



The Citizen Corps Bulletin

Volume 2, Issue 5 - Oct 2008

Relevant Stories. National Coverage. Ordinary Citizens. Safer Communities.

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President Bush Signs 2009 DHS Appropriations Bill

On October 3, 2008, President George W. Bush signed the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009, H.R. 2638. This bill provides funding for DHS programs through fiscal year 2009 and includes the following amounts for the DHS Homeland Security Grant Program:

- \$950 million for the State Homeland Security Grant Program
- \$837.5 million for the Urban Area Security Initiative
- \$41 million for the Metropolitan Medical Response System
- \$15 million for Citizen Corps

Grant guidance for the funding is expected to be released by November 5, 2008.



Department of Homeland Security Unveils Strategic Plan for FY 2008 - 2013

This September, in a letter to the Department, Secretary Michael Chertoff presented the latest DHS Strategic Plan, which details the Department's goals and objectives based on the overarching direction stated in the *National Strategy for Homeland Security*.

In particular, the *Plan* highlights the following:

- A risk-informed approach to homeland security
- An affirmation of the "all-hazards" nature of our mission
- An emphasis on countering weapons of mass destruction
- A focus on intelligence and information sharing
- An increase in partnerships and outreach effectiveness
- An enhancement in harmonization and unification of Department systems and processes
- An improvement in Departmental governance and performance

Secretary Chertoff concluded his statement by writing, "The Nation continues to face serious challenges, both natural and manmade, but by executing our *Plan* we will continue to work together to prevent, detect, protect against, mitigate, and respond to any threats, and to adapt as those challenges evolve and change." "The implementation of this *Plan*, coupled with your continuing commitment and the resilience of the American people, will enable us to meet whatever challenges the future may bring."

For more information, and to read the *Plan*, please visit

<http://www.dhs.gov/xabout/strategicplan/>



A Letter from the Director

Dear Partners in Community Preparedness,



*Brock D. Bierman
Director
Community Preparedness Division
Small State and Rural Advocate*

Earlier this month there was more welcome news from the White House, as President George W. Bush signed the 2009 DHS Appropriations Bill, which preserved Citizen Corps' funding at \$15 million. This will allow us to continue to support your efforts at the same level of capability in the coming year. FEMA will release the grant guidance tied to the funding by November 5, 2008.

I am also pleased to report that the Department of Homeland Security's fifth annual National Preparedness Month was a great success. This year, more than 3,200 coalition members representing national, regional, state, and local organizations signed up to educate individuals, families and communities on the importance of emergency preparedness.

Over 100 activities were posted on the Citizen Corps website and I want to thank all Citizen Corps Councils, Partners, and Affiliates for providing a focused reminder about the importance of personal preparedness during September. Examples of outreach events hosted by Councils around the country included:

- Connecticut Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members were invited to attend the annual CT CERT weekend at the Connecticut Fire Academy in Windsor Locks.
- A September Neighborhood Briefing event in Orlando, FL included more than 300 Home Owners Associations that talked about National Preparedness Month, local upcoming trainings for community members, and a disaster volunteer open house.
- The Green River Regional Citizen Corps Council of Kentucky hosted Senior Day out at the Mall geared toward special needs populations including the elderly, ill and disabled. Emergency Services Agencies from across the region set up various equipment displays and provided demonstrations outside of the Towne Square Mall.
- New Jersey held a statewide CERT Trailer Mobilization and Training Exercise at the State Police Academy in Sea Girt which involved the deployment of CERT's, trailers, equipment and other volunteer emergency response personnel
- The Institute for the Study of Civic Values hosted an event called "Philly Blocks 2008" in the city of Philadelphia, PA. Hundreds of local citizens gathered to discuss community issues such as violence, schools, the environment, homelessness and affordable housing, green initiatives and recycling and economic opportunities.

