

**USA**   
**Freedom Corps**  
Make a Difference. Volunteer.

*Promoting a culture of service,  
citizenship and responsibility*



DHS / EPR / FEMA

**National Citizen Corps Council  
Corporate Support**

**Charter Federal Partners**



DOJ / NSA



DOJ / IACP



DHS / EPR / EMI



DHHS / OSG

**Affiliate  
Programs**

*Ready.gov / Are You Ready? / Safety - Preparedness Awareness Programs*

**State Citizen Corps Councils**

**Tribal / Local Citizen Corps Councils**

*American Public*



# WHY?



- In 95% of all emergencies bystanders or victims are the first to provide aid
- Individuals & communities must be trained & prepared to help themselves & others
  - Major Wind Storms
  - Flooding
  - Ice Storms
  - Crime
  - Chemical & Hazardous Materials Spills
  - Tornadoes
  - Fire
  - Blizzards
  - Terrorism/WMD

*citizen*  *corps*

# What's Citizen Corps?



- **Component of USA Freedom Corps**
  - President Bush initiative --started after 9/11
- **Create volunteer opportunities**
- **Help prepare for & respond to disasters**
- **Bring together local leaders, volunteers & First responders**

# Citizen Corps Mission



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- To harness the power of every individual through education, training and volunteer service to make their communities safer, stronger and better prepared to respond to all kinds of threats



# How We're Organized



- **Communities form Citizen Corps Council to:**
  - **Promote & oversee Citizen Corps programs**
  - **Focus on education, training & volunteer opportunities for community & family**
  - **Build on community strengths**
  - **Organize projects & community events**



# Belvidere Citizen Corps Council



- **Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters**

- United Way (Chair)
- Fire & Police Departments
- Emergency Management Agency
- Emergency Medical Services
- Sheriff's Department
- City & County Government
- Red Cross
- Salvation Army
- Faith Based Groups
- Health Department
- RSVP

# Citizen Corps Programs



- **Department of Justice**
  - **Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)**
  - **Neighborhood Watch**
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**
  - **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)**
- **Department of Health & Human Services**
  - **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)**
- **Programs promoting community & family safety**

# Volunteer Opportunities



- **Crime prevention and reporting**
  - **Get involved in your Neighborhood Watch**
    - **Neighbors looking out for neighbors**
    - **Extra eyes & ears for law enforcement**
    - **Citizens work with police to combat crime**
    - **30 years of success in crime prevention**
- **Belvidere has Neighborhood Watch groups!**

# Volunteer Opportunities



- **Law enforcement**
  - **Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)**
    - Uses citizen volunteer in police department
    - Trains volunteers to perform police administrative & non-intervention activities
    - Enables police to concentrate on frontline duties

# Volunteer Opportunities



- **Community Emergency Response Team**
  - **Trains volunteers in emergency response and preparedness**
    - **20 hour course covering disaster preparedness, fire suppression, team organization, light urban search & rescue, medical principles & treatment, disaster psychology & terrorism**

# Volunteer Opportunities



- **Emergency Medical Response**
  - **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)**
    - **Enables active & retired medical professionals to participate in large scale emergencies**
    - **Augments medical response community**

# How You Can Help ?



- **Be Prepared**

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- **Be Prepared**
- **Training**
- **Volunteer**
- **Give Blood**

# Be Prepared



- Plan ahead
- What you have on hand during a disaster can make a big difference



# Develop a Plan



- **Talk with your family about what to do during an emergency**
- **Choose one out of town contact**
- **Learn how to turn-off utilities, use a fire extinguisher, call for help**
- **Practice your plan with your family**

# Develop a Kit



- **Store 3 days of supplies per person**
- **Store kit in a sturdy, waterproof & easy to carry container**
- **Keep a smaller kit in your car**
- **Check kit every 6 months**

# Develop a Kit



**Water**

**Canned food**

**Pet supplies**

**Flashlight**

**Radio**

**Batteries**

**First aid kit**

**Medicines**

**Clothing & bedding**

**Essential tools**

**Sanitary supplies**

**Manual can opener**

**Important papers**

**Coins and cash**



- **Types of training**
  - **First Aid**
  - **CPR**
  - **Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)**
  - **Community Disaster Education**



- Training gives you the skills & confidence you will need in times of crisis





- Your community needs your help
- There are many ways to serve



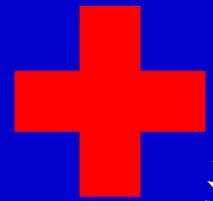
# Volunteer Opportunities



- **Volunteer Fire Departments**
- **Disaster relief**
  - Red Cross
  - Salvation Army
  - Faith Based organizations
- **Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)**
- **Community safety organizations**

# Give Blood





- + Blood is needed in times of emergencies**
- + Every two seconds someone needs blood**
- + Doesn't take much time**
- + Each blood donation has the power to save THREE lives**
- + Call the Rock River Valley Blood Center to donate 965-8751**

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- Allows first responders to focus on the most life threatening situation
- Citizens are involved in crime prevention, emergency preparedness & response
- Builds community pride & cohesion



- **United Way** 544-3144
- **Red Cross** 963-8471
- **RSVP** 544-7128
- **Neighborhood Watch** 544-9626
- **VIPS** 544-9626
- **CERT training** 544-9322
- **MRC** 544-2951
- **Salvation Army** 544-3892
- **[www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov)**

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- **Engage citizens in community & family emergency preparedness/response**
- **You can help by**
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- **Call 544-3726 or check out [www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov) for more info**