



National Preparedness Month-2009

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National Preparedness Month



- Nationwide effort organized by FEMA's Citizen Corps and the Ready Campaign and supported by Coalition Members
- September 2009 marks the 6th annual NPM
- Encourages Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and communities
- NPM Coalition is open to all public and private sector
- Launch new Ready PSAs





NPM Goals

- To change perceptions about emergency preparedness and help Americans understand what it truly means to be Ready.
 - Ask people: Are you ready or are you Ready?
- Challenge people's belief that they are adequately prepared or can improvise in a disaster/emergency





What is the Ready Campaign?

- Ready is a national public service campaign sponsored by the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency in partnership with The Advertising Council
- Educates and empowers Americans to prepare for, and respond to emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks
- Goal is to get Americans involved and ultimately increase our nation's level of preparedness





What is Citizen Corps?

- Created in Jan 2002 by President Bush to increase opportunities for citizens to become an integral part of protecting the homeland and supporting local first responders.
- Intended to capture the spirit of service that emerged throughout our communities following the terrorist attacks and to help answer two key questions being asked by citizens, "What can I do?" and "How can I help?".
- Citizen Corps was to help coordinate volunteer activities that will make our communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to any emergency situation and provide opportunities for people to participate in a range of measures to make their communities safer from the threats of crime, terrorism, and disasters of all kinds.





Why involve citizens?

 In 95% of all emergencies, bystanders or victims themselves are the first to provide emergency assistance or to perform a rescue.

That means:

- Less than 1 percent of the U.S. population is an emergency responder
 - 1 firefighter for every 265 people
 - 1.1 million firefighters, of which 750,000 are volunteers
 - 1 sworn officer for every 334 people
 - 436,000 sworn law enforcement personnel
 - 291,000 sworn sheriff's office personnel
 - 1 EMT/paramedic for every 325 people
 - 890,000 people to provide all levels of pre-hospital services: Basic EMT, intermediate EMT, paramedic



Sources: Journal of Emergency Medical Services (2004); National Fire Protection Association (2003); National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (2003)





Citizen Corps Mission

To harness the power of every individual through <u>education</u>, <u>training</u>, and <u>volunteer service</u> to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues, and disasters of all kinds.



Preparing Makes Sense. Get Involved Now. www.citizencorps.go





Citizen Corps National Strategy



"They are the key element. The real first responders are our citizens. We can't do our job without them."

> - Chief Ed Plaugher Arlington Co. Fire Dept. 2001

- The Citizen Corps mission is accomplished through a national network of 2,400 state, local, and tribal Citizen Corps Councils.
- These Councils build on community strengths to implement the Citizen Corps programs and carry out a local strategy to have every American participate.
- Collaboration with the 31 national partner and affiliate organizations and countless local organizations is integral to accomplishing the Citizen Corps mission.









Local Citizen Corps Council Membership

- First responder/emergency management
 - law enforcement, fire service, EMS/EMT, public works
- Elected officials
- Service organizations voluntary, non-profits
- Business leaders and for-profit sector
- School reps and youth organizations
- Critical infrastructure transportation, utilities...
- Media representatives
- Faith-based leaders
- Military
- Special needs representation
- Representatives of language and culture communities
- Leadership of community civic groups





Personal Preparedness in America

- Personal Preparedness in America: Findings from the 2009 Citizen Corps National Survey
 - Purpose: To measure the public's knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors relative to preparing for a range of hazards
 - Previous Survey Findings: 2003 and 2007
 - 2009 Sampling Strategy
 - National Sample
 - 3,448 households
 - Urban Sample
 - 3,007 households in Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles/Long Beach, New York/Newark, San Francisco, Washington, DC areas





Personal Preparedness in America

 Offers comprehensive data on the public's thoughts, perceptions, and behaviors related to preparedness and community safety for multiple types of hazards.

 Provides valuable insights for increasing personal preparedness, civic engagement, and community resilience.

 Results from this study have important implications for the development of more effective communication and outreach strategies to achieve greater levels of preparedness and participation.





Reasons People Are Not Preparing

- Expectation of help from emergency responders continues to be the most frequently reported primary reason for not preparing.
- 61% expected to depend greatly on fire, police and emergency personnel for help in the first 72 hours of a disaster.

	2007	+/-	2009
I think that emergency responders, such as fire, police or emergency personnel will help me	37%	-7%	30%
I do not know what I am supposed to do	27%	-4%	23%
I just have not had the time	24%	1%	25%
I don't want to think about it	19%	-3%	16%
It costs too much	17%	1%	18%
I do not think that it will make a difference	17%	0%	17%
I do not think I would be able to	13%	0%	13%





Summary of Recommendations

- Stress that preparedness is a shared responsibility.
- Provide more specificity on preparedness actions.
- Emphasize the importance of drills and exercises.
- Couple preparedness education with a natural event scenario as the rationale.
- Response education should emphasize the effectiveness of preparations, especially for manmade events.
- Leverage social networks and the concepts of mutual support.
- Couple a national voice with local specificity.







Website: <u>www.citizencorps.gov</u> RSS Feeds:

- National Community Preparedness News
- Local Citizen Corps in the News

Twitter: citizen_corps Facebook: <u>http://www.facebook.com/FEMA</u> YouTube: <u>http://www.youtube.com/user/FEMA</u>