



FEMA

October 2007 Community Preparedness News



Brock D. Bierman
Director of FEMA's
Community Preparedness
Division

Citizen Corps By the Numbers:

Citizen Corps Councils:	2,266
CERT	2,761
Fire Corps	687
MRC	705
NWP	14,791
VIPS	1,610

The View from HQ

Dear Partners in Community Preparedness,

In my first few weeks as Director of FEMA's Community Preparedness Division and the President's newly appointed Small State and Rural Advocate, I have already had a number of opportunities to visit and speak with Citizen Corps volunteers around the country. During visits to Idaho, Minnesota, Texas, and Ohio, I have heard accounts of your responses to events ranging from the bridge collapse in Minnesota to severe flooding in Ohio. Your successful and courageous efforts underscore the importance of our mission to prepare communities for all hazards by providing information, training, and volunteer opportunities, and by integrating volunteers into emergency planning and preparation. When state, territorial, tribal, and local government; first responders; affiliated volunteers; and private sector partners coordinate their emergency planning efforts through Citizen Corps Councils, our communities and our nation become more resilient to disasters.

Volunteers are of the utmost importance as we work to build our nation's resilience to the array of threats that face us today—be it flooding, chemical spills, fires, crime prevention, acts of terrorism, or other hazards. Through Citizen Corps Councils, Partner Programs—including Community Emergency Response Teams, Medical Reserve Corps, Fire Corps, USAonWatch, and Volunteers in Police Service—and Citizen Corps' 25 national Affiliate organizations, all Americans can make a difference in their communities safety and security.

As an organization, and as a nation, we need to be wholly committed to citizen and community preparedness initiatives. In FEMA's Community Preparedness Division, our top priorities are accessibility and availability to our stakeholders, strengthening Citizen Corps Councils nationwide, and strengthening communications and outreach.

Moving forward, we want to hear from you. Contact your state or regional Citizen Corps program managers through the emails listed on the last page, or send your thoughts and comments to our national email address: citizencorps@dhs.gov.

In closing, I would like to express my vast respect and admiration for people who give their time, talents, and energy to ensure the well-being and safety of neighbors and strangers alike. You deserve nothing less than the best we can give and I look forward to supporting your efforts as we further develop and improve our program.

Sincerely,

Brock D. Bierman
Director, Community Preparedness Division
Small State and Rural Advocate
DHS/Federal Emergency Management Agency

In Ohio, over 2,400 volunteers put in more than 35,000 hours of service as the city of Findlay worked to recover from the damaging high water.

Volunteers who received special recognition include:

Hancock County

Lu Draper
Dr. Emily Walton
Steve Rackley
Bishop Jones
Christina Drake
Bill Recker
Maile Doyle
Helen Sanders
Dick Baker

Putnam County

Barb Odenweller
Jason Germain
Anita Stechschulte
Derrick Wallace
Mike Jerwers
Mike Klear
Rose Riepenhoff
Tory Strock
Ken Schriener

Voluntary Organizations

Mary Woodward, President of Ohio Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

Kathy Cutlip, Chair of Richland County Citizen Corps Council

Citizen Corps volunteers Patricia and Jim Wisenbarger

Flood Volunteers Honored in Ohio

Torrential storms caused severe flooding in the Midwest throughout August, testing first responder and volunteer capabilities and stretching their capacity. In Ohio's Hancock and Putnam Counties, FEMA's Community Preparedness Division Director, Brock Bierman, presented service medallions to Citizen Corps volunteers who gave thousands of hours of service during the response to this disaster.

"Citizens who volunteer are an extremely valuable part of civil society," the Director remarked in a statement to volunteers. More than 2,400 volunteers donated in excess of 35,000 hours of service, as the city of Findlay worked to recover from the damaging high water. Over 20 individuals were recognized for their preparedness, response and recovery efforts:

GOOD WORK OHIO CITIZEN CORPS VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERS!



