

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

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

South Carolina's Citizen Corps Council is made up of a variety of individuals ranging from leaders of the state's Police Chief Association, Emergency Management Division staff members and Director, and the President of the state's Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD). The Council determines how Citizen Corps funding will be disseminated to its local Councils, reviews applications and makes awards to local jurisdictions to support their Citizen Corps efforts. Each county that applies receives an award based on the request, the amount the state has to disburse, and its population.

In 2005, the state Citizen Corps Office, in conjunction with the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED), participated in the FY 2006 Homeland Security application process by providing input for the state's Enhancement Plan.

### **Highlights of State Activities**

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

Many local Citizen Corps Councils have spread the preparedness message and disseminated information on the Citizen Corps programs in their communities by participating in festivals and fairs. The state Citizen Corps Office has provided Citizen Corps brochures and preparedness information for counties to distribute at various local events. Many of South Carolina's local Councils also have Web sites where they post calendars of CERT training schedules and preparedness information.

#### **Training and Exercises**

During 2005, each local Citizen Corps Council held CERT training for citizens and participated in a variety of exercises, putting their skills into action. For example, in Beaufort and Jasper Counties, CERT volunteers participated in three Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) exercises and the 2005 Annual State Full-Scale Exercise. In Charleston County, Citizen Corps volunteers participated as mock victims and provided amateur radio support in an anti-terrorism WMD exercise at the Port of Charleston.

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

South Carolina's citizens are interested in disaster preparedness and continue to be so in the wake of the 2005 hurricanes in the Gulf Coast region. Requests for CERT training and preparedness information have surged. As a result, many communities have customized training to fit the needs of their communities. South Carolina's CERT members have participated in five state exercises.

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

February 2005

South Carolina Citizen Corps provided response assistance both in the state and by deploying volunteers to impacted areas. For example, The City of Beaufort adopted Long Beach, Mississippi and provided disaster psychology counseling, and toys for children. Eight CERT members from Beaufort and Jasper provided direct support for Long Beach by working on debris removal and chainsaw crews.

### **National Preparedness Month**

In recognition of National Preparedness Month, South Carolina attempted to launch a statewide preparedness campaign. However, due to Hurricane Katrina, the state focused its resources on caring for incoming evacuees and was compelled to cancel previously scheduled events.