Again, I would like to thank all who participated in making this year's National Preparedness Month the best yet. And, of course, I thank you for your efforts year round to ensure that people in your community are prepared, trained, and practiced for all hazards. Your commitment and service, as always, are very much appreciated.

Citizen Corps News



Community Pet Preparedness Toolkit Now Available

The Ready Campaign, FEMA, Citizen Corps, the American Red Cross, and the Humane Society of the United States have come together to develop this emergency preparedness toolkit that can assist you in your planning efforts as you work toward keeping your community, and specifically, the pets and people who care for them, safe from disasters.

Keep Your Pets Safe!



This toolkit offers sample preparedness brochures, PowerPoint templates, press materials, and resources and templates for:

- Staying current on local pet disaster plans, policies, and procedures
- Promoting preparedness in local communities
- Educating the community about how to assemble a pet emergency supply kit and make a family emergency plan.

The likelihood that pet owners and their animals will survive an emergency such as a fire or flood, tornado or terrorist attack depends largely on emergency planning done today. Some of the things pet owners can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as assembling an animal emergency supply kit and developing a pet care buddy system, are the same for any emergency. Whether pet owners decide to stay put in an emergency or evacuate to a safer location, they will need to make plans in advance for their pets. Keep in mind that what's best for people is typically what's best for animals. For more information, please visit

http://www.ready.gov/america/toolkit_pets/

Governor Paterson Creates Cabinet Position for National and Community Service



On September 11, 2008, Governor David A. Paterson announced the creation of a cabinet position to address issues related to national and community service. Susan Stern, Chair of the State Commission on National and Community Service, will be elevated to the Governor's cabinet. She will produce a report for the administration within 90 days to make New York State a national leader for service and volunteerism.

To aid in this effort, the New York State Office of National and Community Service launched a new website, www.newyorkersvolunteer.org, which will, among other services, provide a comprehensive link to match those looking to volunteer with opportunities across the State.

"We all know that true civic engagement will require more than short-term plans. We must inspire lifelong commitments from our citizens," said Governor Paterson. "That is why today I am elevating Susan Stern, Chair of the State Commission on National and Community Service, to a cabinet level position within my administration. I also want to commend the work of Mark Walter who, as the Executive Director of the New York State Office on National and Community Service, works diligently to elevate service and civic engagement in our state."

"Here in New York, nearly three million volunteers contribute an annual average of over 366 million hours of service. This is a tradition worth fighting for because the value of such service translates into stronger communities, healthier families and a more hopeful nation. I look forward to Susan's recommendations to ensure that New York State emerges as a national leader for service and volunteerism," added Governor Paterson.

New York is now the second state, along with California, to have a cabinet level position dedicated to volunteer service. California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger created a similar cabinet position last February, the Secretary of Service and Volunteering, and he has commended Gov. Patterson's action.



FEMA Announces Awards to Pilot Citizen Corps National Emergency Technology Guard (Net Guard) Program

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced today that \$320,000 will be awarded to four jurisdictions to pilot, test, and develop tools for a potential new Citizen Corps National Emergency Technology Guard (NET Guard) program. The four jurisdictions selected to receive competitive awards for \$80,000 each are: the city of Austin, TX (in the Austin, TX Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)); the city of Chesapeake, VA (in the Norfolk, VA UASI); Cottonwood Heights City, UT (in the Salt Lake, UT UASI); and Hamilton County, IN (in the Indianapolis, IN UASI). NET Guard teams will be comprised of volunteers with information technology (IT) and communications expertise to assist states and localities in responding to and recovering from incidents that cause significant damage or destruction to IT and communications infrastructure.

Following authorization in the Homeland Security Act of 2002, the NET Guard program concept was developed through a DHS scoping initiative and work group involving stakeholders and potential partners, including state and local government representatives, emergency managers, potential private sector partners and DHS Divisions. The purpose of the program is to create local teams of volunteers with expertise in relevant areas of science and technology who can assist local communities in efforts to respond and recover from attacks on information systems and communications networks.



