

# CHILDREN & DISASTERS

## NEWSLETTER



### March 2016 - ISSUE 3

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### FROM THE FIELD

#### School Program Helps Student Save Mother's Life



On April 15, 2015, in Lorain Township, Wisconsin, Licia Connolly was about to run into her family's burning barn to save their livestock when her daughter, Angela, stopped her. The fifth-grade student told her mother they needed to follow the emergency plan she learned about in school through the Student Tools for Emergency Planning (STEP) program. Heeding her daughter's advice, the two moved away from the barn and dialed 911.

Reflecting on the event, Licia explained, "It was important for us to follow through with the plan Angela made, including where to meet and what to do."

To honor Angela's efforts, FEMA Region V, Wisconsin Emergency Management, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources presented her with an award.

Her teacher, Paula Moore, was elated that the STEP program had been successful. "Sometimes you wonder if you are making a difference," she said, "and this is one of those moments where you know that you are."

Currently in its fifth year in Wisconsin schools, STEP is a free, educational program coordinated by FEMA that teaches fourth and fifth grade students what to do in emergency situations. It also

teaches them how to create a disaster supply kit and family emergency communication plan. Teachers are asked to dedicate one hour of class time to the base lesson, and the program also offers more than 10 optional hours of lessons that reinforce the base lesson. Participating schools receive ready-to-teach lesson materials, including the curriculum, a DVD, and copies of student handouts at no cost to the teacher or the school.

Click [here](#) to watch the webinar featuring Angela's story. To take the program into your schools, you can download STEP materials from [FEMA's website](#), or order hard copies by emailing [fema-youth-preparedness@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-youth-preparedness@fema.dhs.gov).

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Apply Now for FEMA's 2016 Individual and Community Preparedness Awards

The awards recognize individuals and organizations that have made outstanding efforts to build a more resilient Nation. One of the categories is Outstanding Achievements in Youth Preparedness.

Applications are open from February 29 through March 28. Click [here](#) to apply.



### New Ideas Can Save Lives (And Win)

**\$250,000**  
**YOUTH CHALLENGE**  
to inspire new ideas to reduce injuries and fatalities from home fires.

Cash prizes and grants from Project Paradigm

According to the American Red Cross, home fires are the country's top disaster threat, and on average, every day seven Americans die and 36 are injured in a home fire. Additionally, more than \$7 billion in property damage occurs as a result of home fires every year.

To help mitigate such tragic effects, the American Red Cross developed the [Paradigm Challenge](#), which urges youth to come up with creative solutions to save lives. The initiative welcomes all ideas,

including posters, videos, inventions, messages, community events, mobile apps, and websites, and invites teams to compete for various cash prizes and grants up to \$100,000. Entries are due by May 1, 2016. Visit the [Paradigm Challenge](#) for more information.

## FEMA Seeks Applicants for National Advisory Council

FEMA is requesting individuals who are interested in serving on the FEMA [National Advisory Council \(NAC\)](#) to apply to be considered for appointment. The NAC is a federal advisory committee established to ensure effective and ongoing coordination of federal preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation for natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters.

All appointments are for three-year terms starting in September 2016. All applications must be received by the close of business on March 16, 2016. Detailed instructions on how to apply and Frequently Asked Questions can be found [here](#).

## New Webinar Recording Available

If you missed the “Preparing Youth for Disasters” webinar on February 4, you can watch it [here](#).

Hosted by the FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Division, the webinar focused on engaging the public on disaster preparedness and resilience efforts serving youth.

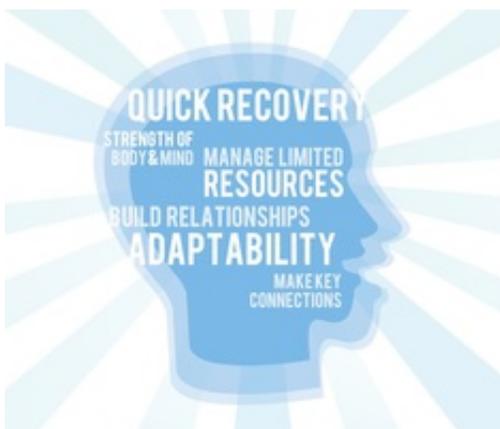
Guest speakers included Bruce Lockwood, *Acting Captain, Emergency Management Division, East Hartford Fire Department, CT, and Former Commissioner, National Commission on Children and Disasters*; Sarah Thompson, *Save the Children*; Hilary Palotay, *American Red Cross*; Captain Rob Tosatto, *Medical Reserve Corps*; and Jane Shovlin, *AZHOSA*.



