

WYOMING

Highlights of State Council Activities

The Wyoming State Citizen Corps Council, managed by the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security, focused its efforts on statewide awareness of preparedness and Citizen Corps programs. Public service announcements were developed about the Citizen Corps program to encourage residents to prepare and maintain a three-day supply kit and to develop a crisis communications plan. These announcements aired extensively on all Wyoming television and radio stations.

The Council also worked on developing and finalizing a partnership with Wyoming Public Television to increase awareness and participation among Wyoming residents and visitors to the state.

Wyoming Citizen Corps developed and distributed a coloring and activity book, "Disaster Roundup," for personal use and in elementary schools statewide. The activity book covers weather safety, communications planning, family disaster planning, and pet preparedness. The book was well-received and is now used in many elementary schools.

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Public Education and Outreach

Campbell County has established a well-organized Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) newsletter, which serves as a vital mode of communication between volunteers and encourages their continued support.

Training and Exercises

Several counties have trained CERT members to mobilize their decontamination tents. These CERT members have been utilized during multiple exercises.

Laramie County conducted a CERT basic course for participants statewide in October. More than 70 participants took part in the training session. Niobrara County representatives attended this course and took the information home to incorporate the Citizen Corps program into their own initiative. Laramie County also sends their CERT Train-the-Trainer team throughout Wyoming to offer the class to counties in need of instructors and assist in their CERT education efforts.

Natrona County has assisted in efforts to engage special needs populations. Several CERT classes were held for the hearing impaired. Interpreters assisted in the class and the CERT training films were subtitled.

The State collaborated with the American Red Cross on plans to provide CPR and automated external defibrillator (AED) training to CERT members to enhance the abilities of volunteers.

Sweetwater County has made CERT training mandatory for all volunteers.

Volunteer Programs and Support

CERTs from multiple counties responded following the devastating tornado in Wright, Wyoming. These teams assisted in the necessary cleanup of the damaged areas.

Albany County kicked off its Citizen Corps program with an impressive show of volunteers at the July 4 Freedom Festival. This display and recruitment effort resulted in an immense influx of volunteers to the program.

Washakie County called upon its Citizen Corps volunteers during community events such as the Washakie County Reuse and Recycle Day at the local landfill.

Citizen Corps Councils are working with members of the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and Search and Rescue teams to involve volunteers. Because of Wyoming's low population, joining forces with other initiatives is vital to the success of all volunteer programs.

Support for Hurricane Katrina Response

Citizen Corps volunteers were deployed to areas affected by Hurricane Katrina to assist in recovery efforts. Citizen Corps volunteers throughout the state were prepared to assist in shelter management following the hurricane, as were the majority of Red Cross volunteers deployed to the affected areas.

National Preparedness Month

An in-depth pamphlet, "Understanding and Preparing," was mailed to each household in Wyoming during "Preparedness Month" and the response was favorable. A letter from Governor Dave Freudenthal was printed on the back cover and emphasized the importance of being prepared and encouraged participation in the Citizen Corps program. The pamphlet described the Citizen Corps programs and procedures to prepare and maintain a three-day supply kit. It also provided a template for developing a crisis communications plan and other preparedness information. Following this outreach project, an additional 8,000 pamphlets were requested and distributed.