Teams will be local assets, managed at the local level, and deployed in response to a request from local or state authorities. The pilot jurisdictions will develop NET Guard teams with a range of functions, delivery models, and public-private partnerships to support the program. The pilots will also assist in evaluating and refining the NET Guard concept and developing guidance and tools to support potential local implementation of the NET Guard programs as part of the nationwide Citizen Corps network.

Kennedy-Hatch Bill Calls for National Service

Senator Edward Kennedy and Senator Orrin Hatch have introduced a major new national service bill aimed at recruiting 175,000 Americans of all ages to tackle national problems such as health care, education, energy and the environment. The Serve America Act, S. 3487, would expand the number of national service participants to 250,000 and ask that they devote a year to some of the nation's most pressing challenges. The measure also seeks to expand opportunities for people to serve their communities at every stage of life, from students and working adults to retirees.

"Time and again we've learned that large numbers of Americans are ready, willing, able, and even eager to be involved in service, and that all we have to do is ask them to do so," Senator Kennedy, D-Mass., said in a statement. "The Serve America Act will ask." Also in a statement, Senator Hatch, R-Utah, recognized the importance of service, "America faces more challenges today than ever before," Hatch said in a statement. "And new challenges require a new level of commitment. By harnessing the talents and efforts of the American people, faith-based groups and nonprofit organizations, we can empower more people, improve more communities and tackle more of our nation's greatest challenges."



Senator Hatch announced the bill at the Service Nation Summit in New York on September 12, 2008. You can watch the announcement and other sessions of the Summit at <http://www.bethechangeinc.org/servicenation/sntv>



Sesame Street Recognizes National Preparedness Month

Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit organization behind *Sesame Street*, has launched *Let's Get Ready! Planning Together for Emergencies* as part of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) National Preparedness Month in September. This bi-lingual (Spanish-English) initiative will help families with young children between the ages of two and five prepare for an emergency with basic information and ways in which they can best respond to an emergency and helps them develop a sense of resilience and self-confidence.

The program was created in collaboration with DHS's *Ready Kids* and the Ad Council's ongoing preparedness effort, which helps parents and teachers educate children, about emergencies and how they can help their families prepare. *Let's Get Ready!* was funded by American Greetings, with additional support from The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation and original funding provided by the Bear Stearns Charitable Foundation. The *Let's Get Ready!* kits will be available to download online at www.sesamestreet.org/ready and www.ready.gov/sesame. In addition, public service announcements will be produced by Sesame Workshop and distributed through the Ad Council to promote awareness around the importance of planning for emergencies.

The Ad Council will be distributing the PSA's to approximately 1,000 stations nationwide this week. Finally, the video component will soon be available, free of charge, on iTunes under the *Learning Along with Sesame* TV series.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/initiatives/emotion/ready>.

And for the official press release, please see:

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/inside/pressroom/eprep/release>



FEMA Announces FY08 Competitive Training Grants

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced awards to fund the development and delivery of innovative training programs addressing high priority national homeland security training needs under the Competitive Training Grants Program (CTGP). In Fiscal Year 2008, approximately \$27.2 million is being awarded to CTGP recipients spanning local governments, national associations, higher education institutions and non-profit organizations. The resultant training programs will be a catalyst to strengthen national preparedness initiatives for first responders, public officials and citizens. Of the eleven total recipients, five will be working on projects that support the Citizen Corps mission: Meals on Wheels received a grant to create an emergency preparedness volunteer training initiative that will develop a workforce capable of screening isolated, homebound clients to identify those at greatest risk in the event of an emergency and of increasing client preparedness by providing clients and caregivers with appropriate information and educational materials. The National Partnership for Environmental Technology Education will be developing a Community College Citizen Preparedness Program that will train citizens on specific protective actions to save lives and minimize injuries after a hazardous incident and before the arrival of first responders. The American College of Emergency Physicians will create a program that provides all hazards preparedness training for children and adults through interactive web-based games. The training will teach approximately 100,000 citizens how to prepare for catastrophic events and respond to minor injuries in the event that immediate emergency medical care is not available. The University of Rhode Island will develop a training program centered on mass evacuation for institutions of higher education, and will assess, develop, and maintain a comprehensive mass evacuation plan to increase the survival rate in the event of a critical incident. Finally, the Yale New Haven Health System will create a program that will equip local and regional emergency planners and responders to address the unique evacuation and shelter-in-place requirements of medically dependent persons residing in high occupancy facilities, including hospitals, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities.

