



Preparedness Quarterly

September 2007

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Citizen Corps Initiatives



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Citizen Corps Vision

By: F/Lt. Harold Love, Citizen Corps Program Manager

Since my appointment as Program Manager in March 2007, we have been working to create an overarching vision for the Michigan Citizen Corps program. By working together, we can continue to create an atmosphere of safety, security, and personal preparedness with the citizens of Michigan. Your input and ideas play an essential role in helping us build the program and create new initiatives.

The *Preparedness Quarterly* serves as an important means of showcasing the success

of our programs throughout the state and providing you with local, state, and federal updates. As a result of recent EMHSD staffing transitions, I regret the interruption of the newsletter's publication. The staffing addition of Nicole Lisabeth in July will allow us to resume distribution of the newsletter quarterly.

In addition to the newsletter, we plan to work with region directors and local partners on a more regular basis to help build upon the program statewide. My goals are to

continue the development of Citizen Corps Councils in each region, work with our local partners to incorporate Citizen Corps programs into Emergency Response Plans, and develop standardized training guidelines for each area of Citizen Corps.

As we develop our strategy, I will be contacting region directors to discuss how we can achieve our goals. I look forward to working with you and please feel free to contact me at LoveH@michigan.gov.

National Preparedness Month

In recognition of National Preparedness Month, all Citizen Corps partners are encouraged to reach out to your communities to stress the importance of preparing before an emergency. A disaster can strike at any time, as evidenced by recent tornados that struck on August 24 leaving several communities across the state to pick up the pieces.

The goal of this year's campaign is not only informing the public about the importance of

preparing for emergencies, but also encouraging families, businesses, and communities to take action. To help achieve this goal, each week has been designated a focus area by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (bottom right).

We encourage you to share the "Michigan Family and Community Emergency Safety" tool kit prepared by the Michigan State Police (MSP) Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (EMHSD) with

families, schools, and businesses in your area.

The tool kit includes ways to reach your community each week and during designated themes in September (page 4). The tool kit is available online at www.michigan.gov/emhsd.

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|---|
| <p>Week One:
 Back-to-School</p> <p>Week Two:
 Business Preparedness</p> <p>Week Three:
 Multicultural Preparedness</p> <p>Week Four:
 Home and Family Preparedness</p> |
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Arab American Chaldean Council Security Summit



Isa Hasan of the ACC (left) and Daryl Love of the Michigan Department of Management and Budget (right) discussed plans for the State Fair.



Deputy Chief Chester Logan of the Detroit Police Department answered questions from the audience.



Sgt. Gerald Badgett (middle) and F/Lt. Harold Love (right) of the Michigan State Police showed attendees the Regional Response Team vehicle.

Partnership with Arab/Chaldean community

In an effort to convey the preparedness message to the Arab/Chaldean community, members of the Michigan State Police EMHSD, Southfield EM, Dearborn EM, and Dearborn Heights EM initiated a meeting with the Arab American Chaldean Council (ACC) in June.

Following the meeting, the Arab/Chaldean-American Disaster Preparedness Advisory Committee was formed. Members of the Committee include citizens of the Arab/Chaldean

community, ACC members, Southfield EM, Dearborn EM, Dearborn Heights EM, Detroit EM & HS, Wayne County EM, Ann Arbor Police Department, and Michigan State Police.

The Committee has met several times to organize ways to inform the Arab/Chaldean community. The Committee participated in a Security Summit hosted at the ACC Youth Center on July 13 (see photo) to educate the community of emergency management and provide them with an opportunity to ask questions.

During September, the Committee will host several two-hour Preparedness Workshops to coincide with National Preparedness Month. The workshops will be facilitated by local government agencies and the ACC will help us invite members of the Arab/Chaldean community.

To learn more about the Committee, please contact Sgt. Kevin Sweeney of the Michigan State Police at (517) 336-6429 or sweeneyk@michigan.gov.

CERT Member Deployment with FEMA

Yvonne Whiteley recently spent 60 days working in Passaic County, New Jersey in response to Presidential Declaration DR-1694-NJ. The declaration was in response to severe flooding that occurred April 14 to April 20.

Yvonne is a Disaster Assistance Employee in Community Relations, which involves being deployed when a disaster is declared anywhere in the United States. Yvonne is often deployed quickly and is given 24 to 48 hours to arrive at her destination. As a wife and mother of two, her family has come accustomed to her leaving on short notice. Her family works together to keep the house

running smoothly until she returns home.