(Putnam County visit):

Front row honorees, left to right: Anita Stechschulte, Barb Odenweller, Rose Riepenhoff
Back row honorees: Mike Klear, Jason Germain, Derrick Wallace, Mike Jerwers



(Ohio Citizen Corps Council Meeting):

First row honorees, left to right: Kathy Cutlip, Jim Wisenbarger, Patricia Wisenbarger
Back row: Susan Rogers, Nancy Dragani, Brock Bierman (Director, FEMA's Community Preparedness Division), Kitty Burcsu, Mary Woodward, Jim Opoka (Regional Program Manager)

919 events were registered on the Citizen Corps calendar for the month of September.

Congratulations to our top 10 States!

New Jersey 107

Pennsylvania 86

New York 77

Kentucky 75

District of Columbia 47

Maryland 46

Arkansas 38

California 34

Colorado 36

Georgia 37

California 34

As part of National Preparedness Month, Fairfax County, VA, CERT members recently participated in the Fort Belvoir Emergency Response exercise. Members performed various victim roles.

CERT members learned about disaster response through observation and provided first responders with well-needed assistance.

National Preparedness Month 2007 in Review

With over 900 events taking place around the country throughout September, it is hard to do justice to all the great ideas by highlighting just a few events. The sample below is just that—a sample of events focusing on each of the four themes selected for this year's National Preparedness Month. For more ideas to help with your own preparations next September, we encourage you to browse our calendar <http://www.citizencorps.gov/cc/showEvent.do?submitCalendar>.

Back-to-School

- More than 100 elementary school students participated in the introduction of the Commander Ready preparedness curriculum for the 2007/2008 school year at Anne Beers Elementary School in Washington, DC. The Commander Ready program is a specialized component of Neighborhood Corps and Citizen Corps programs designed to educate and engage youth ages 5-13 in emergency preparedness training and exercises. Students met with members of law enforcement, fire, the National Guard, Emergency Management staff, the mayor's staff and others.



Photographed here, students from Anne Beers Elementary School in Washington, DC, celebrate the beginning of National Preparedness Month with the Commander Ready Pep Rally.

Business

- The City of Los Angeles, CA, had an Employees Emergency Preparedness Expo on September 12, 2007 at the City Hall Mall food court. Employees of the City of Los Angeles learned how agencies, like theirs, prepare and respond to various disasters. The preparedness expo was a great opportunity for city employees to learn about business preparedness and how to prepare themselves and fellow coworkers in case of an emergency situation.

Multicultural

- A partnership between the New York City Office of Emergency Management and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority enhanced the city's outreach to its nearly 8.5 million residents. Metro cards displayed the "Ready New York" name throughout September, with preparedness messages in both Spanish and English.

Family

- Southeastern Pennsylvania Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) and Citizen Corps created a preparedness calendar with preparedness tasks for citizens to complete each day of the month of September. Some of the tasks included: Finding a duffel bag to hold supplies for a go kit, storing a map in the car in case there is an evacuation, storing cash in the go kit, creating emergency contact cards, and more.

Correction:

The September newsletter, “First Civil Air Patrol Wing Completes CERT Training,” should have specified that participants were the first New Jersey CAP personnel to received CERT training. We have been made aware that other CAP wings around the country have done the same—congratulations to all and keep up the good work!

Did you know.....

Each year, more than 4,000 Americans die and more than 25,000 are injured in fires, many of which could be prevented. Direct property loss due to fires is estimated at \$8.6 billion annually.

(<http://www.fema.gov/hazard/fire/index.shtm>)

Borrow this Idea: Reaching Diverse Populations

The Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council's Special Needs Committee is currently working to strengthen Iowa's capacity to meet the disaster preparedness and disaster response needs of Iowans with limited English proficiency through the formation of a Multilingual Emergency Response Network. The purpose of the Multilingual Emergency Response Network is to help ensure that people with limited English proficiency are prepared for, able to respond to, and recover from natural and man-made disasters through effective, coordinated communication and caring services.

The initiative asks leaders of Iowa's many ethnic communities to serve as “Ambassadors” for the project. Ambassadors will learn more about the project, provide input to the projects' planning effort, and share the vision of this project with others in their community.

The Multilingual Emergency Response Network will contain contact information, as well as bilingual or multilingual language skills of volunteers for use during a disaster. Volunteers would be contacted as needed to assist in providing emergency information to community members.

