



MAINE

Highlights of State Council Activities

Maine Citizen Corps, housed in the Maine Emergency Management Agency, manages the statewide program and provides program guidance, development and support for its local Councils.

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) program has taken a new approach in Maine. Through a partnership with the Maine CDC and the Regional Resource Centers located in Portland, Lewiston and Bangor, the state has re-energized its approach to link with the Emergency System for Advance Registration for Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant program. The state's goal is to provide volunteer healthcare personnel, through the MRC program, to support Maine's Strategic National Stockpile plan, mass care clinics, special needs shelter assistance and County Emergency Management Agency operations during emergencies.

Highlights of State Activities

Public Education and Outreach

Maine Citizen Corps, along with Maine Emergency Management Agency, has focused its efforts on public awareness and preparedness communications. Through the use of preparedness displays at various venues throughout the State, web-based preparedness tools and information, and the NOAA Weather Radio Program, an all-hazards approach to preparedness has been spreading throughout Maine's businesses, schools and communities.

In partnership with local Emergency Management Associations (EMAs) and school systems, Maine Citizen Corps sponsored a NOAA Weather Radio Project with the goal of placing a NOAA alerting radio in every public and private school in Maine. As part of the program, EMA Directors provided training to school administrators on the radio alerts and assisted with updating and enhancing the school systems' emergency plans. To date, more than 600 public and private schools have received the NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards.

Locally, Cumberland County has engaged its Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program in business continuity planning and disaster preparedness outreach. Through a partnership with the Greater Portland Area Chamber of Commerce, the Cumberland County EMA office is spearheading this collaborative and innovative approach to preparing businesses.

Training and Exercises

Maine's CERT programs, in partnership with Cumberland County Emergency Management, are working to establish CERT sub-specialties in Sheltering and Mass Care; Communications; and

Animal Rescue and Sheltering Practices. CERT programs have also assisted with business outreach for COOP training and development of Disaster Resistant Businesses. In Dirigo-Orono, ME, the CERT program will soon achieve a Level 4 Search and Rescue under FEMA and National Incident Management Systems' guidelines. Citizen Corps volunteers continue to be included in statewide exercises.

Volunteer Programs and Support

In a unique partnership with Maine Community Policing Institute (MCPI), Maine Citizen Corps and its Volunteers In Police Service program, provide support for human trafficking training statewide as part of the national border security program, "Operation Stonegarden."

Maine Citizen Corps has also partnered with United Way's project called "Volunteersolutions.org." This Web site not only matches volunteer opportunities with citizens willing to serve in the community, but also correlates incoming information on resources needed with those available during an emergency.

Support for Hurricane Katrina Response

Maine Citizen Corps volunteers served in various capacities around the state to assist the hurricane response efforts. Volunteers supported state and local emergency operation centers to allow staff to take breaks and return to normal operations. Others staffed a call center at the state emergency management agency to support Governor John E. Baldacci's task force in addressing shelter and long-term housing needs for evacuees.

National Preparedness Month

Due to the Hurricane Katrina response efforts required of Maine Emergency Management Agency and its Citizen Corps Office, all planned activities in recognition of National Preparedness Month were canceled.