

MICHIGAN

Highlights of State Council Activities

Michigan Citizen Corps, managed by the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (EMHSD), helps communities and citizens prepare for and respond to local emergencies. The program emphasizes the use of volunteers to make communities safer, stronger and better prepared to respond to emergencies and disasters of all kinds, including threats of terrorism, natural disasters, crime and public health issues. Since 2002, the program's priority has been to coordinate activities with emergency response professionals in local communities. This coordination had a direct impact on the success of Michigan Citizen Corps and consequently, was included as part of Michigan's State Homeland Security Strategy. During 2005, 21 new Councils were formed.

Highlights of State Activities

Public Education and Outreach

Michigan Citizen Corps is coordinating the translation of CERT Training material, a family preparedness guide, and an awareness video entitled *The Seven Signs of Terrorism*. These training materials will be translated to reach Michigan's communities of Arabic- and Spanish-speaking citizens. These communities will partner with Michigan Citizen Corps to promote preparedness in their native languages.

Training and Exercises

In 2005, Michigan State Police EMHSD granted \$2.5 million to 47 local communities for the conduct of CERT training. This unprecedented program allowed communities to purchase equipment needed for CERT training and to meet equipment needs for the teams. The estimated return on this investment of homeland security funding was the eventual training of over 10,000 citizens in the state, and the benefit of more prepared citizens.

Michigan State University and Eastern Michigan University were the recipients of DHS Competitive Training Grants in 2005. These universities programs included variations on CERT training for schools and colleges and will be used as models for the National Citizen Corps Program.

Volunteer Programs and Support

The Macomb County Sheriff's Office VIPS program logged almost 24,000 volunteer hours at over 50 community events in 2005. The Reserve/Auxiliary supported operations with an aviation unit, all-terrain vehicles, bicycles, horseback units, marine units, cyber crimes units, explorers and senior volunteers. In addition, they sponsored several charity events and each volunteer averaged approximately 85 hours of service during the year.

Otsego County Citizen Corps incorporated a volunteer referral center into the county's emergency management plan. The Council was also instrumental in developing a Senior and Handicapped Registry. This registry contains information about independent living seniors and special needs populations that could help define necessary services and assistance during an emergency. The Council also discovered that at least 60 percent of community residences were not adequately visible to emergency service providers and worked with local businesses to provide adequate signs.

Support for Hurricane Katrina Response

During the response to Hurricane Katrina, the City of Detroit and Wayne County operated a reception center for evacuees. CERT teams from the region were activated and provided much needed support at the center. Team members served as reception area greeters and assisted with the evacuees' orientation to the center. A total of 25 CERT team members volunteered during the two-month period of the center's activity.

National Preparedness Month

During National Preparedness Month 2005, Michigan State Police EMHSD distributed *F.A.C.E.S. (Family and Community Emergency Safety) of Michigan*. This informational booklet included preparedness tips for individuals, families, businesses and schools, disaster preparedness information for pets, family emergency preparedness plan checklists, electrical power outage tips, and information regarding the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division. The booklet was distributed to local public health representatives, local and state agency emergency management coordinators and state agency public information officers, Michigan American Red Cross Chapters, and Michigan State Police post and district commanders.