For more information, please visit: http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/ctgp/ctgp_list.pdf



Voluntary Private Sector Preparedness Program Announced

The Voluntary Private Sector Preparedness Accreditation and Certification Program is mandated by the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 to establish a common set of criteria for private sector preparedness, including disaster management, emergency management, and business continuity programs. The goal of this voluntary program is to enhance nationwide resilience against all hazards by improving private sector preparedness. At present, there is no comprehensive set of standards by which American businesses and other private sector entities can assess their preparedness for all hazards, and yet these organizations are more at risk than ever of catastrophic losses due to natural or other disasters.

DHS has signed an agreement with the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) to establish and oversee the development and implementation of the accreditation and certification requirements for the program. DHS will also consult with private sector stakeholders and create a venue for public comment in order to obtain input on the program and its standards. To learn more, please visit <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=45287>.

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month



This fall marks the fifth annual National Cyber Security Awareness Month. The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) National Cyber Security Division (NCSD) is once again actively engaging public and private sector partners through events and initiatives to increase overall awareness and minimize vulnerabilities.

To learn more, please visit

http://www.dhs.gov/xprevprot/programs/gc_1158611596104.shtm Here are a few steps that you can take to not only take part in National Cyber Security Awareness Month, but to practice cyber security throughout the year:

1. Change your passwords. Encourage others to do the same.
2. Make sure that your anti-virus software and firewalls are up-to-date. New threats are discovered everyday and keeping your software updated is one of the easiest ways to protect yourself from an attack. Set your computer to automatically update for you.
3. Hold an event at your local school or college campus designed to increase student and staff cyber security education and awareness. Download EDUCAUSE's cyber resource kit online at www.educause.edu.
4. Print and post cyber security tips near your computer. Review them with your family.
5. Create a separate section for cyber security tips on your organization's web site. Download online buttons and banners about phishing, identity theft, file-sharing, and other cyber security topics at www.msisac.org or www.OnGuardOnline.gov and place on your organization's home page.
6. Use regular communications – newsletters, email alerts, websites, etc. – to increase awareness on issues like updating software processes; protecting personal identifiable information; and securing your wireless network.
7. Subscribe to the National Cyber Alert System from the US Computer Emergency Readiness Team at www.us-cert.gov. Through the Alert System, you can receive timely information about current cyber security problems to protect home and office computers. This information includes weekly bulletins with summaries of new vulnerabilities, patch information when available, and tips on common security topics, such as privacy, email spam, and wireless protection.
8. Talk to people that you know – your children, co-workers, friends – about good online safety and security habits, including protecting their personal information and their reputation. Post the link to www.staysafeonline.org and www.us-cert.gov to your community listserv.
9. Back up important files. If you have important files stored on your computer, copy them onto a removable disc, and store it in a safe place.
10. Make cyber security a habit. Focus on cyber security every month, not just in October.

Affiliate Spotlight

U.S. Schools Receive Life-Saving NOAA Public Alert Radios

Federal agencies have begun distributing more than 182,000 Public Alert Radios to preschools, Head Start programs, K-12 nonpublic schools and nonpublic school central offices, K-12 school district offices and post-secondary schools. In two earlier phases, the federal government distributed radios to all 97,000 K-12 public schools across the country. This final distribution brings the program to a close, having provided a life-saving radio in every school in the nation.

