



READY TO RESPOND

NEWSLETTER



CITY OF CHARLESTON

APRIL 2016

CHARLESTON FIRE DEPT

Disaster Response & Planning

Disasters can be both natural and man-made. Find out what you can do to help.

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Volunteering Opportunities

There are many different organizations that have volunteering opportunities

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IEMA Press release

Volunteers in Preparedness and Response

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Disaster Preparedness and Response Volunteering

Get Involved

Many times after a disaster community member want to get involved with the relief effort. There are certainly many opportunities for the relief effort, but those who wish to participate should also consider volunteering with organizations that also focus on preparedness. Disaster planning has direct implications on the relief effort after a disaster has occurred.

- Volunteer to support disaster efforts in your community. Get trained and volunteer with organizations like the American Red Cross or other Faith Based Organizations.
- Be part of the community planning process. Connect and collaborate with your local emergency planning group or local emergency management agency
- Join or start a preparedness project. Find an event or identify local resources, build a team, choose a project, set goals, and serve your community improving preparedness
- Support major disasters by donating cash or goods which may help meet the needs of you community in times of disaster

National Volunteer Week
April 10-16, 2016



Volunteering Opportunities

- America Red Cross
- Coles County EMA
- Catholic Charities
- Illinois Citizens Corp
- Illinois Medical Response Team
- AmeriCorps
- AmeriCares
- Local Faith Based Organizations



Illinois Emergency Management Agency Press Release

IEMA Highlights Role of Volunteers in Disasters

Volunteers assist with preparedness, response and recovery

SPRINGFIELD – As several Illinois communities continue to recover from tornadoes, flooding and severe storms in 2015, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and local emergency management agencies are highlighting the critical roles volunteers play in disaster preparedness, response and recovery efforts as part of a month-long focus on volunteers in disasters.

“Volunteers play a key role in disaster preparedness, response and recovery,” said IEMA Director James K. Joseph. “Before disaster strikes, volunteers can encourage personal preparedness to help people stay safe during emergencies. When a disaster strikes, voluntary organizations spring into action to help people in their community, region or across the country. Volunteers even play a vital role in ensuring the long-term recovery of a community affected by a disaster.”

One nationwide volunteer initiative, the Citizen Corps Program, was launched after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to encourage public involvement in efforts to make communities safer, stronger and better prepared to respond to emergencies. IEMA administers the Citizen Corps program in Illinois, which includes 66 local Citizen Corps Councils.

In addition to efforts to encourage personal preparedness, Citizen Corps Councils in 53 Illinois communities have established volunteer response teams known as Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs). Volunteer CERT members train and practice response skills such as locating, transporting and providing basic medical treatment to injured people in order to be prepared to support local first responders during disasters

More information about Citizen Corps Councils, including how to establish a local council, is available at www.Ready.Illinois.gov.

Disaster volunteer opportunities vary from community to community. People interested in learning more about how to volunteer to help before, during or after a disaster can contact local voluntary organizations or their local emergency management agencies for information about opportunities in their area.