

## **ARKANSAS**

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

To recognize the importance and continuing growth of the Citizen Corps Program, the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM) deepened its commitment to the Program with the addition of one full-time Citizen Corps staff member. The expansion of the Citizen Corps staff increases ADEM's capability to support the local, county, and state Councils.

### **Highlights of State Activities**

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

Fire Corps helped with the first annual Fire Safety Calendar Contest. Children from all Johnson County schools were invited to submit original art for a new 2006 fire department calendar. One picture from each grade, kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup>, will be chosen for the calendar, which will be distributed free to county residents. Fire Corps is helping to publicize the contest and encourage participation throughout the local schools.

#### **Training and Exercises**

In Clark County, the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) provided training to Boy Scouts interested in earning emergency merit badges. Almost 20 scouts and their 10 leaders participated in the training session.

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

At the local level, the University of the Ozarks and the Johnson County RFD #1 Fire Department forged a special bond through the university's Phi Beta Lambda Chapter, an undergraduate co-ed business fraternity that has "adopted" the all-volunteer fire department as part of its community service commitment. More than 40 Phi Beta Lambda members volunteered their support by joining the fire department's Fire Corps program. Students participated in many community events including the annual Fire Safety Awareness Parade, KidsFest Fair, and National Fire Prevention Week events.

CERT members from Conway County responded to the tornadoes afflicting Arkansas in November 2005. The members helped by diverting people from downed power lines and shutting off gas in many of the damaged structures. They also volunteered to help clean debris on public and private property in the weeks following the tornadoes.

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

Arkansas hosted over 9,000 evacuees from the New Orleans area at Fort Chaffee, a training center for the National Guard and U.S. Army Reserves in Sebastian County. Military and civilian emergency managers credit the Citizen Corps volunteers for providing the critical, dedicated

support for shelter operations and medical response. Over 300 CERT members were involved in shelter operations and were instrumental in processing evacuees, managing dining facilities, managing an off-site donations collection center, and staffing a center for sorting and organizing more than 300 pallets of donated goods. The new Medical Reserve Corps program opened and staffed a medical center in which 2,200 evacuees received care during the first 48 hours. Medical staff indicated that over 1,000 of the patients seen would have been emergency room patients had it not been for the treatment they received at the clinic.

### **National Preparedness Month**

The Faulkner County Red Cross Disaster Assistance Team implemented a Preparedness Month education series and materials for students in Conway schools during the month of September. Disaster Assistance Team members taught parents how to prepare their families for emergencies through presentations at Parent Teacher Organization meetings.