

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



MAY 2014 - ISSUE 5

Welcome to the May issue of the *Children and Disasters Newsletter*! Summer is right around the corner, and with that can come hurricanes and extreme heat. We have resources to help you prepare for both of those risks. We also feature one of the FEMA Youth Preparedness Council members who began a Teen CERT program at her school, and we share resources for starting your own Teen CERT program. Finally, we have a few reminders: we are still accepting submissions for the youth preparedness activity booklet, and **applications for the Individual and Community Preparedness Awards are due by May 30!**

REMINDER: 2014 FEMA INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS AWARD APPLICATIONS DUE MAY 30

Time is running out to apply or nominate an individual or organization that is making a difference in community preparedness! Applications for the Individual and Community Preparedness Awards will be accepted through **May 30, 2014**, and the winners will be announced in the fall. We are particularly excited to see who will win the award for "Outstanding Youth Preparedness Initiatives"!

Additional information and application materials are available on the [Awards website](#), and applications/nominations must be submitted to citizencorps@fema.dhs.gov by May 30, 2014 at 11:59 PM EDT.

We wish you the best of luck!

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK IS MAY 25 — MAY 31: GET

PREPARED!

Hurricane season starts May 15 and runs through November. With hurricane season covering just about half the year, now is the perfect time for at-risk areas to get prepared.

Hurricane Preparedness Week is May 25 - May 31 and we encourage families and communities to put solid preparedness plans in place.

- The [National Hurricane Center](#), part of the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) (NOAA)'s [National Weather Service](#), has a number of resources [on its website](#) to promote awareness, make a plan, and develop a kit. The website also features a series of short videos that provide basic information about hurricanes and aligned preparedness activities. The videos are arranged so you can watch one each day of Hurricane Preparedness Week—or you can watch them all at once!
- The [Tropical Cyclone Preparedness Guide](#) provides more in-depth information about the various types of tropical cyclones (for example, tropical storms and tropical depressions). It identifies resources and detailed preparedness steps.
- For parents, educators, and youth preparedness practitioners, the [NOAA Education Resources website](#) includes a [Hurricanes page](#) with lessons, activities, and other resources that can be used to teach youth about hurricanes.

YOUTH PREPAREDNESS COUNCIL PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: TEEN CERT TRAINING

As part of her legacy project, FEMA Youth Preparedness Council member Emily Rosenblum (FEMA Region VII) is establishing a Teen Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program at her high school, Wentzville Holt High School. In fact, the first CERT class included 16 participants who graduated from the CERT program on March 1! Her program was recently featured on a local news broadcast, on [Fox 2 \(KTVI\) St. Louis](#).

Teen CERT is a modified version of FEMA's CERT curriculum. [A Teen CERT Annex to the CERT Basic Training Instructor Guide](#) provides additional activities that can be used when teaching the curriculum to teens, as well as tips and considerations for reaching that audience. Teen CERT programs can be started in schools, after-school programs, or other venues; existing CERT programs can also use the Teen CERT materials to expand their programs to include younger members. The CERT curriculum is available online for anyone who is interested, and hard copies of CERT and Teen CERT materials are also available from the FEMA Warehouse ([FEMA-Publications-Warehouse@fema.gov](#) or 1-800-480-2520).

More information about Teen CERT can be found on the [Teen CERT webpage](#). Information about CERT, as well as training materials, can be found on the [CERT website](#).

HEAT AWARENESS: INCREASED TEMPERATURES POSE RISKS FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS ALIKE

With summer on its way, now is the time to make sure you are familiar with the risks associated with extreme heat. The [National Weather Service Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services](#) has information about excessive heat preparedness tools (Excessive Heat Outlooks, Watches, and Warning/Advisories), the Heat Index, risks of extreme heat (including symptoms and first aid

measures), and tips for keeping both adults and children safe. Heat Awareness Day was May 23, 2014, so now is the perfect time to make sure you understand protective actions you can take for heat-related risks!

Children are especially susceptible to heat. Particularly concerning is children being left in the car or accidentally getting into an unlocked car on their own, even if only for a short period of time. Temperatures in a car, even with the windows open slightly, can rise very quickly in a short period of time, and heatstroke from these incidents can lead to permanent injury or even death. Even if the temperature outside is mild, the temperature inside a car can still reach dangerous levels. In fact, [Safe Kids Worldwide](#)™ notes that in just ten minutes, the temperature inside a car can increase 20 degrees. They also explain that “Heatstroke is the #1 cause of non-crash, vehicle-related death for children ages 14 and under.” Furthermore, [SaferCar.gov](#) notes that “A child’s body temperature can rise up to five times faster than an adult’s.”

There are a number of resources available for more information on heatstroke and heat safety:

- The website [SaferCar.gov](#) features a [Heatstroke page](#) with information about heatstroke, as well as tips for prevention.
- [Safe Kids Worldwide](#)™ has a [Heatstroke Awareness and Prevention page](#) that offers additional information.
- The [U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) started the “Where’s baby? Look before you lock” campaign in 2012 (you can find more information in the [press release](#)). That simple phrase can help parents and caregivers remember the steps they can take to protect children.

NATIONAL MASS CARE STRATEGY WEBINAR POWERPOINT AVAILABLE

The National Mass Care Council hosted the third National Mass Care Strategy Webinar series “Children and Disasters: An Integrated Approach to Disaster Planning, Response, and Recovery,” on April 28. Key discussion areas included examples of how whole community partners have worked together; on a national, state, tribal and local level, to better address children’s disaster related needs and the resources available to support disaster planning, preparedness, response and recovery efforts. Presenters highlighted the significance of working together hand in hand with key partners and external stakeholders pre-disaster and the positive impact that this approach has had on disaster operations.

To view the presentation and key planning, preparedness, response, and recovery resources available, please visit the [National Mass Care Strategy website](#).

REMINDER: CALL FOR RESOURCES FOR YOUTH PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITY BOOKLET

FEMA is still collecting resources (activities, games, worksheets, etc.) for the youth preparedness activity booklet. If you have any youth preparedness activities that are quick, easy to conduct, and provide a powerful learning experience, we would love to include them in the booklet. For complete details about the booklet and the types of resources we are collecting, please see [the original bulletin](#). Please email all submissions to FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov, and please note that by

sharing information about your activity, you are providing your consent for it to be included in the booklet.

We look forward to hearing about your program's youth preparedness activities!

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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