over 200 individuals completed CERT training and many residents participated in local community events or exercises. Locally, Goffstown CERT participated in the Manchester Pandemic exercise by working with the local police department to provide traffic control. The Thornton/Waterville CERT was recognized for assisting in a domestic hostage dispute by helping divert traffic from the scene, so the police department could focus on the situation.

Volunteer Programs and Support

As a result of the disastrous October 2005 floods that crippled southwestern New Hampshire, Volunteer NH!/Citizen Corps proved to be a key link in the response/recovery efforts due in part to the growth and progress among local Councils. Subsequently, the VNH!/SCCC ability to collaborate with various agencies and organizations and bring volunteers together quickly has led to the transfer of the Emergency Support Function "Volunteer and Donations" to Volunteer NH!.

which has delegated the oversight of the ESF to the NH State Citizen Corps Council. In doing so, VNH!/SCCC will have a liaison designated to the State EOC, and VNH!/SCCC will assume responsibility of NH VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster).

Support for Hurricane Katrina Response

New Hampshire Citizen Corps played a lead role in organizing response efforts throughout the state by registering volunteers and preparing for potential evacuees. For example, New Hampshire Citizen Corps registered 200 volunteers in preparation for evacuee assistance and potential deployment. The Council launched a Web site to match volunteers to agencies seeking support, resulting in over 400 registered volunteers on the Citizen Corps volunteer database. New Hampshire Citizen Corps also partnered with the New Hampshire-based Timberland Company to send a nationwide message to all employees encouraging them to volunteer with their local Citizen Corps Councils and charter programs.

National Preparedness Month

In recognition of National Preparedness Month, New Hampshire Citizen Corps hosted its first Preparedness Training Conference, which brought together over 100 participants from local Citizen Corps Councils, local emergency management, and the public safety community.