

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](http://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness).

## CHILDREN & DISASTERS NEWSLETTER



### FEBRUARY 2014 - ISSUE 2

In this issue of the *Children and Disasters Newsletter*, we share information about the revamped Youth Preparedness Technical Assistance Center and highlight several interesting preparedness programs and events. A Youth Preparedness Council member creates his own YouTube videos to share preparedness information, and Guam Homeland Security trains its first Teen CERT members. We also share an inspirational story of how a young high school student used CPR to save a life! **Reminder that applications for FEMA's Youth Preparedness Council must be received by March 3, 2014, 11:59 p.m. EST.** Please visit the [FEMA Youth Preparedness Council website](#) to apply!

### GUAM TEENS LEARN PREPAREDNESS THROUGH TEEN CERT

Guam Homeland Security (GHS) has been teaching Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes to individuals since 2003, but has not included teenagers until now. The students of Guam Community College's Hospitality & Tourism Management Program at Simon Sanchez High School are among the first teens in Guam to learn about preparing for and responding to hazards impacting their community.

Twenty-five students attended a two-Saturday course that combined classroom and practical training and focused on dealing with natural and man-made disasters that may impact their community.

The Teen CERT training aligns with the Lodging Management Program curriculum within the Hospitality & Tourism Management Program, enhancing students' career-ready skill sets and preparing them for a bright future.

Visit the [Guam CERT program listing](#) for more information.

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## AMERICA'S PREPARATHON!

America's PrepareAthon! (AP!) is a national day of action that happens twice per year, in the spring and fall. AP! aims to motivate people to practice a preparedness action for a hazard that is likely to impact their community. By taking simple actions, people help build their preparedness 'muscle memory' and are more likely to act quickly during an actual emergency. Resources are available for a variety of audiences, including K-12 schools and institutions of higher education.

There are four hazards for Spring 2014: flood, tornado, hurricane, and wildfire. For each of these hazards, there is an associated action AP! wants people to take:

- **Flood:** Prepare to evacuate (gather key legal, medical, and financial documents).
- **Tornado:** Seek safe shelter.
- **Hurricane:** Sign up for alerts and warnings.
- **Wildfire:** Make a family communication plan.

To learn more about America's PrepareAthon! and to see how you can participate, visit the [America's PrepareAthon! website](#) or read the [AP! Frequently Asked Questions](#). You can also follow all the action on [PrepareAthon's Twitter feed](#).

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## YOUTH PREPAREDNESS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA) CENTER

We are excited to share with you information about the revamped Youth Preparedness Technical Assistance (TA) Center! The TA Center offers a full range of TA services to individuals starting or operating youth preparedness programs, as well as individuals who have general interest in youth preparedness. Technical assistance providers are ready to answer individual questions and have built a variety of tools and resources that are available to the public.

- By emailing [FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov), people can get answers to general questions and/or individualized assistance for their youth preparedness programs.
- If you wish to work with or have questions about FEMA's Youth Preparedness Council, email [FEMA-Youth-Preparedness-Council@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-Youth-Preparedness-Council@fema.dhs.gov).

Youth preparedness tools and resources can be found at <http://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness> or by emailing the Youth Preparedness TA Center. In next month's newsletter we will share additional resources that the TA Center offers, so stay tuned to find out more!

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## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: READY NEW YORK KIDS

The New York City Office of Emergency Management, in conjunction with the Department of Education, created the [Ready New York Kids program](#) that features guides, games, classroom activities, and additional resources for elementary to high schools students. The program also includes teacher's guides for both age groups as well as tear-out sections for use at home. Puzzles, games, and coloring pages are included in the elementary school version of the Ready New York Kids program.

Coming soon, the Ready New York Kids program will debut new materials geared towards middle school students, including choose your own adventure stories and monthly newsletters that focus on

specific emergencies. The teacher newsletters will provide activities that tie directly to language arts, math, science, and social studies. The family newsletters will have activities students can do with their families to help them prepare for emergencies.

For more information about the Ready New York Kids program, please visit the [Ready New York Kids program website](#) or contact Keisha Husbands at [khusbands@oem.nyc.gov](mailto:khusbands@oem.nyc.gov).

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## **YOUTH PREPAREDNESS COUNCIL PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: PREPARED AND SPARED**

Each of FEMA's Youth Preparedness Council members develops a self-selected legacy preparedness project. Cayman Kirkhart, FEMA Region X's Youth Preparedness Council member, recently created a YouTube video, "[Winter Tip: Ice Safety](#)," that discusses how many inches of ice you need on top of a body of water in order to cross on foot, on a snow mobile, and even in a truck! His goal is to help teens become more informed about disaster preparedness. Cayman plans to turn these videos into a series focused on various weather emergencies.

Keep up the great work, Cayman! We are excited to see what next month's video will be!

To learn more about Cayman and the other Youth Preparedness Council members, please visit [www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness-council](http://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness-council).

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## **SAN JOSE TEEN PERFORMS CPR TO SAVE HER MOTHER'S LIFE**

Lindsay Dolan, an 18-year-old San Jose, California resident, was recognized at the [2013 American Red Cross Silicon Valley Chapter Community Heroes Breakfast](#) for her selfless act of heroism—performing CPR to save her mother's life.

On a casual Sunday at Lindsay's family home, Lindsay's father was grilling outside and her mother was watching a football game. After hearing her father's sudden yell for help, Lindsay ran to find her mother lying on the floor unconscious. Using the skills she learned in a ninth-grade CPR program, Lindsay immediately performed CPR on her unresponsive mother.

Paramedics arrived and took over the rescue breathing, and were able to get her mother's pulse. Several days later, Lindsay's mother, Lori, awoke in the hospital, and received a pacemaker for her newly diagnosed cardiomyopathy. Lori is now in a stable and healthy condition.

Doctors and other emergency professionals credit Lori's healthy recovery and lack of permanent brain and motor function damage to Lindsay's first three minutes of CPR on her mother. Kudos to Lindsay, an inspiration and a true hero!

To learn more about Lindsay's story, please visit the [Red Cross Youth article](#).

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## **CONTACT US**

**Email:** [FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov)

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

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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](mailto:FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov).

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