

## **CALIFORNIA**

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

The First Lady of California, Maria Shriver, serves as the honorary chairperson for the California Service Corps, which oversees California's Citizen Corps Program. California's State Citizen Corps Council (SCCC) was established to provide a statewide voice to support the Citizen Corps mission of citizen preparedness and participation. The SCCC focused efforts to expand its membership to include all key partners, clarify its mission and goals, and identify and prioritize policy initiatives as part of an overall strategic plan. The Council brings together the collective resources of local councils and programs, state homeland security and emergency management, tribal nations, American Red Cross, California's Voluntary Agencies Active in Disaster (VOADs), and others.

### **Highlights of State Activities:**

#### **Public Education and Outreach**

The First Lady promoted the "Be Smart. Be Responsible. Be Prepared. Be Ready!" campaign throughout the state during 2005. This message aired more than 30,000 times on television and radio. In partnership with the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, the First Lady created a "10 Tips" brochure for disaster preparedness, which encourages Californians to "Bear Responsibility" for their State by volunteering with a Citizen Corps program in their community.

#### **Training and Exercises**

California Citizen Corps trained 232 agency representatives, including 45 county emergency managers and staff from 27 Volunteer Centers, to develop Local Government Volunteer Management Plans. The State Council convened the first ever statewide VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) Leadership Planning Summit, and participated in Golden Guardian 2005, a statewide terrorism exercise involving more than 1,500 Citizen Corps volunteers.

The California CERT program continued its efforts to expand its reach by training about 3,400 new CERT instructors and more than 161 new CERT instructor trainers. California Citizen Corps worked with CERT program experts throughout the state to develop the CERT Program Manager's Course to train new CERT instructor trainers. The State also collaborated with the fire service community to develop new CERT modules including a Wildland Urban Interface module.

#### **Volunteer Programs and Support**

The California Citizen Corps Program officially launched its Fire Corps program in September. Fire Corps, a vital component of the Citizen Corps program in California, will consist of volunteers working behind the lines to help firefighters on the front lines. Volunteers will help

with logistics, food service, administration, and more. This program will help build the capacity of local fire service units to conduct additional outreach.

### **Support for Hurricane Katrina Response**

California assisted in the recruitment of more than 1,000 new volunteers, many of whom were deployed to the Gulf Coast region as part of the nationwide response to Hurricane Katrina.

### **National Preparedness Month**

California Citizen Corps participated in several National Preparedness Month events, including one with the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and California First Lady Maria Shriver. On September 20, California Citizen Corps held the Emergency Financial Literacy, Preparation and Recovery Seminar. This seminar was sponsored by Citizen Corps affiliate, HOPE Coalition America. It was designed to assist Americans to prepare for and more quickly recover from disasters and personal emergencies by utilizing two key tools: the Emergency Financial First Aid Kit (EFFAK) and the Personal Disaster Preparedness Guide (PDPG).