



# Monroe County citizen★corps



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**Be Informed. Be Prepared. Take Action.**

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## CITIZEN CORPS TRANSITIONS

**Washington, DC** - In the March 2007 edition of the National Citizen Corps newsletter, a brief announcement appeared indicating the Citizen Corps Program was going to move from the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office of Grants and Training to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Here is an excerpt of a letter prepared for all Citizen Corps partners and volunteers by Liz DiGregorio, the out-going Director, Office of Community Preparedness.

### Dear Citizen Corps Councils and Partners,

In January 2002, Karen Marsh and I were handed this "initiative" called Citizen Corps and told that we had six weeks to produce a Guide for Local Officials for the President's official launch in Knoxville, TN. The speed with which this program was founded mirrored the speed with which it has grown around the country. The growth we are experiencing at the Council and Program Partner levels, as well as the integration of community preparedness policy in major White House directives, DHS policies and grant guidance is truly noteworthy. Furthermore, the dedication and creativity that you...have applied to making Citizen Corps work in your communities—often without recognition or funding—is something in which we should all take pride. The success of Citizen Corps' growth these past five years is due to the many thousands of emergency responders and citizens across the country who recognize the importance of civic responsibility and participation to achieve community preparedness. I leave knowing that, because of all of you and your faith in this program, we have made a difference in the safety and security of our great country. Thank you for all your support...

Liz DiGregorio—Director

## LOCAL PREPAREDNESS BILLBOARDS SOON TO APPEAR

**Bloomington, IN**— The latest in a series of Monroe County Citizen Corps billboards will soon be displayed throughout the County. One new and one updated design will focus on pet preparedness and smoke detector battery alerts.



After Hurricane Katrina, many local communities are getting out the word to encourage pet owners to prepare a pet emergency supply kit including food, water, medications, first aid supplies, collar with ID tags, crate or other pet carrier as well as a good photograph. MCCC is doing its part to help educate the pet owners in Monroe County.

An updated "smoke detector" billboard that was first displayed in 2004 was redesigned with better graphics (see below).

## DEAD BATTERIES CAN'T SAVE LIVES!

Replace the Batteries in Your Smoke Detector



[www.bloomington.in.us/~mccc](http://www.bloomington.in.us/~mccc)

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**CONGRATULATIONS NEW CERT TEAM!**



**Bloomington** - Twelve members of the Indiana University Greek community completed CERT Team training on Sunday, April 1st, 2007 when they participated in a mock tornado disaster at Kappa Sigma Fraternity on North Jordan Avenue. Elliot McCullough, Citizen Corps Intern also completed the CERT training (See picture (far left below).

Equipped with a new team pack prepared by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, the CERT team exercised their skills in fire suppression, light search and

rescue, disaster medical operations and team communications as they “rescued” 15 simulated casualties from the fraternity house.

The members of the CERT team spent 5 weekends training at the Bloomington Township Fire Department with instructors Mark Brostoff, Lori White, John Hooker, and Maria Del Mar Carrasquillo. This was the second Indiana University student-team and the first “all-Greek” team trained this year.



CERT Training Photos Courtesy of Lori White

**TEEN CERT TEAM TRAINING APPROVED**

**Washington, DC** - The Teen CERT Train-the-Trainer course, developed by Eastern Michigan University has been approved as an official course for national promotion. The course prepares participants to present the national CERT Training Program to teens.

“Teen CERT is designed to change the culture of disaster preparedness and response by empowering youth in disaster mitigation,” said Gerald Lawver, associate professor for EMU’s School of Technology. The Teen CERT training also prepares students for a role in their school’s Disaster Response Plan as additional trained resources in the event of a disaster.

The Teen CERT course covers techniques for delivering the training to teens and steps to establish successful CERT training for high school or youth groups.



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### What is the Monroe County Citizen Corps?

Following the tragic events that occurred on September 11, 2001, state and local governments have increased opportunities for citizens to become an integral part of hometown security and supporting the local first responders.

Monroe County Citizen Corps is a network of volunteer organizations that utilize the skill and abilities of citizens to prepare our community against the threats of disasters, crime, and other emergencies. Citizen Corps programs are coordinated by the Department of Homeland Security and is administrated by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

Monroe County Citizen Corps promotes and strengthens volunteer opportunities at the community level, such as, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Public Health—Medical Reserve Corps, Disaster Training—Disaster Supply Kits, Disaster Education, and many other activities throughout the year.



(L-R) John Poehlman (Argus K9 SAR), Elliot McCullough (SPEA Intern), Lori White (CERT/MRC), David Henry (MRC), Conrad Hartman (RSVP), John Hooker (EMA), Georgia Schaich (MCCC), Tom Myers (CERT), Vicki McGlocklin (Stinesville FD), Maria Del Mar Carrasquillo (Red Cross), Mark Brostoff (Chair), Christine McKenna (RSVP), Bob Althaus (Red Cross), Jeff Barlow (Fire Chief)

### Medical Reserve Corps Introduces Webinar Series



The MRC Program Office is introducing a series of Webinars to provide information on a wide variety of topics for MRC leaders, volunteers, and others interested in the MRC. A Webinar is a seminar conducted over the Internet that is live and interactive between the presenter and the audience. MRC Webinars will be scheduled every 6-8 weeks. For more information, visit [www.medicalservicecorps.gov](http://www.medicalservicecorps.gov) or [www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/MRC.cfm](http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/MRC.cfm)

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### DISABLED URGED TO FORM DISASTER PLANS

(Reprinted from NOD eNewsletter—March 2007)

A recent review by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security found that just 5 percent of states and 4 percent of cities have adequately addressed emergency planning for the elderly and for people with physical or mental disabilities. According to Hilary Styron, Director of NOD's Emergency Preparedness Initiative, the federal government has spent billions on homeland security but little on emergency planning for people with special needs. "Every special-interest group feels they have a need and a right to the money," says Styron, "but for a population that has historically been the most vulnerable in disasters, there is not nearly enough money to take care of these issues.

For more information: <http://www.nod.org/emergency>



**BY THE NUMBERS**  
CITIZEN CORPS COUNCILS = 2,150  
CERT TEAM = 2,585  
MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS = 645