

Dear NYC Citizen Corps Council,

With airline seats taken up, train tickets booked, and automobiles fueled up, the holidays are quickly approaching. Whether you are an amateur gift wrapper or professional present opener, remember the less fortunate during this season of giving.

For the next two weeks, the *NYC Citizen Corps Council News* Print Shop will be closed, with circulation resuming in 2012 with a fresh new look for your reading pleasure.

Happy Holidays!

NYC CITIZEN CORPS COUNCIL INITIATIVES (www.NYC.gov/citizencorps):

Get Involved – Planning Meeting – Special Needs Task Force – January 5, 2012

On Thursday, January 5 at the NYC Office of Emergency Management, the NYC Citizen Corps Council Special Needs Task Force, after productive November and December meetings, will continue to plan for the Spring 2012 Symposium. If you do not normally participate, and would like to, contact Erin Lavelle at citizencorps@oem.nyc.gov.

Get Involved – Planning Meeting – Disaster Volunteer Conference – January 10, 2012

On Tuesday, January 10 at the NYC Office of Emergency Management, the NYC Citizen Corps Council will hold its second planning session for the Sixth Annual Disaster Volunteer Conference scheduled for Spring 2012. Past conferences have welcomed approximately 250 – 300 NYC disaster volunteers from volunteer organizations across the city. Notes from last week's meeting will be distributed to the planning team later in the week. If you do not normally participate, and would like to, contact Caela Day at citizencorps@oem.nyc.gov.

Resource – NYC Citizen Corps Council News

Over the past year and a half, the feedback received from readers of the *NYC Citizen Corps Council News* has been tremendous. In addition, distribution has grown from approximately 100 NYC-based organizational representatives to nearly 350, spanning beyond New York City to 11 states, 2 countries, territories, and districts. This communication has been used to inform organizational representatives about NYC Citizen Corps Council initiatives, member initiatives, news, and emergency preparedness and volunteer resources. It is one of the only resources of its kind out there. We are looking to expand our distribution and broaden the relationships we have. If you would like to include information in the *NYC Citizen Corps Council News*, or if there is anyone in your organization or another organization that would benefit from this weekly communication, please email Justin Land at citizencorps@oem.nyc.gov with the relevant information.

WEBINARS:

Webinar – Management Obligations during Disaster Recovery – December 20, 2011

On Tuesday, December 20 (2 PM), PrepareMyBusiness.org, a joint project between the US Small Business Administration and Agility Recovery Solutions, will be hosting a webinar on Management Obligations during Disaster Recovery, focusing on best practices to help those in leadership positions navigate the road to recovery. Agility president and CEO Bob Boyd will share real-world disaster recovery scenarios and engage participants in a discussion on practical strategies to develop the wisdom and skill needed to become a more resilient leader. For additional information and to join the webinar, visit <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/311203496>.

Webinar – Let the Business Continuity Exercises Begin – Preparing for the Olympics – January 10, 2012

On Tuesday, January 10 (3 PM GMT), Send Word Now and Disaster Recovery Journal will be hosting a webinar on Let the Business Continuity Exercises Begin – Preparing for the Olympics. Many organizations are unaware of the negative impacts that the 2012 Olympic Games, and the large influx of foreign visitors that come along with the event, can have on UK-based businesses. With less than 300 days left until the games, the government is strongly urging organizations to reassess their business continuity policies. Maintaining resiliency during large events can be difficult, but gaining a firm understanding on what the risks are is the first step to successfully minimizing disruptions. Featured speaker, Justin Crump, CEO of Sibylline Ltd and Editor, CSARN Security Risk Monitor will discuss: (1) the real nature of the security threats from the London 2012 Olympics, (2) what every business continuity planner and security professional should know about preparing for a large-scale event, (3) how the UK plans to mitigate risks, and (4) why effective communications should play a critical role in your preparedness plan. For additional information and to join the webinar, visit <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/225593736>.

Webinar – Social Media in Emergency Management – January 18, 2012

On Wednesday, January 18 (2 PM), the Mission Support Branch of the Emergency Management Institute will cover Social Media in Emergency Management. The webinar defines social media and presents the emerging trends and best practices in using social media applications (Facebook, Twitter, You Tube, etc.) during all phases of emergency management. It also provides a tutorial on how to access and work within these social media applications. The webinar concludes with an overview on how emergency management and response personnel can help their organizations find their unique voice in social media. For additional information and to register, visit [http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/webinars/docs/info/Webinar%20-%20Social%20Media%20\(18%20January%202012%20at%204PM%20Eastern%20Time\).pdf](http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/webinars/docs/info/Webinar%20-%20Social%20Media%20(18%20January%202012%20at%204PM%20Eastern%20Time).pdf).

