



## **Florida Citizen Corps Annual Report**

### **2009/2010**

#### **HIGHLIGHTS OF STATE WORKING GROUP**

The committee under Emergency Management is recognized as the State Working Group. This committee is continuing with the task to reach out to the remaining counties who still have not integrated Community Emergency Response Team Training (CERT) Programs. All members that are current as well as new members of the State Working Group will continue to be charged to highlight each of the Citizen Corps Programs in their respective areas through use of their public outreach channels.

In Region 7, we are highlighting the Margate Community Emergency Response Team Program. They were started in March of 2006 by a small group of dedicated volunteers partnering together with a few firefighters. Since then the program has grown to over 125 members and more joining each month. The team has participated in many area wide drills, multi-agency training and now provides rehab / canteen services to fire departments in their region. The Margate CERT Program is also the keepers of the regional support trailer, available to all CERT programs in their region.

In Region 4, we are highlighting the Lealman Fire District's Community Emergency Response Team. They were organized in 2004 to prepare, equip and train individuals residing in, or employed in the Lealman Special Fire District to provide immediate assistance to our neighbors in times of catastrophic emergencies. Currently, more than 150 volunteers are prepared to help in times of crisis and that number is growing. The Lealman Fire District CERT program is designed to support and integrate into the disaster plans of the fire district, county, state and federal governments.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS OF STATE ACTIVITIES**

In lieu of the new statute requirements, DFS approved the Project Milestones and Deliverables form (Form C). Adding this form minimizes the impact the changes will have on our sub recipients and allows their scope of work to remain the same. The form also requires the sub grantee to account for their procurement method(s) and certify it was done in accordance with all applicable guidelines.

Section 8 of Chapter 2010-151, Laws of Florida, created Section 215.971, Florida Statutes, which requires that agreements funded by state and/or federal financial assistance

include provisions related to scope of work and deliverables. Agreements executed on or after July 1, 2010, must comply with these requirements.

***Agreements must include the following:***

- A scope of work that clearly establishes all of the specific tasks the recipient/sub recipient is required to perform.
- Documentation required to be maintained by the recipient/sub-recipient to evidence the completion of the tasks.
- Specific deliverables that must be provided and accepted prior to payment. Deliverables must be quantifiable, measurable and verifiable. Each deliverable must be directly related to a task specified in the scope of work and must identify the minimum level of service to be performed. Agencies should not confuse reports with deliverables. Reports usually are not deliverables. Rather, a report is the means to attest to the tasks performed during a given period of time.
- Specified criteria that will be used to determine the sub recipient's successful performance.

The requirements of Chief Financial Officer Memorandum No.4 (05-06), relating to these agreements, continue to be in effect. The Bureau of Auditing will continue to review agreements with an amount of \$1 million or more, as detailed in Chief Financial Officer Memorandum No.1 (07-08), and may also review agreements less than \$1 million on a sample basis. Payments may be delayed on agreements that do not meet the scope of work and/or deliverables requirements.

**Annual Governor's Hurricane Conference**

State agencies, executive and legislative officials, as well as State Emergency Response Team members, all took part in Florida's Annual Governor's Hurricane Conference held at the State Emergency Operations Center on May 10<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> of 2009. The CERT train-the-trainer course was conducted with fourteen (14) county emergency employees completing the course. The Annual Governor's Hurricane Conference was also held on May 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> in 2010 with a total of eleven (11) county emergency employees who attended and completed the CERT train-the-trainer course. These conferences helped assist state employees to test all catastrophic plans, identify as well as rectify all weak points within these plans, also helped participants on how to use the new technology capabilities being used by the state as a whole. Those who participated in the exercise included all of the Emergency Support Functions and most of the 67 county Emergency Management Agencies.

**ADVANCED CERT ACADEMY**

Santa Rosa County Emergency Management and Escambia County CERT hosted an Advanced CERT Academy July 31, 2009 through August 2, 2009. The classes held were US grid map reading, ham radio and communications, search and rescue, advanced cribbing, and CPR. On Sunday the class wrapped up with a two-hour drill using all the techniques taught in Basic CERT and during the weekend. Certificates were given at the end of the class. Princess Ousley from the state SERT was there as an observer along with a dignitary from Japan who took part in the drill.

On October 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> 2009, Clay County conducted an Advanced CERT Academy at the Keystone Heights Salvation Army Camp and Conference Center site. CERT teams, councils and state employees all participate as frequently as possible in training events and courses. This was used to teach community responders skills in the area of advanced disaster preparedness, communications, advanced first aid, and first responder training. The 3-day academy allowed all participants to work hands-on with each exercise and also further allowed them to demonstrate skills learned prior to this academy.

CERT looks forward to continuing on the path to better preparedness during any disaster.

