



# FEMA

## CHILDREN AND DISASTERS NEWSLETTER

May 2013 – Issue 2

Greetings from FEMA headquarters! The Children and Disaster team is proud to showcase a bunch of new upcoming events and resources in disaster preparedness. In this month's newsletter, we want to share an interesting grant opportunity, preparedness exercises for your community, Individual and Community Preparedness (ICP) awards information, interactive games and resources, and updates to the youth preparedness page.

### **SAVE THE CHILDREN SEEKS SANDY GRANT APPLICANTS**

[Save the Children](#), the world's leading organization for children in need, has launched a Hurricane Sandy Recovery Grant Program. This Program is seeking to assist child-focused entities that experienced significant damage or interruption of business or programs due to Hurricane Sandy. Open to child care programs and K-12 schools, applications will be scored on a number of factors, including the number of children who will benefit from the grant, how long those children will benefit and the extent of damage or loss of business operations. Grants will be awarded in increments of \$5,000, with a maximum allotment of \$50,000 per applicant. Apply online at the [U.S. Center for Child Development and Resiliency](#). Questions can be submitted via email to [USCenter@savechildren.org](mailto:USCenter@savechildren.org).

**Source:** <http://uscenter.savethechildren.org/SitePages/Children%20in%20Disasters.aspx>

### **YOUTH PREPAREDNESS PAGE UPDATE**

We are excited to announce some new updates and resources for the youth preparedness page on Ready.gov. Upcoming additions to the page include a Funding Guide, Risk Mitigation documents, Program Implementation Checklist, and a Youth Preparedness Program registration system. All of the above resources will be rolled out in the coming months, including an interactive Program Map that shows where current Youth Preparedness Programs exist in the U.S. and its territories.

These free resources will serve as a toolkit for youth across the county to spread the message of preparedness and to get involved on a local level. Stay tuned for updates as we work to develop these new tools! In the meantime, check out the new [Youth Preparedness Page](#) on Ready.gov!

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

## **APPLY FOR THE 2013 ICP AWARDS TODAY**

The application period for the 2013 FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness (ICP) Awards is now open. Please [nominate](#) outstanding individuals, organizations, Citizen Corps Councils and programs working to make our communities safer, stronger and better prepared for any disaster or emergency event.

The [ICP Awards](#) application period is open through **June 5, 2013**. **Applications for individuals should be submitted** for activities taking place during the period of January 1, 2012 through June 5, 2013. Please submit your application to [citizencorps@fema.gov](mailto:citizencorps@fema.gov). A distinguished panel of judges from the emergency management industry will select the winners in each of the following categories:

- Outstanding State Citizen Corps Council Initiatives;
- Outstanding Local Citizen Corps Council Initiatives;
- Outstanding Community Emergency Response Team Initiatives;
- Outstanding Achievement in Youth Preparedness;
- Preparing the Whole Community;
- Awareness to Action; and
- Community Preparedness Heroes.

Winners of the 2013 FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Awards will be announced in fall 2013. They will also be FEMA's honored guests at a community preparedness roundtable event in Washington, D.C. As you prepare your submission, don't forget to take a look at previous winners on our website.

We can't wait to see what incredible work is being done to support preparedness and awareness in communities across the nation! Visit the [Awards page on our website](#) for more information on how to apply!

## **CHILDREN SEPARATED BY DISASTERS**

Five thousand one hundred and ninety-two children were separated from their parents during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. It took eight months after those storms made landfall to reunite the last child with their parents.

Following Hurricane Katrina, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) was named the lead agency for child reunification during disasters in the Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act. NCMEC can offer technical assistance to emergency management and law enforcement agencies, disaster relief organizations, social services agencies, and the faith-based community to manage the daunting task of reunifying children who have been separated from their parents or guardians due to a disaster. With a multitude of resources and a network of partnerships, NCMEC can help to alleviate the burden on these agencies to field, assess, and investigate the multitude of phone calls and inquiries that would inevitably take up large amounts of time, energy, and resources in the midst of a disaster.

Working in collaboration with FEMA, NCMEC has developed the Unaccompanied Minors Registry (UMR) which is a free, online data collection tool – the first of its kind - that makes the swift reunification of children a top priority by creating a central location to share, store, and retrieve information on children separated as a result of a disaster. Utilizing the UMR tool is a key part to a best-practice approach to reunification outlined and endorsed by reunification leaders in the forthcoming publication titled, “2013 Post-Disaster Reunification of Children: A Nationwide Approach.”

For more information about:

- NCMEC: <http://www.missingkids.com/home>
- UMR: contact Sharon Hawa, Program Manager of Emergency Communications at NCMEC at 703-837-6269 or [shawa@ncmec.org](mailto:shawa@ncmec.org).

**Source:** Sharon Hawa, Program Manager of Emergency Communications at NMEC, <http://www.missingkids.com/home>.

## **ORGANIZE A READINESS EXERCISE IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

The [HandsOn Network](#) teamed up with [Points of Light](#) to develop the [Resilient Response Exercise series](#), a nationwide virtual exercise series that teaches interested groups about disaster preparedness for a range of natural disasters.

Organize your friends, family, neighbors, and coworkers to participate in a free virtual simulation exercise to work through preparedness actions and response activities associated with various natural disasters.

Exercises are free and open to the public, so be sure to [register today](#) for the following exercises in 2013:

**Hurricane Exercise:** Thursday, May 23, 2013.

**Volunteer Management in Times of Disaster Exercise:** Thursday, August 22, 2013.

**Pandemic Exercise:** Thursday, September 12, 2013.

**Source:** Citizen Corps Community Preparedness e-Brief, March 12, 2013.

## **AVAILABLE MATERIALS**

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) help communities be prepared in the event of a disaster. CERT team members are trained to help in an emergency until first responders are able to arrive.

We now feature a variety of resources for [Teen CERT programs on Ready.gov](#). Learn how to launch and maintain a Teen CERT program in your community, download free resources about training and watch the Teen CERT PSA!

You may also email [YouthTA@icf.com](mailto:YouthTA@icf.com) if you have additional questions regarding Teen CERT.

The Student Tools for Emergency Planning (STEP) program educates and energizes students about hazard and emergency preparedness during school, so when they go home they can act as leaders in implementing key preparedness strategies with their families.

To order STEP materials, visit [the STEP website](#).

## **SAVE THE CHILDREN REQUESTS YOUR RESOURCES AND TOOLS**

[Save the Children](#) is creating a new online hub for trainings and other helpful resources. Save the Children is looking for additional resources for their section on Child-focused Emergency Management. Do you or someone you know have any child-focused resources, including, but not limited to resources for children, childcare providers, or parent/guardians? The team at Save the Children would appreciate the opportunity to share your resources and tools on their website.

Please send resources or links to the U.S. Center staff at [USCenterSupport@savethechildren.org](mailto:USCenterSupport@savethechildren.org).

**Source:** Jessy Burton, MSW Associate Director of Training and Outreach for the Center for Child Development and Resiliency, U.S. Programs, Save the Children;  
[jburton@savechildren.org](mailto:jburton@savechildren.org).

## **READY.GOV'S PUBLIC SERVICE ADVERTISEMENTS**

In order to encourage Americans to prepare themselves, their families, and their communities, FEMA, in partnership with [The Advertising Council](#), has sponsored public service advertisements (PSAs) that inform and inspire the public to prepare for and respond to emergencies and natural disasters.

The [Ready Campaign](#) has created collections of PSAs targeted at individuals and families, owners and managers of small and medium-sized business, and Spanish speakers.

You can view a recently released [PSA with Today Show's Al Roker](#). To view all of the *Ready* Campaign's PSAs visit the [Ad Council Web site](#).

**Source:** <http://www.ready.gov/psa-multimedia>.

## **REGISTERING YOUTH PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMS**

FEMA has developed the [Catalog of Youth Disaster Preparedness Education Resources](#), in order to assist individuals and organizations in locating preparedness resources that are tailored for children and youth.

Have you registered your current youth preparedness program so they may be included in the Catalog? Email your program name, what activities you participate in, and where your program is located to [YouthTA@icf.com](mailto:YouthTA@icf.com).

## **SPOTLIGHT ON A REGISTERED PROGRAM: DISASTER HERO**

Are you ready to test your skills of preparedness, survival, and recovery? [Disaster Hero](#) might be just the game for you! This online game show features Dante Shields and his elite squad of disaster specialists that take you through four disaster scenarios: earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, and floods. Overcoming each scenario brings you closer to becoming the next Disaster Hero!

This game is for children, early teens, parents, caregivers, and teachers who are interested in learning how to prepare for a disaster, including creating an emergency kit and preparing an emergency plan. Visit <http://www.disasterhero.com/> to play Disaster Hero and download additional learning activities.

**Source:** <http://www.disasterhero.com/>

## **FOLLOW FEMA AND CITIZEN CORPS ON TWITTER**

FEMA ([@FEMA](#)) and Citizen Corps ([@Citizen Corps](#)) are both active on Twitter, sharing a wealth of knowledge on severe weather and disaster updates, preparedness tips, and the latest news on emergency management and safety. Share and retweet information about disaster preparedness, severe weather information, and life-saving techniques you and your community can use in an emergency.

## **NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS COALITION**

Have you signed up to be a member of the National Preparedness Coalition? It's free to pledge and, as a member, you will have access to exclusive resources and the opportunity to collaborate with thousands of fellow members nationwide on ways to get your community involved.

To become a member:

- Go to the website: <http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/READYNPM>
- Click on “Join the Coalition” on the right-hand side of the page
- Fill out the registration information (this should only take a minute or two)

After signing up, don’t forget to check out the discussion boards:

- Login on the website: <http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/READYNPM>
- Find a discussion board or topic that interests you: <http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/readynpm/view?objectId=2829424&exp=e1>
- Reply to an existing thread or start a new one

**Source:** <http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/READYNPM>

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