CONFERENCES / WORKSHOPS / EXERCISES / EVENTS:

Exercise – Formidable Footprint: Pandemic Influenza – January 28, 2012

On Saturday, January 28 (9 AM – 4 PM), the Disaster Resistant Communities Group will be hosting one of their Formidable Footprint neighborhood tabletop exercises on influenza pandemic. This series of exercises serves as an opportunity for governmental agencies along with community and faith based organizations to assess their capability to prepare for, respond to and recover from a variety of natural disasters which affect communities and neighborhoods. For additional information and to register, visit www.drc-group.com/project/footprint.html.

RESOURCES:

Get Involved – NYC OEM Spring Internships

The NYC Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has several spring 2012 internship position openings. Positions focus on: communications, human services, legal, logistics, Ready New York Kids, and Exercises. For additional information, visit www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/about/job.shtml.

Get Involved – HOPE 2012 – January 30, 2012

On Monday, January 30 (10:30 PM), the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) is conducting the Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE) survey to find a point-in-time estimate of the number of unsheltered homeless individuals in New York City. DHS needs over 3,000 volunteers to make HOPE 2012 a success and the participation of our past volunteers is very important. HOPE is critical to helping DHS evaluate the effectiveness of our strategies to overcome street homelessness as well as developing appropriate housing resources for the most vulnerable New Yorkers currently living without shelter. For additional information and to register to volunteer, visit <https://a071-hope.nyc.gov/hope/welcome.aspx>.

News – Charlotte Observer – What a SC Tornado Ripped Apart is Found Again

In a Saturday, December 17 article in the *Charlotte Observer*, reporter Susanne Schaffer writes about a severe weather system that struck three southern states last month, which resulted in deadly tornados. The article focuses on South Carolina, and the recovery efforts to reconnect personal items blown away in the storms with their rightful owners. Included in the article was an interesting blog (<http://wxbrad.com/?p=2328>) by chief meteorologist Brad Panovich of WCNC-TV of Charlotte showing the effects of the storm. To read the article, visit www.charlotteobserver.com/2011/12/17/2857001/what-a-sc-tornado-ripped-apart.html.

Resource – KCS ESOL / Citizenship Classes

The Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York is currently recruiting students for their citizenship class. The semester will begin in mid January with one class (Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 – 5 PM) being offered. Classes will take place at Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York (35-56 159th Street,

Flushing). For additional information, visit www.kcsny.org or contact Annie Shinn, ESOL/Civic Education Program Coordinator at 718-353-2253.

Resource – A Whole Community Approach to Emergency Management: Principles, Themes, and Pathways for Action

Released in December 2011 by FEMA, *A Whole Community Approach to Emergency Management: Principles, Themes, and Pathways for Action* presents a foundation for increasing individual preparedness and engaging with members of the community as collaborative resources to enhance the resiliency and security of our Nation through a Whole Community approach. The document is intended to promote greater understanding of the approach and to provide a strategic framework to guide all members of the emergency management community as they determine how to integrate Whole Community into their daily practices. For additional information, visit www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=4941.

Resource – Christmas Tree Fire Video: It Just Takes A Minute

Provided by the Underwriters Laboratories, this video demonstrates the dangers of not watering your Christmas tree. This video shows how fast a Christmas tree fire can start and then fully engulf a room. In less than a minute, a dry tree can create a tragedy. To reduce the risk of fire, practice Christmas tree safety and be sure to water your tree every day and position it away from sources of heat. For additional information, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=TeZk2IrvAOU&NR=1&feature=endscreen.

Resource – Geospatial Platform

The Geospatial Platform provides ready access to federally maintained geospatial data, services and applications. The platform marries data sets from government agencies like NOAA and the EPA with a Web-based mapping tool, allowing users to map anything from weather systems worldwide to Superfund sites along your vacation route. Users can upload and share maps, and even join groups of users with similar mapping interests. For additional information, visit www.geoplatform.gov.

Resource – 2011 Year in Pictures from the American Red Cross

Created by the American Red Cross, this short video shows the impact disaster has had in 2011. From responding to record-breaking tornadoes to rebuilding in Haiti to teaching lifesaving skills to 11,000 people on Gabrielle Giffords Honorary Save-a-Life Saturday, 2011 has been a busy year for the American Red Cross as well as everyone in emergency management. To watch the video, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=em4iv9XBRtc&feature=youtu.be.

Resource – Innovation, Diversity, and Sustainable Development in Areas of Social Vulnerability

On November 17 – 18, the workshop on *Innovation, Diversity, and Sustainable Development in Areas of Social Vulnerability* was organized by UMass Boston's Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters (CRSCAD), which focuses on reconstruction with vulnerable populations. Drawing participants from five continents, the

workshop examined lessons from Japan as well as social vulnerabilities in specific populations worldwide. The complete workshop program including abstracts and presenter biographies, as well as some presenters' power point presentations are available on the website of CRSCAD at www.umb.edu/crscad.

Resource – Resolve to be Ready

Last week, FEMA kicked off its annual campaign, *Resolve to be Ready* in 2012, which urges Americans to make preparedness a priority during the holiday season by making a new year's resolution to be ready for disasters or by thinking about preparedness tools for last minute gift ideas. By making a resolution to take a few simple steps in advance, Americans can minimize the impact of an emergency on their families, homes or businesses. For additional information, visit www.ready.gov/resolve.

Resource – Emergency Planning Guide for Child-Serving Organizations

Written by the Promising Practices Network, this guide helps child serving organizations focus planning on the emergencies that would be likely to have the most impact on the organization so that leadership can make the best use of an organization's time and resources. The guide provides information on high-priority actions that an organization can take to develop, improve and maintain an emergency plan. Anticipating the actions your organization may need to take during any kind of emergency is the best way to prepare your organization to respond to and recover from an emergency. The information in this guide is tailored to organizations that provide direct social services to children and families, such as child care centers, after-school programs, and camps. However, the information is likely to be helpful to other organizations that work with children and families, including schools and health care providers. For additional information, visit www.promisingpractices.net/resources/emergencyprep/.

Resource – Candle Fire Safety

As part of the US Fire Administration's *Focus on Fire Safety* series, learn about candle fire safety. With the holidays fast approaching and the increased usage of seasonal decorations, it is important to focus on candle fire safety and prevention. Because the majority of candle fires result from human error and negligence, candle fires and their associated casualties are preventable. For additional information, visit www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/focus/candles.shtm.

Research – LEP Data Brief

The National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy of the Migration Policy Institute recently released a new data brief on Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals in the United States. The Center's newest work finds that the number of US residents who fall into the LEP category has increased significantly in recent decades, in line with the growth of the US foreign-born population. Though LEP individuals remain concentrated in the six traditional immigrant-destination states — California, Texas, New York, New Jersey, Florida, and Illinois — a substantial number are now settling in the Southeastern,

Southwestern, and Northwestern parts of the country. For additional information, visit www.migrationinformation.org/integration/LEPatabrief.pdf.

Research – Changing Perception of Avian Influenza Risk, Hong Kong, 2006-2010

Published in a recent article in *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, researchers from the CDC look at the *Changing Perception of Avian Influenza Risk* in Hong Kong. Hong Kong residents worry less about contracting avian flu, although they believe the likelihood of catching the disease remains the same, according to this study recently published by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention journal *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. Among the findings was that decreased risk of exposure seemed to stem from limited availability of live poultry rather than health education efforts such as hand-washing campaigns. For additional information, visit wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/17/12/11-0298_article.htm.

RFP – Youth Service Improvement Grant

The W.T. Grant Foundation's Youth Service Improvement Grants program supports community-based organizations working to improve the lives of children and youth in the five boroughs of New York City. These awards are designed to help organizations improve the programs and services they offer to youth between the ages of 8 and 25. The program is focused on small to medium-size organizations that have already had some success, but lack the funds to make needed improvements. To be eligible for consideration, applicants must have 501(c)(3) tax-exemption; be a community-based organization that provides services to youth located in the five boroughs of New York City (public/private schools are not eligible); serve youth directly (staff must have direct contact with youth at the point-of-service); and have an operating budget between \$250,000 and \$5 million. In the case of organizations that serve youth only, this is the total organizational budget. In the case of multi-purpose organizations (i.e., those not exclusively focused on youth), the organizational operating budget must be less than \$20 million, and the budget for services to youth (direct and indirect costs) must be between \$250,000 and \$5 million. The maximum award amount is \$25,000. Applications for YSIG awards are solicited twice a year. Applications are being accepted for the spring 2012 cycle. For additional information, visit www.wtgrantfdn.org/funding_opportunities/service-improvement-grants/youth_service_improvement.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

Special Needs Task Force

January 5

Volunteer Task Force

January 10

Quarterly Meeting

February 28