Practice Your Escape Plan During Fire Prevention Week

Did you know that heat and smoke from fire can be more dangerous than the flames it produces? Inhaling the hot, smoky air can sear the throat and lungs. Depending on what it burns, fire can produce poisonous gases. The leading cause of fire-related deaths is asphyxiation caused when the oxygen in a room is consumed by a fire. This cause of fire-related deaths exceeds burns by three-to-one.

Fire Corps—a Citizen Corps Partner program— and the National Fire Protection Association, a Citizen Corps Affiliate program, offer information on fire protection and how to volunteer in fire organizations across the country. ‘Practice Your Escape Plan!’ is the theme of Fire Prevention Week October 7 – 13, 2007. This year, fire organizations will advocate for the importance of practice and when it comes to escape plans, households should practice often. For more information got to <http://www.nfpa.org/itemDetail.asp?categoryID=1438&itemID=34420&cookie%5Ftest=1> or <http://www.firecorps.org/>.

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/hazard/fire/index.shtm>

Explore other Citizen Corps Partners and Affiliates that deal with fire response, and fire safety:

CERT: <https://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/>

National Volunteer Fire Council: <http://www.nvfc.org/>

Duval County MRC (FL) assisted the health department in providing free physicals, immunizations, and other services in a “Back to School Round-Up” for students in grades K- 8.



Left to right: CERT members Mark Thomas, Roger Stevenson, Joette Toews and Nathan Toews.

Program Partner Updates

Medical Reserve Corps Now Reports to Surgeon General

The United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has approved the Medical Reserve Corps' reorganization plan. Now known as the Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), its primary functions include the following:

- (1) Director serves as the principal advisor to the Surgeon General and the Assistant Secretary of Health on activities related to civilian volunteers;
- (2) Providing day-to-day management of the MRC and related grants programs;
- (3) Maintaining close liaison with the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response regarding MRC policy, budget and operations;
- (4) Supporting local efforts to establish, implement, and sustain MRC units nationwide;
- (5) Providing national leadership and coordination of the MRC program;
- (6) Promoting awareness and understanding of MRC units critical role in communities across the nation;
- (7) Enhancing the capacity of MRC units to achieve their local missions;
- (8) Supporting efforts to utilize willing, able and approved MRC members in a Federal response.

Through this reorganization, the MRC program expects to build on its efforts to expand the capacity of MRC units throughout the nation and establish a deployable cadre of MRC volunteers. This reorganization also acknowledges the growth of the program, recognizes its “dual use” for both ongoing public health activities and emergency preparedness/response, and differentiates the functions of this civilian volunteer program from those of the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps/ Office of Force Readiness and Deployment.

Congratulations MRC!

Salem, OR, Delivers CERT Caches to Neighborhoods

The Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) in Salem, OR, are establishing neighborhood disaster equipment caches, or Neighborhood Collection Points. Response equipment such as helmets, flash lights, etc., are included in the caches. Citizen Corps grant funds are being used to stock the transportable containers which carry resources for CERT at Neighborhood Watch (USAonWatch) locations. These caches may also be located in new fire stations and other locations such as schools, churches, parks and other city-owned property.

Citizen Corps Partners and Affiliates Collaborate to Hold CERT Rodeo

The Citizen Corps Working Group for the Portland, OR, Urban Area sponsored its 7th Northwest Emergency Response Team “Rodeo” on Saturday, September 8th, 2007. Over 150 people from CERT programs in eight counties participated in the day-long Rodeo as response team members, radio operators, instructors, or “victims.” *(continued on the next page)*



CERT volunteers conduct rescue operation for Rodeo event

With over 1,602 programs representing more than 104,000 volunteers in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and Guam, Volunteers In Police Service (VIPS) plays a key role in preventing and fighting crime in the United States. Look for Citizen Corps along with VIPS at the 8th National Conference on Preventing Crime in Atlanta, GA, October 3-5 2007.

The U.S. Census estimates that 36.1 million trick-or-treaters— children 5 to 13 — celebrated Halloween across the United States in 2006. Teach your kids about safety this October.

