

MARYLAND

Highlights of State Council Activities

The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GOSV) serves as the lead agency for the Citizen Corps of Maryland and other citizen education, emergency preparedness and participation initiatives. The GOSV works directly with the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and other state and local organizations to promote citizen education and involvement in emergency preparedness. In support of this initiative, the State has established 28 Citizen Corps Councils that serve 100 percent of Maryland's population to prepare for and respond to emergencies.

Highlights of State Activities

Public Education and Outreach

The GOSV worked closely with the MD Department of Disabilities to integrate the leadership of individuals with disabilities and special needs into local Citizen Corps Council planning and the emergency management community. The Governor also sponsored a statewide homeland security initiative in public schools to address both professional development and preparedness issues. Partners in the initiative include the Maryland State Department of Education, the Maryland Emergency Management Agency and local school districts. To help the Citizen Corps Councils achieve their goals, Maryland also coordinated the implementation of an AmeriCorps VISTA/Citizen Corps Cost-Share Partnership to build capacity and outreach to low-income families.

The Citizen Corps Council of Anne Arundel County & Annapolis provided presentations, basic preparedness kits and materials at each of seven county senior centers, reaching 750 senior citizens. In Caroline County and Dorchester County, Citizen Corps Councils offered preparedness materials and held presentations about local Citizen Corps and CERT programs. In addition, Baltimore County Citizen Corps taught emergency preparedness at a two-day senior expo, and Citizen Corps created an Emergency Kit Bingo for senior citizens.

Training and Exercises

In collaboration with the local Community Action, Garrett County Citizen Corps coordinated CERT training for senior citizens through the local Area Agency on Aging and Project Aware. Garrett County also participated as a member of the planning committee for a tabletop exercise arranged through Project Aware.

Prince George's County trained 156 volunteers in the CERT in 2005. Additionally, 39 CERT members completed METRO CERT training, 10 CERT members completed CPR training and 20 CERT members were trained in traffic control. Over 100 CERT members participated in the numerous disaster drills held in 2005.

Volunteer Programs and Support

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and Office of Public Health Services, in collaboration with the Health Resources Service Administration (HRSA) Emergency System for Advanced Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP), began developing a Web-based interactive registry to include standards, guidelines and definitions, which can be shared across state lines. This platform will enable Maryland's Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), hospitals and other healthcare providers to register, pre-qualify, verify credentials and organize the deployment of volunteer healthcare professionals during a natural or manmade public health emergency or catastrophic event.

Support for Hurricane Katrina Response

Between September 5th and 21st, Maryland deployed three groups of health professionals for a total of 165 volunteers from Maryland's MRC to Louisiana in response to an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) request. The volunteers treated more than 6,200 victims of the hurricane. The deployment of volunteers to Louisiana was in partnership with various state agencies, Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), Maryland Defense Force (MDF), Maryland National Guard, and Maryland Institute Emergency Medical Services System (MIEMSS).

Maryland Citizen Corps served as the viable communication link to its citizens by broadcasting preparedness messages to residents and encouraging citizens to visit the new state Web site www.marylandcares.us to locate statewide disaster donation and volunteer opportunities. Maryland Citizen Corps volunteers worked with the Maryland Food Bank to help sort and box food sent to the Gulf Coast; they reviewed and updated family preparedness plans; and, when possible, donated blood at the Baltimore Chapter of the American Red Cross.

National Preparedness Month

The GOSV organized more than 100 events throughout the state for Maryland Preparedness Month. For example, Allegany County Citizen Corps participated in a live disaster drill in which trained CERT volunteers were activated through the 911 system. CERT members' duties included volunteer mobilization, emergency response and sheltering. The Calvert County Citizen Corps Council challenged residents to prepare by facilitating a four-week program entitled *Four Steps to Safety*. Residents were encouraged to take CERT training and CPR, and at the end of September, every family that met the challenge was rewarded with a survival kit. Cecil County launched a two-week public awareness campaign to encourage citizens to participate in CERT training and to build preparedness kits for their workplaces and homes, reaching roughly half of Cecil County's residents. Citizen Corps Councils in Talbot and St. Mary's County distributed preparedness brochures to all town offices throughout the county in order to increase public awareness, while the City of Laurel hosted an open house to showcase Citizen Corps programs, including CERT and MRC.