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## RESOURCES

### Role-Playing for Teen Resilience



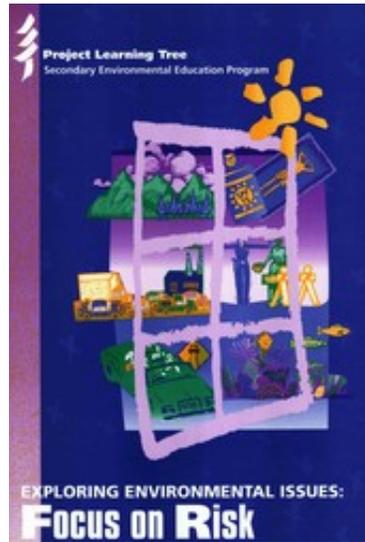
Published by RAND Corporation, [The Hungrier Games: Disaster Resilience Skills for Youth](#) offers scalable activities for teaching groups of high school youth about emergency preparedness, including a scavenger hunt. [Download](#) your free copy today!

## Encouraging Students to Think Forward

One of the educational programs Project Learning Tree (PLT), a program of the American Forest Foundation, offers is "[Exploring Environmental Issues: Focus on Risk](#)," which helps students examine the different aspects of environmental and human health risks that affect their everyday lives.

Through eight hands-on activities, students consider topics like risk assessment, communication, perception, and management. The course emphasizes critical thinking, problem solving, and decision making.

For more information about this program or the other subject offerings, visit the [PLT website](#).



## Knowing Is Half the Battle



The Corporation for National and Community Service's online [Disaster Services Knowledge Network](#) provides best practices for and helpful resources about disaster services and national service.

In order to help organizations assist in disaster mitigation and increase community resilience, the network features videos, sample performance measures, e-courses, and other resources to help them stay prepared.

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## YOUTH PREPAREDNESS COUNCIL CORNER

### Readying Guam's High School Students for Potential Hazards

As part of her ongoing efforts to enhance community preparedness and resiliency on the island of Guam, Kiahna Lee Espia, a Region IX member of FEMA's Youth Preparedness Council, organized the 2016 Service Learning, and Youth and Community Preparedness Summit. The summit enabled regional and Federal partners to equip participants with tools that empower youth to become invested in preparedness.



On January 21, 2016, the summit kicked off with a two-day event for educators and community partners to learn about Service Learning project design and management.

When local students arrived on January 23, they discovered resources for their Service Learning projects and developed emergency plans for a variety of hazards, including earthquakes, hurricanes, and tsunamis. Additionally, the summit promoted Service Learning as a way to strengthen communities and build resilience because it teaches students about civic responsibility.

If you are interested in hosting a similar workshop and would like Espia's guidance, contact her FEMA Region IX mentor [Randy Brawley](#).

## Alabamans Fight Fire with Fire Safety

Matthew Mayfield, a member of FEMA's Youth Preparedness Council from Region IV, organized a fire safety booth during his hometown's Fall Festival. Mayfield partnered with Helena Fire Rescue, Helena Fire Explorers Post 2060, the American Red Cross Birmingham Chapter, and the Boy Scouts of America Troop 532 in Helena to host multiple interactive stations. One station was equipped with a stove and its participants learned about chemical and kitchen fire safety. In another station, participants learned about smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and how to create a fire escape plan. In another station, participants learned about the different types of fire extinguishers and practiced extinguishing a simulated fire.



Mayfield continues to promote fire safety preparedness in Helena through trainings aligned with the Fire and Life Safety Prevention Program. The trainings have led to multiple real-life success stories. For example, two participants saved their homes from oven fires. Mayfield has also worked with the American Red Cross Birmingham Chapter to install smoke detectors in homes throughout the community. To reach out to Matthew, you can contact his FEMA Region IV mentors, [Candace Burrell](#) and [Terry Thomas](#).

[Click here for more information about FEMA's Youth Preparedness Council.](#)

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## CONTACT US

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

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