**TEEN CERT PROGRAM**

Local programs have continued to embrace the Teen CERT program. Santa Rosa County held their first ever Teen Train- the- Trainer course also in February 2009 at Camp Timpooshee. Teens were challenged with using prior knowledge as well as new skills learned, to further their understanding of disaster preparedness and their role as responders. Santa Rosa County joined forces with neighboring County Escambia, to hold a vast amount of activities during 2009 and 2010.

Santa Rosa was the only county to bring the DHS funded Eastern Michigan Teen CERT Train-the-Trainers to Florida to do training for local instructors. So impressed with the program, Santa Rosa invited the team back and invited regional partners to participate in the program. In the second semester of the 2008-2009 school year Santa Rosa was able to introduce Teen CERT to the SGA class at Pace High School, making Pace the first and only high school in Florida to be listed on the Teen CERT web page. During the 2010-2011 school year Santa Rosa was invited to teach Teen CERT at Jay High School in the HOSA class. Santa Rosa's school district is very excited and supportive of the idea of pushing other high schools in the surrounding areas to get involved in CERT, to make a difference in the community and make a safe and more prepared atmosphere within the surrounding counties.

## **VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT**

Our councils and teams actively participate in volunteer programs, National Preparedness Month, disaster open houses, police academy law-enforcement function awareness training and coalition meetings. Florida has an extensive and robust list of trained citizen-based resources. With 2009-2010 combined, these include 19 Citizen Corps Councils; 79 CERT, 127 Volunteer and Police Service (VIPS); 33 Medical Response Corps and 21 Fire Corps. In response to recent state-wide emergency situations, our Citizen Corps/CERT members gained valuable experience. As a result, our response capabilities were significantly improved. These capabilities allowed us to help relieve post-disaster strain on local emergency service providers, thus raising community awareness and serving as a no-cost force multiplier.

### **National Preparedness Month**

National Preparedness Month (NPM) is an annual event hosted by The Department of Homeland Security. This event was started to encourage all Americans to become more prepared for all emergencies and to become more involved, if not already, in their communities. 2010 marked the largest the event has ever been. 2010's NPM focused on the importance of preparedness and the steps toward it. This included: Emergency Supply Kits, Making Family Emergency Plans, and being informed.

During National Preparedness Month, a surplus of events took place within the counties in Florida which included:

- A Preparedness Proclamation for National Preparedness Month by the Board of County Commissioners in Hillsborough County.
- Alachua County's disaster preparedness poster contest for students in grades 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>.
- Marianna, Florida's Fire Wise Class, which was taught by the Forestry Department on how to make sure your property, is clear of dead shrubs and etc, to prevent feeding a fire.
- Monroe County's South Florida Resource Conservation and Development Council Meeting.
- Leon County's American Red Cross, which was an outreach event to State employees and other volunteers to prepare when disaster strikes.
- Orange County's Neighborhood Services ReNew Grant Workshop for neighborhood preparedness funding. As well as their Goodwill Health and Safety Fair.
- Jackson County's ceremony giving away a total of 2,630 weather radios to local residents.

Governor Charlie Crist proclaimed September 2010 as 'Florida Preparedness Month.' In recognition of the month, the Florida Division of Emergency Management partnered with more than 3,200 organizations across the U.S. to help create a culture of disaster preparedness. In addition to participating in Florida's Preparedness Month, the Division participated in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Ad Council's seventh annual National Preparedness Ready Campaign, which will focus on encouraging Americans to work together to take concrete actions toward emergency preparedness.

"This is an excellent opportunity for all residents to get involved in local efforts such as Citizen Corps, Community Emergency Response Teams, and local faith and community-based organizations," said Division of Emergency Management Deputy Director David Halstead. "By participating in these organizations, Floridians can help prepare for future disasters and learn how to build resiliency in our communities."

The Division of Emergency Management has created an online program to assist Floridians in creating their family or business disaster plan. Visit [www.FloridaDisaster.org](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org) and [www.KidsGetaPlan.com](http://www.KidsGetaPlan.com)

### **CLOSING STATEMENT**

Ultimately, The Florida Division of Emergency Management's CERT/Citizen Corps Program has been making strides to further education in disaster preparedness. With the help of 67 counties, CERT/Citizen Corps program is able to spread awareness, and provide civilians with the skills-set needed to act as first responders during a catastrophic disaster. The Florida Division of Emergency Management CERT/Citizen Corps program will continue to further the aims of the State of Florida at the local and national level. Without the cooperation of The Division of Emergency Management Director, Brian Koon, Deputy Director, David Halstead, our host of grant managers and personnel, and our grant recipients, none of this would be possible.

The CERT/Citizen Corps program will continue to strive toward embracing the personal responsibility of getting civilians prepared; to get training in first aid and emergency skills; and to volunteer to support local emergency responders, disaster relief, and community safety. Overall, The Florida Division of Emergency Management's CERT/Citizen Corps Program is looking forward to an exceptional year in partnership with surrounding counties in Florida.