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Congratulations to Fiscal Year 2010 Sub-Grant Recipients

Our office here at The Division of Emergency Management would like to take the time out to congratulate the sub-grant recipients for the 2010 Fiscal Year. The approvals of these grants were based upon a number of factors including, letters of support, cost effectiveness, and program narratives.

Below is a list of the following recipients:

- Brevard County Fire and Rescue
- Charlotte County
- City of Cape Coral
- City of Coral Springs Fire Department
- City of Debary
- City of Ft. Lauderdale
- City of Lauderdale Lakes
- Fort Myers Beach Fire Control
- City of Jacksonville
- City of Margate
- City of North Port
- City of Sunrise
- City of Key West Fire Department
- City of Pensacola
- City of Tamarac
- City of Tampa
- Cooper City
- Escambia County
- Flagler County
- Franklin County
- Hamilton County
- Hernando County
- Indian River Community College
- Jupiter Police
- Lafayette County
- Lauderhill Fire Rescue
- Lee County
- Lehigh Acres Fire Control
- Lealman Special Fire District
- Liberty County
- Marion County
- North Fort Myers Fire District
- Okaloosa County
- Orange County
- Palm Beach County
- Pasco County
- Polk County
- Santa Rosa County
- Stetson University
- Sumter County
- The Villages
- Town of Century
- Town of Davie
The Advanced CERT Academy

On October 1st-2nd 2011 the Florida Division of Emergency Management Citizen Corps and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program held the Western Panhandle Advanced CERT Academy at The University of West Florida Pensacola Campus. Eighty (80) CERT Members from all regions were in attendance at this event. The Advanced CERT Academy engaged Florida citizens through education in disaster preparedness, fire safety, search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations. Following the training sessions, participants engaged in an exercise where they were tested on skills obtained during the academy. The exercise allowed CERT personnel to work with others they have not worked with in the past in a manner that forces the use of NIMS ICS, promotes team work, and draws on the strengths of all participants. Some exercise participants received moulage training as part of the curriculum. Local volunteers and coordinators also participated in this exciting opportunity to take part in rendering their services as well.

This event was a total success in that the goal to produce better trained citizens to be confident first responders in any given disaster. We would like to give a token of thanks to Mr. Daniel Hahn, who so graciously led this course with precision and great detail! CERT looks forward to making certain more courses are offered for the surplus of interested citizens.

Severe Weather Awareness Week 2011

January 31st-February 4th 2011 was declared Severe Weather Awareness Week. Severe Weather Awareness Week was an opportunity for Floridians to learn about the various weather hazards that frequently impact the state and how families and businesses can prepare for these natural events. Each day of the week was used to spread information about the various disasters that we should be prepared for in the case of any emergency. The week started off covering Monday; lightening, Tuesday; Marine Hazards and Rip Currents, Wednesday; Tornadoes and Thunderstorms, Thursday; Hurricanes and Flooding, and finally on Friday; Temperature Extremes and Wildfires. All in all, the programs initiative ultimately helped to improve all Floridians to get ready in the case of any future catastrophic event. One of the highlights during the week, were the 4th and 5th graders from all 67 counties who participated in the poster contest. The top 3 winning posters all received all expense paid trips to Disney World, weather radios, and other prizes.
The Division of Emergency Management would like to take the time to recognize Jay High School in Santa Rosa County. Jay High School with the help of Daniel Hahn and Santa Rosa County Emergency Management, is one of the 6 high schools in the area to have been introduced to TEEN CERT. Daniel Hahn had the distinct pleasure of instructing the course to a total of eighty-five (85) students who all participate in HOPE (Health Occupations and Physical Education) Program at the high school which now includes all 85 students CERT trained as well as their HOPE instructor. Due to the success of the Teen CERT Program at Jay High School, the Director of Student Services for Santa Rosa County School District suggested that Santa Rosa County Emergency Management train all PE teachers with CERT over the summer of 2011 therefore they could take it back to their respective schools. Santa Rosa County’s Jay High School has become the lamp of light to encourage surrounding counties to look into forming a Teen CERT program within their areas to continue the goal of establishing this program to inform and train the youth in the State of Florida to be active first responders in any natural disaster. Jay High School has laid the groundwork, and set the tone for the Teen CERT Program by showing the State of Florida’s 67 counties that anything is possible with a little work, some cooperation, and most importantly perseverance.
The Florida Division of Emergency Management CERT/Citizen Corps Coordinator, Ms. Peggy Cadeaux, organized and implemented the first installment of the CERT Workshop and Training in Daytona Beach, Florida on November 1st-4th. This workshop brought out 60 participants representing the surrounding 67 counties in Florida. The workshop was created mainly for county emergency managers to network and share ideas in regards to their programs as well as a time for them to meet and greet with the FDEM staff. Managers obtained the chance to hear stories of success from other county representatives along with receiving advice and information on ways to enhance the number of participating citizens in the CERT Programs from each county. Also, attendees were informed of the new changes to the reporting forms as well as a step by step look into the grant overall process. Managers were given the chance to ask questions pertaining to the grant process and all reporting forms. Presentations included The Do’s and Don’ts of Reimbursements and Monitoring Forms by FDEM staff members; Owen Roach and Andrea Becraft, while Karen Lyons and Michael Day presented Successful Grant Maintenance and Procurement Policy, and Calvin Williams and Necole Holton spoke on Training and Exercise Programmatic Review and Course Management as well as Program Initiatives and New Policies/Procedures were presented by Peggy Cadeaux and Nikki Hines. Ms. Hines also gave a presentation on Teen CERT as a plea to all counties to look into starting one if they had not done so previously. She highlighted counties such as Santa Rosa, Alachua County and The City of Tampa for their efforts with Teen CERT. Managers were also encouraged to mentor up-and-coming CERT Programs by showing them the ropes and passing vital information along in order to make better CERT Programs. FDEM Director Bryan Koon also made an appearance to show support and give managers insight on CERT.

Below: CERT Program Managers at the CERT Workshop & Training.
The Division of Emergency Management received a pleasant surprise when three of our very own Mr. Freddy Zelaya, Manuel Soto Jr., and Sergio Padilla were all invited to represent Florida at the 2011 Latino Leadership Summit, which was held on September 15-16, 2011 in Washington DC. The purpose of the meeting was to continue to strengthen partnerships between FEMA and leaders in national and local Latino communities. Leaders from all levels of government, non-profit, private sector, faith-based and community initiatives were invited to discuss emergency management and planning for the whole community. This event was very helpful in allowing our Florida representatives to give insight on the initiatives in Florida, and share ideas with other representatives to enhance the overall emergency management sector. We are very proud of our representatives, and hope that the experience is something they will never forget.

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