



National Preparedness Month 2006 and Citizen Corps

Citizen Corps Councils and Citizen Corps Program Partners and Affiliates across the country have organized outreach efforts, training opportunities, and exercises on all-hazards preparedness to celebrate National Preparedness Month. Citizen Corps events focus on a range of individual and community preparedness subjects, including specific information and hands-on introductions to fire safety, crime prevention, emergency response and medical assistance, as well as a general overview of all-hazards preparedness. Many Citizen Corps Councils are also sponsoring programs targeting youth, senior citizens, people with disabilities and pets. **Over 900 events were registered on the Citizen Corps calendar.** A sample of registered events is included below.

Nationwide. The Great Safety Adventure, operated by Citizen Corps Affiliate the Home Safety Council, is a national mobile tour visiting elementary schools and community events throughout the country. This event teaches children and their families about home safety and emergency preparedness using a fun and interactive approach.

Alabama. “Be Ready Camp,” held at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, will offer sixth graders an opportunity to participate in modified CERT training and participate in a mock disaster exercise. Governor Bob Riley will present students with a certificate of completion when the camp concludes.

California. The third Business and Industry Council for Emergency Planning and Preparedness (BICEPP) challenge will be held in Los Angeles. This event evaluates 10-person CERTs on their skills at using fire extinguishers; triage; medical treatment; incident size-up; lifting and cribbing; etc.

Colorado. The Monument Police Department, a member of CERT, is bringing together representatives from local, state and federal governments, public utilities and private businesses to provide emergency preparedness information on a range of topics, including: how to prepare a 72-hour survival kit; emergency and evacuation plans for the school district; how to shut off electrical power; emergency preparedness for pets and livestock; and demonstrations on severe weather safety.

Massachusetts. Emergency Animal Sheltering training will prepare volunteers to serve at emergency shelters for pets and animals evacuated or displaced from their homes because of a disaster. This event is sponsored by the Humane Society of the United States and the State of Massachusetts Animal Response Team (SMART), which is a state Citizen Corps Council partner.

Michigan. Volunteers from CERT and The American Red Cross—a Citizen Corps Affiliate—will participate in the Detroit Evacuation Exercise 2006. The exercise will kick off the city’s National Preparedness Month campaign through a simulated emergency that requires evacuation of an area in Detroit. The exercise is hosted by the Detroit Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency.