

**Secretary Karen Baker Addresses CA Colleges and Universities CERT Symposium**

California's Secretary of Service and Volunteering, Karen Baker welcomed over 115 subject matter experts in CERT, emergency management, and campus administration from 44 Community Colleges, CSU, UC and private institutions to discuss how higher education communities can develop, promote, and enhance CERT programs on their campuses at the CA Colleges and Universities' CERT Symposium held April 16-17. The event was sponsored by CaliforniaVolunteers and Disaster Resistant California Community Colleges, and hosted by Saddleback College in Orange County.

Planning for this event started in February. What started as a meeting for about 20 people grew into a full two day event, with attendees from California, Alaska and Hawaii.

CaliforniaVolunteers was fortunate to have some very special guest speakers including Frank Borden, the "Father of CERT"; and Dr. Phillip Schertzing, Project Lead for the Campus CERT Instructor Curriculum. Also present were: the University of California Office of the President, Robert Charbonneau; California State University Chancellor's Office, Sue Bell; our co-sponsor for the event, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, Peter Wright; Orange County Office of Emergency Management, Vicky Osborn; and Saddleback College President Tod Burnett .

Sessions were presented on the FEMA's vision for Campus CERT, the Disaster Service Worker Volunteer Program, Starting a new CERT Program, Incorporating Students into a CERT Program, Beyond CERT basic, Registering your CERT Program, the Disaster Volunteer Network, Red Cross Shelters, and the Importance of an Comprehensive Emergency Preparedness Plan. A tabletop exercise was held at the end of Day 2, which provided participants with the opportunity to discuss how they would activate, utilize and demobilize their CERT units.

**Volunteer Ventura Practices Setting Up an Emergency Volunteer Center**

United Way/Volunteer Ventura County, a recipient of a CaliforniaVolunteers grant to build capacity to manage spontaneous unaffiliated volunteers, was recently featured in a [Ventura County Star](#) newspaper article for their April Emergency Volunteer Center training and drill.

Marisa Lopez, director of Volunteer Ventura County, worked with her cadre of 15 volunteers and fellow United Way staff. "They've been trained, but they haven't actually gone through an event. We haven't had a major disaster here where we've had to set up an EVC in Ventura County, so this is like their graduation," Marisa stated. The drill had participants playing the roles of SUVs and interviewers.

You can see the article at <http://www.vcstar.com/news/2012/apr/13/united-way-practices-dealing-with-spontaneous/>

## **CADRE Conference Promotes theme “Together We Do Better**

Santa Clara CADRE’s Seventh Annual Disaster Preparedness Conference held on April 17<sup>th</sup> provided an opportunity for CaliforniaVolunteers to share its support for whole community resiliency. CADRE, which stands for Collaborating Agencies Disaster Relief Effort, serves as the Voluntary Agencies Active in Disaster (VOAD) for Santa Clara County. Secretary Karen Baker was invited to participate as one of the keynote speakers and provided a perspective on how the State is supporting resiliency through CaliforniaVolunteers’ sponsorship of the Disaster Resilience Standard curriculum for community based organizations, development of the monetary donations strategy and building a network of volunteer centers to coordinate spontaneous volunteers. CV staff members Sheri Blankenheim, Senior Manager and Phyllis Onstad, Community Partnerships Specialist co-facilitated a well-attended workshop that provided a brief introduction to the work of CaliforniaVolunteers as well as specific information about the monetary donations policy, the Volunteer and Donations Management Emergency Function, Volunteer Center Regional Lead Program, Disaster Volunteer Management Curriculum and the Disaster Volunteer Network.

## **Disaster Corps Update**

The Disaster Corps (DC) Phase I grant performance period ended on 4/30/12, resulting in the five DC counties registering a total of 1,000 Disaster Corps volunteers who are trained, typed, credentialed, and background checked. On April 25, 2012, the five funded Disaster Corps Operational Areas came together in Riverside County for the second in a series of exercises to test plans, processes, and procedures for the California Disaster Corps program. Exercise discussion centered on the processes needed to move Disaster Corps volunteers from one county to another county in Southern California and how to move Disaster Corps volunteers from San Francisco to Southern California. The exercise also examined potential volunteer work these Disaster Corps members might be required to accomplish. This disaster work included CERT activities, traffic management, radio operations, law enforcement support, and support for mass care shelter and feeding activities.

On 3/2/12 the Disaster Volunteering and Preparedness Committee approved a total of \$500,000 in Disaster Corps Phase II grant awards - \$125,000 each to Los Angeles, San Bernardino, San Francisco, and Riverside Counties. The sub-grants will be used for the further development of the local Disaster Corps programs and Operational Area Volunteer Coordination. The new grant will end in February, 2013.

## **Disaster Volunteer Network**

The Disaster Volunteer Network (DVN), a free online volunteer management tool, will be made available in phases to local government, nonprofit organizations, tribal nations, and private sector volunteer programs. Currently Disaster Corps programs are populating the DVN.

