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PARISH-TO-PARISH NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR



Mission: Harness the power of **every** individual through education, training and volunteer service to make communities **safer, stronger** and **better prepared** to respond to the threats of **terrorism, crime, public health issues** and **disasters** of all kinds.

CITIZEN CORPS is the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grassroots strategy to bring together government and community leaders to involve citizens in all-hazards emergency preparedness and resilience. Its mission is to harness the power of individuals through education, training and volunteer service across a national network of local, State and Tribal Citizen Corps Councils.

Citizen Corps programs build on the successful efforts in place in communities around the country. Each local council partners with organizations, volunteers and businesses to coordinate volunteers and professional first responders.

CITIZEN CORPS COUNCILS

The approximately 30 councils in Louisiana promote and strengthen the five (5) core Citizen Corps programs. Local Citizen Corps Councils:

- Provide opportunities for training in first aid and emergency preparedness.
- Develop targeted education and training outreach for the community.
- Organize special projects and community events.
- Encourage cooperation among community leaders.
- Create opportunities for all residents to participate in preparedness and support first responders in the event of an emergency or a disaster.

PLANNING

Local Citizen Corps Councils conduct risk-driven, community-based preparedness planning. The participation of government and community leaders and stakeholders in developing emergency plans is critical to



the success of a comprehensive planning process. Planning involving the whole community reflects an accurate composite of that community and establishes a viable, fully integrated and coordinated plan to execute when an incident occurs.

PREPAREDNESS

A prepared public is an essential requirement for resilient communities and effective emergency management. Citizen Corps Councils and partners provide local resources to support education and training outreach tailored to individual community needs and to prepare the public with relevant risk planning. Councils deliver effective preparedness, education and training strategies through multiple community channels and target key populations such as youth, persons with disabilities, the elderly and others with special needs.



PROGRAMS

Citizen Corps is comprised of five (5) key programs, each specifically designed to support existing emergency structures in the community and provide opportunities for citizens to aid the preparedness and resiliency of their communities. The programs are:

- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)
- Fire Corps
- Neighborhood Watch
- Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)



To find your local Citizen Corps Council, CERT, MRC, Fire Corps, Neighborhood Watch and VIPS programs, visit <https://www.citizencorps.fema.gov/cc/searchCouncil.do?submitByZip>.

Citizen Corps encourages citizens to engage in personal preparedness + training + volunteer service to help prepare themselves and their communities through five (5) core programs.



The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills. Using training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams



VIPS

VIPS is a bridge between the public and law enforcement agencies. Its goal is to enhance the capacity of campus, local, State, Tribal and territorial law enforcement to utilize volunteers. The VIPS staff shares information and resources with law enforcement agencies that want to expand their programs, increase the use of volunteers in existing programs and help citizens learn about and become involved in VIPS programs like Police Reserves and Explorers.

www.theiacp.org/VIPS



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program that stresses education and common sense. It teaches citizens how to help themselves by identifying and reporting suspicious activity in their neighborhoods. Citizens have the opportunity to make their neighborhoods safer and improve their quality of life. www.nnw.org



MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

The mission of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is to establish teams of local volunteer medical and public health professionals who contribute their skills and expertise throughout the year and during times of community need. This can include both medical and non-medical support.

www.medicalreservecorps.gov



FIRE CORPS

Fire Corps helps fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) departments build more capacity by engaging community volunteers to assist in a variety of non-emergency roles. By expanding the services a department can offer, and by enabling first responders to focus more on training and response activities, volunteers can make a significant difference in a community's resilience, preparedness and response capabilities.

www.firecorps.org



For more information, visit the Louisiana Citizen Corps website at www.gohsep.la.gov/citizencorps.aspx