

INDIANA

Highlights of State Council Activities

The Indiana State Citizen Corps Council, managed by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, continues to provide guidance for local Citizen Corps programs across the state. Citizen Corps has been incorporated into the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's strategic plan and plans to expand its Councils and affiliate programs. Indiana Citizen Corps Councils, both local and state, focus on preparing and encouraging Indiana residents to participate in homeland security.

Highlights of State Activities

Public Education and Outreach

Over 20 Indiana counties participate in Citizen Corps, reaching a population of almost two million residents. Citizen Corps volunteers range from high school youths to retired seniors. In partnership with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, Indiana Citizen Corps Councils and volunteers have actively encouraged Indiana residents to develop family preparedness plans, get additional training, and become involved in homeland security. Local Citizen Corps Councils have organized and participated in many events, including preparedness fairs, health fairs, and mass disaster drills.

Training and Exercises

Indiana is particularly proud of the state's strong Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. In a two-year period, the program has grown from an initial core of 61 trained volunteers to over 1300. CERT is active in 47 of 92 counties as five more counties recently started programs. CERT teams have responded to local emergencies in several Indiana cities and CERT-trained residents served as FEMA Disaster Workers responding to Hurricanes Rita and Katrina. Local CERT teams are recognized as valuable resources and are being integrated into local emergency response planning, training, and exercising. In order to support continuing education for CERT trainers and volunteers, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security sponsored a CERT trainer conference and volunteer rodeo in April.

Support for Hurricane Katrina Response

Indiana Citizen Corps worked with the American Red Cross and United Way in community-based efforts to meet the ongoing needs of the 5,000 evacuees entering the state. Monroe County Citizen Corps volunteers helped set up shelters at Indiana University and collected and sorted clothing and monetary donations for over 150 evacuees. In Allen County, 78 CERT members assisted partner organizations to establish shelters for 300 evacuees. Under the direction of the local health department, the Allen County Medical Reserve Corps set up a clinic for arriving evacuees and provided health care and counseling. In Johnson County, 40 CERT members

prepared to assist evacuees in their community. All local Councils prepared for response requests and maintained readiness to assist.

National Preparedness Month

In September, Indiana focused its message on increasing awareness of the CERT program. Billboards with CERT advertisements were placed in strategic areas reaching a daily audience of over 400,000 residents. Over 200,000 inserts were placed in newspapers around the state.