Citizen Corps

Erin Hays
State Citizen Corps Coordinator
Florida Division of Emergency Management
Citizen Corps
Councils
Primary Objectives:

- Act as convener to bring partners together
- Develop an action plan
- Tailor and promote activities to the community
- Educate the public
- Offer citizens new and existing volunteer opportunities
- Provide for training opportunities
Citizen Corps State Role

- The state will act as a facilitator
- Providing support and technical assistance
- Will aid in developing a statewide strategy for increasing the first responder and volunteer collaboration
- Ensure that communities receive consideration for any relevant funding administered by the state
Florida Citizen Corps Programs

- Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs)
- Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP)
- Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)
- Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)
- Fire Corps
- America’s Waterway Watch
CERT-Florida

- Provides training in disaster preparedness, basic disaster medical operations, fire safety, light search and rescue, and other essential topics enabling trainees to take a more active role in personal and public safety.

- Current Statistics as of October 2006
  - Over 450 CERT Teams and Sector Units
  - Functioning in 159 official CERT programs
  - Covering 57 counties
  - 23,000+ trained personnel

- Upcoming Train-the-Trainer workshops are listed in the training and events calendar of the floridadisaster.org webpage
Neighborhood Watch - Florida

- A unique collaboration between local officials, law enforcement, and citizens that focuses on terrorism awareness and crime prevention while reinforcing basic emergency preparedness.

- Current Statistics as of October 2006
  - Over 2,590 Neighborhood Watch Groups
  - Functioning in 1,153 official Neighborhood Watch programs
Volunteers in Police Service - Florida

- Enhances the capabilities of state and local law enforcement by utilizing volunteers.

- Current Statistics as of October 2006
  - 150 VIPS Groups
  - Functioning in 89 Law Enforcement Organizations
Medical Reserve Corps - Florida

• Coordinates the skills of practicing and retired physicians, nurses and other health professionals who are willing to volunteer during emergency situations and assist with public health matters.

• Current Statistics as of October 2006
  – 28 MRC Units
  – Functioning in 18 official MRC programs
Fire Corps - Florida

• Actively involves citizens in public education, training, and volunteer efforts focused on fire prevention and safety.

• **Current Statistics as of October 2006**
  – 31 Fire Corps Units
  – Functioning in 19 official Fire Corps programs
America’s Waterway Watch

• America's Waterway Watch is a newly created national awareness program that asks those who work, live, or recreate on or near the water to be aware of suspicious activity that might indicate threats to our country's homeland security. America’s Waterway Watch is a partnership between the United States Coast Guard, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the U. S. Department of Homeland Security. Americans are urged to adopt a heightened sensitivity toward unusual events or individuals they may encounter in or around ports, docks, marinas, riversides, beaches, or communities. Anyone observing suspicious activity is simply asked to note details and contact local law enforcement.
State Homeland Security Grant Program Funding - 2006

• $825,770 will fund 54 sub-grants
  – 12 Citizen Corps Expansion Program
  – 1 Citizen Corps Start-up Programs
  – 34 CERT Expansion Programs
  – 7 CERT Start-up Programs
Goals for 2007

• Increase in the number of Citizen Corps participants that have completed ICS 100 & 700

• Increased collaboration & information sharing with neighboring jurisdictions
Florida Citizen Corps Task Force

• Ms. Wendy Spencer, Chief Executive Officer of Volunteer Florida and Florida Citizen Corps Task Force Co-Chair, has charged the Task Force with actively encouraging the public to look after the vulnerable citizens in our communities, as well as reaching out to their own media contacts for assistance with reinforcing the public preparedness message.
Point of Contact

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QUESTIONS?

http://www.floridaresponse.org