The radios have been distributed by the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with funding from the Department of Homeland Security and assistance from the Departments of Education and Health and Human Services-

Commonly known as NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards, these Public Alert Radios provide alerts and safety steps on a wide range of emergencies--from an approaching tornado, a telephone outage disrupting 9-1-1 emergency services, local roads overrun by flash floods, a derailed train posing a hazardous material threat or the urgent need to be on the lookout for an abducted child.

The radios sound an alarm to alert school personnel about hazardous weather and other emergencies, even when other means of communication are disabled.

The program also encourages school officials, emergency managers, human service

providers and Citizen Corps Councils across the country to partner and align their efforts with local emergency plans to build overall community preparedness. By coordinating with their local emergency managers and Citizen Corps Council, schools also can obtain technical and other assistance to improve their school safety plans and other emergency preparedness efforts.

For additional information on the Public Alert Radios for Schools program, see the Web site at public-alert-radio.nws.noaa.gov. The general public can learn about these radios at www.weather.gov/nwr.



New American Legion Post To Work with Local Citizen Corps

On September 23rd, 2008, the American Legion established the new Earl Collier American Legion Post, designated as Post 153, in Olathe, Kansas. Twenty-one Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion (SAL) and American Legion Riders (ALR) members and officers were present. Rita Hoffman, Director of the Olathe Emergency Management Agency, and Susan Hoskins, the Commander of the Medical Reserve Corps of Kansas City were official guests. J.D. Spalding, of ARRL, represented local Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES)/Radio Amateur Civil Emergency



Services (RACES) Radio Operators.

Olathe Emergency Management Agency and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) representatives encouraged all participants at the formational meeting to participate in ongoing training to be offered beginning in the spring of 2009. Formal memorandums of understanding between Post 153, the Olathe Emergency Management Agency, and the MRC are presently being prepared. For the moment, there is in place an interim agreement to use the Post's facilities as an Emergency Operations Resources Center for emergency managers and responders during a given disaster or emergency. It is anticipated that the Post 153 Disaster and Preparedness Response Team will develop a Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan similar to that used in response to the Midwest flooding earlier this year. Expected planning will involve further recruitment, obtaining an emergency generator, ARC Shelter Operations/CERT/MRC Training, and ongoing development of ALR Mobility and ARES/RACES Communication Teams.

The Post 153 Disaster Preparedness and Response Team will also serve as the Legion's Disaster Preparedness and Response representative at the Kansas City Regional Citizen Corps Council. A number of team members who have already completed CERT and/or Medical Reserve Corps Training will also participate as responders during a October 8th Johnson County Kansas Health Department drill



involving simulated use of SNS Resources at multiple medical dispensing sites in a biological emergency scenario. Team members recently acted as official observers of the citywide CERT portion of a City Disaster Drill, held September 27.



MyGoodDeed Launches New Website

The new myGoodDeed.org website gives users the tools and resources that they need to take their ideas for good deeds and make them big – and to help others do the same. Users will be able to set up a personal or organizational profile, upload images and videos of their activities and mission, create their own blog, establish their own causes (and adopt the causes of others), invite friends to join their cause and connect with larger cause communities that interest them.

The creation of this new social cause networking site was prompted when myGoodDeed became aware of an expressed interest from individuals who wanted to stay engaged beyond the focus on September 11 and network online throughout the year with others who shared common cause-related interests.

The new myGoodDeed.org community is uniquely dedicated to giving individuals and groups the power through online networking to transform their good deeds into

meaningful and substantive causes supported by other like-minded individuals and organizations. The myGoodDeed.org online community has many unique features, including original editorial content, blogging, and other elements that promote active participation among its members. myGoodDeed.org also has the benefit of a built-in community of hundreds of thousands of individuals and organizations that visit the site each year and participate in the annual 9/11 Day of Service initiative.

