

The monthly FEMA *Children & Disasters Newsletter* is a resource for youth preparedness practitioners, educators, parents, children, and teens. It shares timely research, examples of successful youth preparedness programs, safety tips, and resources related to youth preparedness. To subscribe to the *Children & Disasters Newsletter*, please visit www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness.

CHILDREN & DISASTERS NEWSLETTER



FEMA



FEBRUARY 2015 – ISSUE 2

Welcome to the February issue of the *Children and Disasters Newsletter*! With warmer temperatures (hopefully) right around the corner, now is a great time to start thinking about spring hazards, including flooding. It's also a perfect time for young people to think about getting involved with preparedness nationwide—applications are being accepted now for both the FEMA Youth Preparedness Council and FEMA Corps!

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REMINDER: YOUTH PREPAREDNESS COUNCIL APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 2

The deadline to apply for the 2015-2016 FEMA Youth Preparedness Council is Monday, March 2 at 11:59 p.m. EST.

For more information and to access the application form, please visit the [FEMA Youth Preparedness Council website](#). Any individual between the ages of 13 and 17 who is engaged in individual and community preparedness, or who has experienced a disaster that has motivated him or her to make a

positive difference in his or her community, may apply to serve on the Council.

Council members complete self-selected youth preparedness projects; voice their opinions, experiences, ideas, solutions, and questions on youth disaster preparedness with the leadership of FEMA and national organizations working on youth preparedness; and participate in the annual FEMA Youth Preparedness Council Summit.

If you have any questions, please contact the FEMA Youth Preparedness Council Technical Assistance Center at fema-youth-preparedness-council@fema.dhs.gov.

SUMMER 2015 FEMA CORPS APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 1

For young adults who want to make a difference by serving their country and helping their fellow citizens, [FEMA Corps](#) represents a wonderful opportunity.

FEMA Corps, a track of AmeriCorps' National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), is a national service program for 18-24 year olds who are interested in emergency management and passionate about disaster relief. FEMA Corps members serve with a team for 10 months and travel the country working directly with FEMA on emergency management-related projects. Teams have responded to most major U.S. disasters since the program's creation in 2012.

In addition to the benefits of engaging directly in emergency management projects and working with FEMA staff, FEMA Corps members also receive a living stipend, and their housing, food, and transportation costs are covered during their 10 months of service. Members who successfully complete their term of service also receive an education award in the amount of at least \$5,730—which can be used to pay for school costs or to pay off qualified student loans.

The application deadline to serve with the Summer 2015 FEMA Corps class is April 1, 2015. To learn more and apply, please visit www.AmeriCorps.gov/FEMACorps; email anccc@cns.gov with any questions. Click on the image below to hear from some FEMA Corps members!



WEATHERING THE ELEMENTS WITH STORMZONE

The powerful gusts of a hurricane, the rumble of an earthquake, and the rush of floodwaters can cause confusion and fear in both adults and children. Thanks to the StormZone curriculum, students can be prepared to face the elements.

In 2006, former Marine Lucien Proby established StormZone, a free curriculum for grades 6–12 that teaches students about the science of severe natural hazards and how various levels of government work together to respond to disasters.

The curriculum includes an exercise in which students create their own government and are tasked with preparing for and recovering from a hypothetical severe weather situation. To ensure the learning process continues outside the classroom, students receive Disaster Survival Kits and Family Communication Plans to take home to their families.

StormZone materials covers hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, severe winter weather, extreme heat, wildfires, and earthquakes. The program also provides information about becoming an American Red Cross volunteer. To access the free materials and to learn more about StormZone, please visit <http://www.stormzone.us/>.

REMS TA CENTER INTRODUCES NEW TOOLS FOR SCHOOL EMERGENCY PLANNING

Winter presents many hazards at a school: icy roads and sidewalks, the spread of colds and the flu, and potentially dangerously low temperatures. Spring brings its own perils, including flooding. These and other risks require careful planning, and now is a great time to revisit your school's emergency plan.

The [Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools \(REMS\) Technical Assistance \(TA\) Center](#) supports schools, school districts, and institutions of higher education in developing high-quality emergency operations plans (EOPs).

Emergency planning can seem like an overwhelming process, but it doesn't need to be. The REMS TA Center recently developed three new [EOP Interactive Tools](#) to assist schools and community partners in their emergency planning efforts:

- **EOP Assess:** Evaluates individuals' understanding of the process for developing and maintaining EOPs, and provides customized information to reinforce and enhance understanding.
- **EOP Assist:** Helps school and school district emergency management planning teams design EOPs that align with federal guidelines.
- **EOP Evaluate:** Walks users through evaluating and improving their EOPs.

