

Clark County Citizen Corps Action Plan

Introduction

Major disasters in a community can overload the capability of first responders, especially during the first critical 12 to 72 hours of the event. The job of Citizen Corps is provide the community with a well-trained, readily available pool of local people who know their community and who can help during this critical time when outside assistance may have not yet arrived.

To do this, Citizen Corps needs to leverage existing resources and build on current successful programs wherever possible. We are to help citizens take a more active role in crime prevention, risk reduction and emergency preparedness. We are to make best efforts to bring together all sectors of the community involved in first responder issues to establish ongoing working relationships in order to be able to work together in times of crises. This should also help build our community's sense of pride and cohesion.

The purpose of Citizen Corps is to develop a systematic efficient and effective method for providing public education and training opportunities, stimulating wide-spread participation, and organizing volunteer programs to increase the safety of your community. Having duplicative efforts or competing entities is not productive.¹

Primary Objectives of Citizen Corps Councils²:

- **Match the needs of first responders with the skills and abilities of volunteers** to make their families, their homes, and their communities safer from the threats of terrorism, crime and disasters.
- **Educate the public on safety**, help citizens take an active role in protecting themselves from harm, and teach citizens what to do in the event of a crisis.
- Spearhead efforts to **offer citizens new and existing volunteer opportunities**, educational information, and training courses to address crime, terrorism, and natural disaster risks.
- **Promote all Citizen Corps programs** and activities across the community.
- **Capture innovative practices** and report accomplishments that can be replicated in other communities nationwide.
- Survey the community to **assess increased awareness** and citizen Corps participation.

¹ Citizen Corps, A guide for Local Officials, George Bush, April 4, 2002, page 4.

²

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Clark County Citizen Corps Board

The Clark County Citizen Corps Board is represented by the following organizations:

- Clark County Sheriff's Office
- Vancouver Police Department
- Clark County CERT Coalition (represented by City/County Fire Personnel)
- City/County Neighborhood Associations
- Clark County Health Department (developing Medical Reserve Corps)
- ARES/RACES
- Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency (CRESA)
- Clark County Chapter of the Red Cross
- Clark County Volunteers Active in Disaster (VOAD)

Any Clark County community organization with a core mission of crime prevention, risk reduction and emergency preparedness is welcome to attend Citizen Corps Board meetings and provide suggestions to enhance the efforts of our collective organizations. Members of the current Clark County Citizen Corps Board are located in Appendix A of this Plan.

Commitment to Action

The Clark County Citizen Corps Board is committed to meeting once per month to:

- discuss crime prevention, risk reduction and emergency preparedness issues,
- review potential for coordination of programs, trainings and public outreach,
- plan joint volunteer recruitment efforts
- coordinate emergency exercises
- plan for co-operative purchasing, when feasible
- develop and/or share use of public education materials
- coordinate grant applications and/or support or enhance the application of a specific Citizen Corp Board organization
- submit unified and prioritized recommendations/applications to the Clark County Contingent of the Region IV Homeland Security Board on expenditure of dollars earmarked for Citizen Corps organizations
- post our innovative programs or ideas on our Citizen Corps website to share with other Citizen Corps around the nation

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- determine the best methodology to gauge the impacts of emergency preparation trainings and volunteer recruitment efforts and report our findings

Clark County Citizen Corps Projects

The Clark County Citizen Corps Board identified two projects for 2004/2005. Both projects are contingent upon receipt of grant funds from the Region IV Homeland Security Council. The project descriptions are as follows:

Disaster Resistant Neighborhoods Pilot Project

The Disaster Resistant Neighborhood Project (DRN) will create a partnership between at least two committed Clark County neighborhoods and public safety and emergency preparedness planners, trainers, and educators. Stakeholders will work through this partnership to prevent crime, promote health and safety, make the neighborhood resistant to disasters.

This program will require the involvement of CERT, Red Cross, Amateur Radio, crime prevention programs, CRESA, and city/county neighborhood programs and other programs involved in the Clark County Citizen Corps.

