

Executive Safety Update

The Monthly News Bulletin of the Construction Safety Center

Vol. 18, Issue 1 – July 2010

DHS and FEMA Updates

Call for Stories!! Individuals Going Above and Beyond in Community Preparedness & Safety

The American spirit is steeped in an appreciation for individual contribution and the guiding principle of helping others. FEMA would like to recognize individuals who have made a difference in making their community safer and better prepared. These are people who have given their time and energy, offered skills and capabilities, been leaders in providing education and training, responded to crises and disasters, or simply made a call when they saw something suspicious. As a result, they have saved lives, property, or positively impacted their communities. These are the individuals we wish to highlight and celebrate.

By August 15, 2010 please send us stories about individuals who have made a difference in their community. Send us your stories by email, in a format that is best for you, to citizencorps@dhs.gov with “Outstanding Individual” in the subject line. We are excited to hear from you and look forward to providing awards for these great achievements. Thank you!

Spread the Word: National Preparedness Month 2010

September is National Preparedness Month! Make sure to get the word out. If you are using Twitter, include the tag #NPM10 in your Tweets to keep everyone in the loop! Citizen Corps has already started using the [#NPM10 tag](#). If you are interested in learning more about National Preparedness Month 2010, check out the Ready.gov [website](#) for NPM 2010.

Citizen Corps Partners and Affiliates Updates

Governor Schwarzenegger Launches Disaster Corps

California Governor Schwarzenegger launched the Disaster Corps to professionalize, standardize and coordinate highly trained disaster volunteers statewide. Disaster Corps volunteers will be registered by their local government organization under the Disaster Service Worker Volunteer Program and will meet Disaster Corps training, typing, certification and security screening guidelines. According to the Governor, “volunteers are an incredible resource, and no state has more giving, more passionate or more dedicated volunteers than California. Together, we will take volunteerism to a whole new level and make California better prepared and better equipped than ever before, for any emergency.” Read the [full article](#) for more details.

Largest Day of Service in U.S. History to Observe 10th Anniversary of 9/11 Attacks

Following the passage of federal legislation that formally established 9/11 as a National Day of Service and Remembrance, a consortium of influential private and government entities today unveiled plans to organize the largest day of service in U.S. history in 2011 in observance of the 10th anniversary of the September 11 attacks. The plans were announced by the 9/11 nonprofit MyGoodDeed. Please see the [full article](#) for more details.

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NOAA Seeks Final Comments on Next Generation Strategic Plan

NOAA seeks final public comments on a plan that charts the future of the agency. Individuals can download a copy of the draft strategic plan and submit comments online via [NOAA's Next Generation Strategic Plan website](#). The plan renews NOAA's mission and vision of the future in light of national and global challenges and new opportunities. The plan lays the foundation for NOAA to play a leading role in responding to the nation's most urgent challenges, ranging from climate change, severe weather, and natural or human-induced disasters to declining biodiversity and threatened or degraded ocean and coastal resources.

New Orleans to Host World's Largest Conference on Volunteering and Service in 2011

The world's largest gathering of service and volunteer leaders will hold its 2011 conference in New Orleans. With the Gulf Coast reeling from its second disaster-driven economic blow in five years, Patrick Corvington, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service, and Michelle Nunn, CEO of Points of Light Institute and Co-Founder of the HandsOn Network, declared that the region's largest city was not just the natural choice to host the 2011 gathering—it was the only choice. [See the full article here](#).

National Pet Fire Safety Day is July 15

An estimated 500,000 pets are affected annually by home fires, and a new data analysis by the National Fire Protection Association shows that nearly 1,000 house fires each year are accidentally started by the homeowners' pets. The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is joining ADT Security Services and the American Kennel Club® (AKC) for the third annual National Pet Fire Safety Day on July 15 to spread awareness about how to prevent pets from starting home fires and keep pets safe in the event of an emergency. [See full details here](#).

Emergency Preparedness Updates

Coping With a Disaster: Disaster Mental Health Resources

Following a disaster, when many people have suffered great losses, it is normal to feel sad, angry, or nervous. Some who have experienced a disaster may have bad feelings right away. Others may not notice a change until much later, after the crisis is over. It can take time to feel better and for things to return to normal, especially with so much loss. Many people find support and comfort by talking to family members, close friends, doctors, nurses, and religious leaders. Sometimes, help from mental health professionals may be needed. [Links to CDC resources and those of other organizations are here](#). Individual experiences and needs may differ, so sites may be more helpful to some than others.

Gulf Oil Spill 2010: Information for Parents

Although oil may contain some chemicals that could cause harm to children, at this time the CDC expects the levels of these chemicals to be well below the level that could cause harm. The effects would depend on things like how children have come into contact with the oil, how much contact they have had with the oil, and if they have conditions such as asthma. [See this CDC article for tips and resources to protect children](#).

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Funding and Grants

HHS Provides \$390.5 Million This Month to Improve Hospital Preparedness and Emergency Response

States, territories, and large metropolitan areas will receive grants totaling \$390.5 million this month to help hospitals and other health care organizations strengthen the medical surge capability across the nation. The HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response will provide the funds through the Hospital Preparedness Program. This grant funding will be used to enhance community resilience by increasing the ability of hospitals and healthcare facilities to respond to the public health and medical impacts of any emergency, such as natural disasters, disease outbreaks, or acts of terrorism. For more details please read the [full press release](#).

These news stories and other Individual & Community Preparedness news can be found on our website at www.citizencorps.gov.

Sincerely,

The National Office of Citizen Corps
FEMA Individual & Community Preparedness Division

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OSHA Review Project Eliminates Outdated Requirements, Brings Standards Up-to-Date

OSHA announced today [Standards Improvement Project \(SIP\)-III](#), a proposed rule to revise and remove requirements within several OSHA standards that are outdated, duplicative or inconsistent. This rulemaking will help keep OSHA standards up-to-date and will help employers better understand their regulatory obligations.

For example, OSHA is proposing in SIP-III to update the definition for "potable water" in the Sanitation standard (1910.141) with the current Environmental Protection Agency clean water standard. OSHA is also proposing to remove an outdated provision in the Bloodborne Pathogens standard (1910.1030) that requires employers to provide hand dryers that use warm air. This will allow use of newer technologies that use room temperature air.

These SIP-Phase III recommendations evolved through the agency's review of its standards, suggestions and comments from the public, and recommendations from the Office of Management and Budget. The proposal builds on the success of SIP-Phase I published June 18, 1998, and SIP-Phase II published Jan. 5, 2005.

Those interested in submitting comments for this proposed rule can submit them through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Comments may also be submitted by mail to the OSHA Docket Office, Docket No. OSHA-2006-0049, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-2625, 200 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210. Submissions can also be faxed to the OSHA Docket Office at 202-693-1648. OSHA will accept comments until Sept. 30, 2010.