To get involved, anyone can visit the website at <http://www.mygooddeed.org>, set up a profile, upload images, videos photos, and other information they want to share. Then, start creating and supporting causes you care about. Users can also utilize myGoodDeed.org as a way to connect with friends and colleagues.



National Safety Council: Safe Communities America

A Safe Community is a place where all members come together to promote safe and healthy behaviors that protect people from harm in all aspects of their lives.

Through Safe Communities America, the National Safety Council works with local communities to prevent needless deaths and disabling injuries. It provides a structure, administrative support, and years

of experience and expertise in injury prevention in an effort to make our communities safer places to live, work, and play.

The Safe Communities America designation is awarded to communities that have demonstrated leadership in promoting safety, reducing injuries, and preparing their citizens for natural and man-made disasters. Communities seeking this designation must meet six indicators established by the World Health Organization and the Safe Communities America Program. To learn more, please visit <http://www.safecommunitiesamerica.com/becoming.aspx>.

The World Health Organization also officially designated the National Safety Council leader of its “Safe Communities” United States initiative at the Council’s annual safety and health meeting. The press release can be found at: <http://www.nsc.org/news/worldhealth.aspx>.



Reminder

You can offer financial support, product donations, or donate your skills and time to nonprofit organizations active in disaster relief by visiting <http://www.aidmatrixnetwork.org/fema/>. You can also click on the appropriate National VOAD member’s website at <http://www.nvoad.org/AboutUs/NationalMembers/tabid/75/Default.aspx>, or call 1-800-VOLUNTEER to learn how you can donate directly to the organization of your choice.



Partner Updates

Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit

The Medical Reserve Corps is pleased to announce that it will be participating in the 2009 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is organizing this summit to encompass several trainings and conferences offered by individual HHS program offices: the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS), Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP), and the Office of Force Readiness and Deployment (OFRD).



MRC envisions a robust, well-trained, and integrated pool of public health and medical responders in which all members understand their own roles and missions, as well as those of their response partners, in order to best serve our communities, States and the Nation. The Training Summit will help achieve this vision by convening a forum for discussing issues, sharing information, and networking amongst the constituent groups of various national-level organizations involved in preparing for and responding to public health and medical emergency events. The training is being specifically designed to

reinforce relationships between the response partner organizations, focus on all-hazards approaches, and enable facilitated, interactive learning opportunities.

This Training Summit will be held April 4-8, 2009 in Dallas, TX.

VIPS Provide Welcome Relief to Gilroy Police Department

With a hiring freeze hanging over their heads, Gilroy police officers have to do more with less these days, and that means calling on a few good Gilroy men and women to provide extra pairs of eyes and ears on the street. Fewer abandoned vehicles cluttering Gilroy streets, more well-run crime scenes and extra support at city events are just a few side effects of the current Volunteers in Policing program, 25 members strong. But Police Chief Denise Turner comes from a precinct with a larger VIP force and hopes to ramp up participation in her new town. She envisions an outfit of 30 to 40 volunteers to cushion the impact of budget cuts by freeing up police officers for more pressing duties, such as the apprehension of criminals.

The current VIPs provide a vast array of services. They file documents. They help remove unsightly abandoned vehicles from the streets. They even watch over holiday shoppers who leave their valuables in plain sight in their cars. The VIPs are responsible for taking more than 1,000 abandoned vehicles off the street, said Pat Moore, VIP coordinator and engineering manager by day.



VIPs act as liaisons between the public and the police department, Moore said. They are often the first wave of emergency responders the public encounters. On the scene, VIPs take guidance from the police and often end up directing traffic or enforcing crime lines. Often, they have the tough job of telling bystanders to stay back or directing reporters to the appropriate information officer.

"Our VIPs definitely lighten the load for traffic control at crime scenes," said Sgt. Jim Gillio said. "Otherwise, we would be tying up staff or calling someone in on overtime. It may sound small but it's a big deal."

