

#### RELATED TERMS

- Hurricane Katrina
- Spontaneous Volunteers



## Lessons Learned Information Sharing

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#### PRIMARY DISCIPLINES

- Volunteer and Donations Management
- State and Local Executive Offices

## LESSON LEARNED

### Citizen Corps Councils: Pre-Ordering Identification Clothing for Volunteers

#### SUMMARY

Citizen Corps Councils can pre-order vests and other forms of identification clothing to distribute to volunteers at a deployment site. These forms of identification can help distinguish volunteers from the general public as well as trained volunteers from untrained, spontaneous volunteers.

#### DESCRIPTION

Approximately 65,000 New Orleans evacuees were transported to the Reliant Stadium Complex in Houston, Texas, in August and September 2005 due to the impact of Hurricane Katrina. The Houston-area response required the mobilization and organization of thousands of volunteers to receive the evacuees and to staff the Reliant Park shelters. The Harris County Citizen Corps was tasked with the organization of all volunteers.

The Harris County Citizen Corps used a stockpile of vests and armbands to distinguish volunteers from shelter residents. It distributed armbands to all volunteers upon arrival at the volunteer check-in point. Volunteers who had incident command system (ICS) training received identification vests after they answered a series of questions to confirm their training. The vest enabled shelter staff to quickly identify volunteers with ICS training and to assign them to tasks with greater responsibilities.

For more general information on volunteer management please see the *Lessons Learned Information Sharing Good Story* entitled "[Harris County, Texas Citizen Corps Response to Hurricane Katrina](#)". For more specific information on volunteer management in shelter operations please see the Lesson Learned entitled "Citizen Corps Councils: Managing Volunteers during Shelter Operations".

Citizen Corps Councils can pre-order vests and other forms of identification clothing to supply to volunteers at a deployment site. These identification items can differentiate volunteers from the general public and also can distinguish between trained and untrained volunteers.

#### CITATION

Sloan, Mark. Coordinator, Harris County Citizen Corps. Interview with *Lessons Learned Information Sharing*, 07 Sep 2005.

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