Yvonne works closely with local officials in affected areas to locate and assist victims of disaster. Her job is to assist residents apply for federal assistance. A large part of her work is done on foot. She goes door-to-

door talking with residents to determine if and how they were affected by the flooding, if they have insurance, and if they have applied for federal assistance.

Yvonne has also been deployed to disasters in Florida, New York, and Puerto Rico.



Yvonne (far right) listened to a Paterson resident explain how the water rose rapidly in the streets and flooded his basement with five feet of water.

Shiawassee County VIPS

By: Lt. Michael TerMeer, Shiawassee County Sheriff's Department

In the spring of 2005, the Shiawassee County Sheriff's Posse began training in the basics of wilderness and urban search and rescue. Being a rural area, our expertise and experience has naturally followed the wilderness type searches; however, we were called upon to perform urban building searches in a recent homicide case.

We have been trained in search patterns, land navigation, map reading, Global Positioning System (G.P.S.), night evidence searches, preservation of evidence, and crime scene and search management.

The posse has also been called upon by our Detective Bureau to search for discarded weapons used in an armed robbery. During the search, we employed a land based pattern on

both sides of the Looking Grass River, while our Dive Team scanned the river bottom. The firearm was discovered by one of our divers after searching for six hours.

The posse hierarchy, along with Emergency Management, funded several of our members to attend a nationally recognized "Search Manager" course, followed by a sequential course designed to employ the skills learned in the previous courses through real-time exercises. This was to prove invaluable weeks later when we were called upon by the Flushing Township Police Department (Genessee County) to take over the ongoing search for an elderly man who walked away from home three days earlier.

At the time, we were able to field three search

leaders, two search managers, a police canine unit, two civilian canine units, a helicopter, 17 trained Citizens Volunteer Corps members (CVC), and 25 posse members awaiting development of the search to a broader scale is necessary.

We were in the middle of a pivoting line search when the elderly man was located by residents near our search area. The residents located the man on their property and advised they decided to search their land again when they saw the search party approaching their area. The ninety-year-old man was outside for 81 hours and has since recovered with the exception of a broken ankle.

For use of our unit, call Central Dispatch at (989) 743-9111.

CERT HazMat Training

CERT volunteers in Richmond Township participated in a train-car wreck training scenario on June 10 with the Richfield Township police and fire departments, as well as the Red Cross. The full-scale drill involved three victims lying near their mangled car while one victim was trapped inside the vehicle waiting to be rescued.

Emergency crews rushed to the scene and

discovered hazardous materials emanating from the train box car. As a result, the rescue was delayed while HazMat teams prepared to enter the hot zone.

Richfield Township Police Chief Brad Bannon briefed CERT and Red Cross volunteers at the township hall, recently certified as an emergency center, on what to expect.

CERT members assisted the HazMat team

prepare by sealing the joints between the suits and gloves and other exposed areas with duct tape.

The training was the first coordinated effort to involve law enforcement, fire personnel, Central Dispatch, and Red Cross and CERT volunteers. A second training of the same type is currently being planned.

"The posse has also been called upon by our Detective Bureau to search for discarded weapons used in an armed robbery."

CERT HazMat Training



CERT volunteers helped the HazMat team prepare to enter the hot zone.

We want to hear from you!

Submit your articles and photos to citizencorps@michigan.gov

The deadline for the next issue is October 1, 2007.

Visit our Web site at www.michigan.gov/emhsd



CERT Member Award

Sgt. Steve Schneider of the Oakland County Sheriff's Office received the prestigious First Responder Award from the Homeland Security SELECT Awards.

The awards were presented by the Michigan Homeland Security Consortium on April 24. The awards were given to businesses that develop

products that enhance or assist the homeland security mission, government agencies and personnel, as well as first responders who work to support the homeland security mission.

The award ceremony was held April 24 in Lansing. We are very proud of Sgt. Schneider for all the work he does.



September Themes

- National Preparedness Month
- Back to School Activities
- Wildfire Mitigation
- September 15-October 15: National Hispanic Heritage Month
- September 21: Peace Day
- September 23-29: Deaf Awareness Week

Upcoming Events

November 6-7 CERT Train-the-Trainer, Auburn Hills

Please submit articles and upcoming events for publication to citizencorps@michigan.gov. The deadline for the next issue is October 1, 2007.

The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views and/or policies of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.