Program Partner Updates *(continued)*

Organized into multi-jurisdictional teams, each team conducted five skill drills: triage, survival rescue, search maze, and two different victim extrication scenarios. Each drill was preceded by a refresher presentation that provided a quick review of basic techniques and safety tips for the drill, followed by a debrief upon completion of the drill. The teams also rotated through the following five demonstration stations: Points of Distribution activations, special needs communications, knots & webbing, survival first aid and cribbing.

Ham radio operators kept the pace by monitoring the time, while also practicing their emergency communications skills, and the American Red Cross Oregon Trail Chapter's Canteen provided drinks and snacks for volunteers.

For a copy of the Incident Action Plan for the CERT Rodeo contact: sharonk@hillsboro.or.us

Affiliate Highlights

8th National Conference on Preventing Crime

The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) and Crime Prevention Coalition of America hosts the 8th National Conference on Preventing Crime in Atlanta, GA, October 3-5 2007. The NCPC, a Citizen Corps Affiliate, is a private, nonprofit tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization whose primary mission is to be the nation's leader in helping people keep themselves, their families and their communities safe from crime. NCPC manages the nationally recognized McGruff® "Take a Bite out of Crime®" campaign. More than 1,000 people are expected to attend this year, including law enforcement, military, public housing, state, local and federal government offices. The national conference will feature speakers and more than 65 training sessions on crime prevention for businesses, protection for children and youth, partnering with government and law enforcement to prevent crime, promoting crime prevention and personal safety basics, responding to emerging crime trends and leadership in crime prevention.

Crime prevention and National Preparedness Month

With National Crime Prevention Month in October following immediately on the heels of September's National Preparedness Month, many groups are taking an opportunity to get the word out on both topics. Here are a few events going on around the country, which combine preparedness and crime prevention messages:

- Volunteer organizations in Fargo, ND, are going house-to-house leaving door hangers to inform residents about disaster preparedness and crime prevention tips.
- The Citizen Corps program in Washington, DC, has started a Neighborhood Corps Initiative. This neighborhood/community-based training program is designed to organize, mobilize and train residents to respond as a neighborhood or community in the event of a local emergency or disaster.
- McGruff®, the crime dog, will participate in a National Preparedness Month event with other Citizen Corps partners in Salt Lake City, UT, such as the Medical Reserve Corps, Neighborhood Watch, Volunteers in Police Service, Fire Corps and the Red Cross.



Three-Month Outlook

Consider incorporating some of these themes into your community preparedness activities over the coming months.

October

- Crime Prevention Month
- Diversity Awareness Month
- October 7-13, 2007: Fire Prevention Week

November

- National American Indian Heritage Month
- November 11, 2007: Veterans Day
- November 22, 2007: Thanksgiving Day

December

- Winter Storm Awareness
- December 5-12, 2007: Hanukkah/Chanukah
- December 25, 2007: Christmas
- December 26, 2007: Kwanzaa Begins
- December 31, 2007: New Year's Eve

Editorial Policy

Citizen Corps welcomes your stories and best practices. If you would like to submit a story for consideration, please review 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 – 150 words, or one to three paragraphs.
- **Format:** Submit text in Word 12pt Times New Roman, or paste directly into your email. Articles submitted as PDF will be 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 email 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.)
 - Regions 1, 2, and 3 (CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, ME, NJ, NH, NY, PA, RI, VA, VT, WV, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands): Angela Heim: angela.heim@dhs.gov
 - Regions 4 and 8 (AL, CO, FL, GA, KY, MS, MT, NC, ND, SC, SD, TN, UT, WY): Stephanie Poore: Stephanie.poore@dhs.gov
 - Regions 5 and 7 (IA, IL, IN, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, OH, WI): Jim Opoka: james.opoka@dhs.gov
 - Regions 6, 9, and 10 (AK, AR, AZ, CA, ID, HI, LA, NM, NV, OK, TX, WA, Guam, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands) Fred Bretsch: fred.bretsch@dhs.gov
 - Program Partners: Angela Palombaro angela.palombaro@dhs.gov
 - CERT: cert@dhs.gov



FEMA

citizen★*corps*