

## **DELAWARE**

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

By December 2005, the Delaware State Citizen Corps had established seven Citizen Corps Councils in addition to its State Council, placing at least one Council in every county. The Council is managed by the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA). Delaware Citizen Corps has experienced significant growth in its programs to educate the public and encourage citizen participation in the four mission areas: Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery. All Delaware local and county Councils receive a grant to support their programs.

Delaware's State Citizen Corps Council meets quarterly and is comprised of emergency responders and volunteer and service organizations, including Delaware's Emergency Management Agency, all county and city emergency management agencies, the State Office of Volunteerism, State Departments of Health and Education, State Police, Christiana Care Medical Corps, pastors, Dover State Fire School, the American Red Cross, Delaware National Guard, Delaware Volunteers Active in Disasters (DEVOAD), and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Delaware Citizen Corps works closely with these groups, as well as with other veterans groups, faith-based organizations, civic associations, Delaware State University and Retired & Senior Volunteer Programs (RSVP).

### **Highlights of State Activities**

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

Delaware Citizen Corps worked diligently during 2005 to promote citizen preparedness and community response. An outstanding example of collaboration occurred when the Bethany Beach Police Department and its local Citizen Corps Council and VIPS program promoted family safety and community preparedness through fingerprinting, photography and DNA registration as part of their child safety program.

Delaware State Citizen Corps began developing a CERT for Business program, partnered with the Department of Health on developing informational material for Pandemic Flu, met with Hispanic community groups to develop community outreach programs, began development of a pilot program called "Communications Corps" to supplement interoperable capability, and collaborated with the Delaware Voluntary Firemen's Association to implement Fire Corps statewide.

#### **Training and Exercises**

In 2005, Delaware State Citizen Corps targeted local businesses, faith-based groups, and the general public for CERT training. Among its successes, Delaware Citizen Corps formed a CERT Instructors Team that conducted CERT programs in all Delaware counties, training approximately 600 people. The state also conducted a Train-the-Trainer course, and as a result, New Castle County Citizen Corps established its own CERT Instructors Training Team.

Both the City of Wilmington and New Castle County conducted CERT training for their communities this year. Faith-based, civic organizations and youth groups all received CERT training.

Delaware State University and Kent County Emergency Management Agency sponsored CERT training and CERT teams so that Police Cadets from DSU can serve both the university and the county.

### **Volunteer Programs and Support**

Throughout the state, Citizen Corps programs promoted strong community partnerships. Governor Ruth Minner recognized the Ocean View Citizen Corps Council as the 2005 Volunteer Organization of the Year for its contribution to community preparedness and family safety.

In 2005, Delaware embraced the MRC and its community. Through a series of briefings and meetings Delaware Citizen Corps worked with Christiana Care and the state's Department of Public Health and facilitated the establishment of two MRC Units. The Christiana Care Medical Reserve Corps is composed of both medical professionals and support people. They meet on a monthly basis and are extremely active in preparedness training. Their primary focus has been the establishment of an Acute CARE Center during the time of an extreme emergency or disaster. This MRC unit also participated in a state exercise with the Department of Health.

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

Delaware's seven local Citizen Corps Councils and the State Citizen Corps Council worked closely with the Delaware State Emergency Management Agency and Delaware's Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (DEVOAD) on hurricane response efforts. Red Cross volunteers assisted with shelter support services for 181 cases supporting 431 people. Medical Reserve Corps deployed six volunteers through the Red Cross and other organizations to assist in radio communications and provide basic health care to citizens in hard-hit areas.

### **National Preparedness Month**

To celebrate National Preparedness Month, Delaware held a Family Preparedness Day in New Castle County, with various events conducted throughout the state. The day featured a variety of displays of emergency vehicles, games, prizes, training and free refreshments. The event was co-hosted by Citizen Corps, the State Department of Safety and Homeland Security, DEMA, the American Red Cross of the Delmarva Peninsula, New Castle County Office of Emergency Management, and the City of Wilmington and Cedars Church of Christ. Information and materials for all-hazards preparedness for families was displayed and distributed.

Also part of National Preparedness Month, the Delaware State Police, in partnership with Delaware Citizen Corps, developed and implemented an aggressive marketing campaign and promoted the Delaware Anti-Terrorism Tip Line. The goal of the campaign was to publicize the toll-free number to as many Delaware citizens as possible, prior to the next state, national, or international disaster or event. Additional information on Delaware Citizen Corps outreach can be found at: [http://www.state.de.us/dema/citizen\\_corp/default.shtml](http://www.state.de.us/dema/citizen_corp/default.shtml)