Upcoming VIPS Training

2008 Southeastern States Crime Prevention Conference - Destin, FL: October 20-24, 2008



New CERT Newsletter Now Available

The inaugural issue of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) quarterly National CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Newsletter contains articles that reinforce the contributions of CERTs as Emergency Services Sector (ESS) force multipliers.

As FEMA Administrator David Paulison states in a letter introducing the new newsletter, "CERT members lead the way in taking personal responsibility for preparedness and assistance to professional first responders during disasters. Since professional responders make up just 1% of the population, CERTs in our neighborhoods, schools, and the workplace should help all of us sleep better at night. CERT members not only step up to provide support for emergency response in their communities, they also volunteer with other Citizen Corps Partner Programs and Affiliates when the call goes out."



The first newsletter includes helpful information about CERT in action, local CERT exercises, local CERT training, and more. Volume I, Issue 1 of the national newsletter can be seen at http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/newsletter/CERT%20Final%20Newsletter_091608.pdf.



Upcoming USAonWatch Events

NW Toolkit Training - Destin, FL: October 21
NW Toolkit Webinar - October 27 @ 2pm EST

Celebrate Safe Communities

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance; the National Crime Prevention Council, and the National Sheriffs' Association joined together to Celebrate Safe Communities on October 2-4, 2008. This new initiative is designed to help local law enforcement agencies and their community partners kick off celebrations of Crime Prevention Month every October. In this inaugural year, 152 events in 36 states and DC were held. Please visit <http://www.ncpc.org/programs/celebrate-safe-communities/csc-home> for more information.

Fire Corps Facebook Page

You may already use social networking web sites like Facebook, MySpace, and others to keep in touch with friends and meet new people who share your interests and hobbies. Now you can connect with other Fire Corps members from across the nation with the Fire Corps Facebook page. Please visit http://www.firecorps.org/page/630/show_item/210/News.htm for details.



Fire Prevention Week: October 5-11

The [National Fire Protection Association](http://www.nfpa.org) (NFPA) reports that fire departments responded to nearly 400,000 home fires in 2006. In light of this alarming statistic, the theme of this year's Fire Prevention Week, observed October 5-11, was "It's Fire Prevention Week: Prevent Home Fires!" Fire Corps released fire safety tips each day during Fire Prevention Week designed to help keep your families, friends, and communities safer. All the tips are available at www.firecorps.org/firepreventionweek; please use these tips in your outreach efforts and continue to pass on the message of fire safety every day. For more, please visit http://www.firecorps.org/page/630/show_item/211/News.htm

Editorial Policy

Citizen Corps welcomes your stories and best practices. If you would like to submit a story for consideration, please review and follow our editorial policy.

- **Due Date:** All articles must be received by the 15th of the month to be considered for the next newsletter.
- **Length:** Articles should be between 50 and 150 words or one to three paragraphs.
- **Format:** Submit text as a Microsoft Word file using 12pt Times New Roman font or paste text directly into your e-mail. Articles submitted as a PDF will not be used.
- **Previously Published Articles:** If you wish to submit a published article, you must obtain and include written permission from the publication to comply with copyright laws.
- **Photos:** If submitting a photo, attach it to your e-mail as a JPG or TIF file. Include the names of people in the photo and a description of what they are doing and why.
NOTE: Photos are assumed to be approved for publication.
- **Complete Information:** Be sure to include complete and accurate information including city and State, name of people or organizations involved, date of activity, contact information for author, and other relevant information.
- **Changes:** Citizen Corps retains the right to edit all stories for length, clarity, and accuracy.
- **Acceptance:** Submissions are selected based on a variety of factors, including but not limited to: activities of national interest, timeliness, space available, completeness of information, relevance, and other criteria.
- **Where to Submit:** Please submit your articles to your regional program managers and copy your State Citizen Corps program manager. For a listing of State contacts, please visit: www.citizencorps.gov/citizenCorps/statepoc.do.

Important Contacts

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