Key Project Elements

- The lead person/agency for the DRN program will be determined by the Clark County Citizen Corps Council. The Citizen Corps Council membership will support the project lead in the deployment of this program.
- Grant program advertisement and outreach.
- Application process and selection of 2004 Disaster Resistant Neighborhoods – CRESA will develop an application and distribute it to all recognized neighborhoods in Clark County. The Clark County Citizen Corps Council will review all applications and, based on a scoring system, select the two neighborhoods that are most likely to be a successful participant in the program.
- Eligibility of neighborhoods to apply for this program will be determined by the Clark County and City of Vancouver neighborhood programs, in consultation with other Clark County jurisdictions.
- The Citizen Corps Council will select two neighborhoods, one in the City of Vancouver and another in Clark County. The Council will have the option of combining applications as appropriate, into a single neighborhood.

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- Citizen Corps representatives will conduct a DRN orientation for the selected community. This orientation will provide an overview of Citizen Corps programs.
- Citizen Corps representatives will negotiate an agreement with the DRN. That agreement will establish a budget and a schedule for:
 - Development of a neighborhood emergency plan
 - Disaster Resistant Neighborhood and other emergency preparedness events
 - CERT trainings and drills
 - Neighborhood Watch trainings
 - Other Citizen Corps-related program
- Citizen Corps affiliated programs will deliver planning, education, and training to the DRN neighborhoods.
- Citizen Corps will recognize volunteers and take other steps to recognize DRN neighborhoods through signage and other means.

Deliverables

- One Clark County neighborhood selected as the 2004-05 Disaster Resistant Neighborhood (DRN).
- Delivery of DRN orientation
- Finalized agreement between Clark County Citizen Corps Council and the DRN.
- Completed neighborhood emergency plan that may include:
 - Plan for assessment of hazards and vulnerabilities
 - Inventory of community disaster resources
 - Damage assessment plan
 - Evacuation and transportation plan
 - CERT team deployment plan
 - Amateur Radio deployment plan
- Delivery of Citizen Corps programs to the DRN neighborhoods in accordance with the agreement.

Project Timeline

Project must be completed by September 2005.

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Government (City and County) Safety Coordinator CERT Training

Key Project Elements

Training City and County employees who are designated facility safety coordinators in Community Emergency Response Training (CERT Training)

Deliverables

- Train approximately 190 people in emergency response training. There will be 8 classes offered for all 190 people with about 24 people per class. This will increase the efficiency in response to disaster situations as well as help ensure that not only will government employees be safer in a disaster situation, but so will community members. These trained employees will also be able to be prepared at home and in their community if a disaster strikes while they are not at work prior to them reporting to work if required. It is also likely that community members will be drawn to public facilities in a disaster situation and CERT training will help employees respond to the community's needs effectively.
- Having a core group of people training in CERT will also help get the word out to other people in the community and hopefully in the future increase the numbers of people interested in the training.

Project Timeline

All training must be completed by September 2005.

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APPENDIX A Clark County Citizen Corps Board Members

Amateur Radio Volunteers (ARES/RACES):

- Bob Goodale
- Alternate: Don Unruh

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)

- Bob Smith, Vancouver Fire and CERT Coalition Member
- Alternate: Leah Edwards, Fire District 6 and CERT Coalition Member
- 2nd Alternate: Scott Koehler, Fire Districts 1 & 9

Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD):

- Marlene Sassali, COAD President, also an employee of Clark County Department of Community Services
- *Alternate?*

Clark Regional Emergency Service Agency (CRESA)

- Deborah Needham, CRESA
- John Wheeler, CRESA

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC – to be created)

- Linda Valenzuela, Clark County Health Department
- Alternate: Kate Griffith, Clark County Health Department

Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP)

- Sergeant Peg Prather, Clark County Sheriff's Office
- Jane Johnson, Clark County Sheriff's Office

Clark County/City of Vancouver Neighborhood Programs

- Adrienne DeDona, City of Vancouver Office of Neighborhoods Coordinator
- Alternate: Holly Gaya, Clark County Office of Neighborhoods Coordinator

Clark County Chapter of the Red Cross

- JoAnne Ackley, Clark County Chapter
- *Alternate?*

Vancouver Police Department (VPD)

- Scott Creager, Sergeant
- *Alternate?*

Board Facilitator:

- Tami Kihs, City of Vancouver, Community Services Department Director

For Information on Board Meetings go to:
www.ci.vancouver.wa.us/chservices/citizencorps