Online training modules are being developed with CSU Sacramento with a DVN user’s manual. These modules will provide instruction to program managers on how to use the DVN for everyday volunteer management and can serve as just-in-time training during a disaster for volunteer program coordinators and emergency managers. Once the online training modules are completed, CaliforniaVolunteers’ staff will be contacting potential users throughout the State to present the DVN to community/faith-based organizations and local government and explain the application process. For more information about the DVN, contact Suu-Va Tai at [Suu-Va.Tai@cv.ca.gov](mailto:Suu-Va.Tai@cv.ca.gov).

## State Citizen Corps Council Meeting Update

The State Citizen Corps Council heard an informative presentation on the Japanese earthquake and tsunami from Rich Eisner, consultant and former Cal EMA staffer. Key takeaways from his presentation include:

- It is critical to work with the volunteer sector; government has to acknowledge volunteers are not as a burden but a necessity.
- 72-hour timeframe for personal preparedness a myth in a catastrophic event – we need to be planning for a much longer timeframe.
- Be prepared to help neighbors.

In other news, the Secretary reviewed the progress of the California Disaster Corps, reporting that work has started on Disaster Corps programs in five counties: Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and San Francisco.

## FEMA Calls for 2012 Individual and Community Preparedness Awards Submissions

**Submission Deadline: July 31, 2012**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced that the application period for the 2012 Individual and Community Preparedness Awards is now open. These awards recognize outstanding individuals, organizations, Citizen Corps Councils, and programs working to make our communities safer, stronger and better prepared for any disaster or emergency event.

2011 award winners from California included: NBC- Universal CERT in Burbank for the Outstanding CERT Initiative, San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians for Preparing the Whole Community, and Earthquake Country Alliance (organizer of the California ShakeOut) for Awareness to Action. In addition, CaliforniaVolunteers and Cisco Systems received honorable mentions for Innovative Use of Technology.

A review board of emergency management experts will select the winners in each of the following categories:

- Outstanding State Citizen Corps Council Initiative(s)
- Outstanding Local Citizen Corps Council Initiative(s) (last year won by Fresno!)
- Outstanding Community Emergency Response Team Initiative(s)
- Outstanding Achievement(s) in Youth Preparedness
- Preparing the Whole Community
- Promising Partnerships
- Awareness to Action
- Innovative Use of Technology
- Volunteer Integration
- Community Preparedness Heroes

## How to Apply

Visit <http://www.citizencorps.gov/newsevents/awards/2012/2012app.shtm> for information about how to apply. If you have questions regarding the awards and application process, please consult the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet located on this site. If you cannot locate the answer to your question within the FAQ, please submit any inquiries to [citizencorps@fema.gov](mailto:citizencorps@fema.gov).

## **CERT Program Updates**

Kathy Gerk, City of Richmond OES, and State CERT Advisory Work Group chair, has reported that FEMA has released revised versions of CERT Train the Trainer course (T3) and the CERT Program Manager course. The Work Group will be recruiting 400 T3 instructors and 300 CERT program managers.

To meet this goal, CaliforniaVolunteers has offered:

- 13 CERT Program Manager Courses, training over 300 program managers to the new FEMA guidance for running a program
- 15 CERT Train-the-trainer courses, training over 450 instructors to the new FEMA guidance for delivering CERT Basic

In addition, CaliforniaVolunteers has purchased over 300k worth in CERT manuals and CERT kits to distribute to CERT programs this year.

## **Volunteer Centers Build Capacity to manage SUVs during disaster**

There are two different grant programs that are underway in California to develop the capacity of volunteer centers to partner with local, regional and state government to manage spontaneous unaffiliated volunteers (SUVs) during disasters.

- **Regional Leads:** Four volunteer centers have received funding to serve as leads in their Administrative Region to help build a mutual assistance network of volunteer centers to coordinate SUVs and to provide training and technical assistance to the volunteer centers in their regions. The four centers are: HandsOn Central CA, Hands On Sacramento, Volunteer Center Serving San Francisco and San Mateo Counties, and Volunteer Los Angeles.
- **Capacity-Building Grants:** Three volunteer centers have received funding to build their internal capacity to manage SUVs during a disaster and complete their Continuity of Operations Plans. They are: United Way/Volunteer Ventura County, the Volunteer Center of Kern County, and the Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz County.

## **The 2012 Great California ShakeOut at 10:18 on 10/18**

The Great California ShakeOut is a day of special events featuring the largest earthquake drill ever, organized to inspire Californians to get ready for big earthquakes, and to prevent disasters from becoming catastrophes. What we do now, before a big earthquake, will determine what our lives will be like afterwards. The ShakeOut drill will occur in houses, businesses, nonprofits, faith-based organizations and public spaces throughout California at 10:18 a.m. on October 18, 2012.

Free registration at <http://www.shakeout.org/california/> will pledge an individual's or group's participation in this important preparedness event. Participants will receive information on how to prepare for the inevitable major earthquake in the region and what actions to take during and after the shaking.



**Have A  
Safe  
Summer!**

## Contact DVP

Want to contact the Disaster Volunteering and Preparedness Program? A good place to start is to email your questions, feedback, etc. to [citizencorps@californiavolunteers.ca.gov](mailto:citizencorps@californiavolunteers.ca.gov). There is also special email for Disaster Corps: [DisasterCorps@CaliforniaVolunteers.ca.gov](mailto:DisasterCorps@CaliforniaVolunteers.ca.gov).

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