To learn more about these tools or for general technical assistance, please visit the REMS TA Center website at <http://rem.ed.gov>, email the REMS TA Center at info@remstacenter.org, or call them toll-free at 1-855-781-7367.

MELTING SNOW IS A THREAT TO KNOW

As spring approaches and mounds of snow and ice begin to melt, the threat of flooding is an

increasing concern. Floods can wreak havoc on communities and result in drowning, electrocution, and the spread of lethal hazards such as sewage and waste.

Next month, the National Weather Service (NWS) is hosting its annual [Flood Safety Awareness Week](#) from March 16–22. During the week, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and FEMA will highlight flood preparedness tips.

You, too, can help spread the word about flood safety at your school or in your community. NWS has an [Online Marketing Toolkit](#) including a sample [social media plan](#), a [poster](#), and [daily posts](#) that you can share on your blog or website.

For additional youth and family flood safety resources, check out these tips from [Save the Children](#), [National Geographic](#), and the [American Red Cross](#).

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: THE NEXT GENERATION



SPREADING THE WORD

By Alex Pasculle, Member Emeritus, FEMA Youth Preparedness Council

Hello all! Following up from last month's article about different trainings youth can do to get a little "taste" of emergency management, I would like to now discuss activities kids can organize to share their newfound interest with others. These activities are things kids can do either alone or with the help of

a teacher, parent, or other adult.

You could start off by creating a "Stay Prepared" pledge and speaking with different classes or clubs at your school about emergency management and disaster preparedness. You could get lots of people at your school to take the pledge! Some other ideas could include:

- Helping start a [STEP \(Student Tools for Emergency Planning\)](#) program or a similar program at a local elementary school
- Starting a [Teen CERT \(Community Emergency Response Team\)](#) program at your school
- Asking someone from a local emergency management agency to present at a school career fair
- Presenting to local Boy Scout or Girl Scout troops about emergency preparedness
- Using social media to promote emergency management and preparedness

There are lots of other great ways you can spread the word about emergency management, so think about what would work in your community! Also, remember that it might take a few different attempts to engage your school, community, or clubs on the importance of emergency management—but don't get discouraged! It can help to come up with a few different ideas, so that if one doesn't work out, you can try something else. This is a really important topic, so don't give up!

COUNCIL CORNER: NATIONAL STRATEGY AWARENESS

Last month, the affirmers of the [National Strategy for Youth Preparedness Education](#) (*National Strategy*) were honored at an event at the White House.

We asked the FEMA Youth Preparedness Council members to identify one organization that they would want to know about the *National Strategy*. We also asked the Council members to compose a social media post targeted to that organization.

Here are some of their answers:



Bridget Smith, Region I

Organization: My local firehouses

Facebook Post: Recently, FEMA unveiled a new *National Strategy for Youth Preparedness Education*. This *Strategy* is focused on preparing youth for an event of a disaster or an emergency. For more information, visit this link:

<http://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness>.



Isaiah Garcia, Region V

Organization: United Way

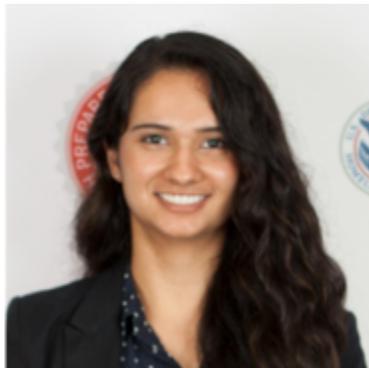
Tweet: @UnitedWay @fema #nationalstrategy is a must and would help educate people on the importance of #disaster #mitigation



Austin Witt, Region VII

Organization: The elementary and high schools in my community

Facebook Post: Are Your Children Prepared? Do they have the stand-alone knowledge needed to face a disaster? FEMA's *National Strategy* is taking a large step to ensure the youth of our great nation are prepared for the unthinkable. Get on board!



Navjot Hansra, Region IX

Organization: American Canyon City Council

Facebook Post: As leaders of our beautiful and prosperous city, we know that you want to do what you can to make American Canyon a stronger community—especially when it comes to our city's youth. That is why we encourage you to learn about FEMA's *National Strategy*, a program that aims to educate young people about disaster preparedness.

CONTACT US

Email: FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov

Online at <http://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness>

Disclaimer: The reader recognizes that the federal government provides links and informational data on various disaster preparedness resources and events and does not endorse any non-federal events, entities, organizations, services or products. Please let us know about other events and services related to youth preparedness that could be included in future newsletters by contacting FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov.

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