



KENAI PENINSULA CITIZEN CORPS



Resources for building stronger, safer communities on the Kenai Peninsula

Fall 2008

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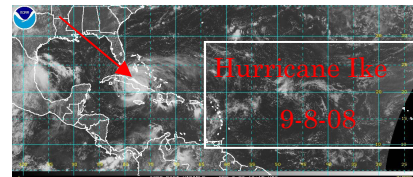
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SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

ARE YOU READY?

With Hurricane's Gustav, Hanna and Ike lashing the Gulf and Atlantic coasts, it's definitely time to take stock of the disaster possibilities in our own backyard. Although hurricanes are not a concern here, most of us are familiar with the severe weather, earthquakes, tsunamis, flooding, volcanic eruptions, wildfires, avalanches and man-made hazards (oil and chemical spills) that do occur.



The September Preparedness message is simple: Get a Kit, Make A Plan, and Be Informed. Here are a few simple steps you can take to help prepare for those inevitable emergencies:

1. Refresh and winterize your home and car emergency kits (step-by-step checklists are available from our office and online at www.ready.gov);
2. Make sure you have a family communication plan in place so everyone knows who to call and where to go if you're not together when disaster strikes;
3. Participate in training such as CERT, FireCorps, First Aid and Red Cross shelter set-up or become an Amateur Radio Operator (watch this newsletter, kpvunteers.org and your email for training alerts);
4. Work with your neighbors to help strengthen neighborhood level preparedness (call us - we have a great organizing booklet available).



Every small step you take makes your family and our communities more disaster resilient.

September Preparedness Month Happenings

The Kenai United Methodist Church is putting together 50 emergency kits for distribution within the congregation as well as to families that visit their food pantry. The kits were part of the September 11th Bell-Ringing Ceremony at the Kenai Fire Department.

According to Sue Pike, they still need 2.5 lb fire extinguishers and battery powered radios. If you can help, call Sue at 283-9336.

Upcoming Upcoming



September FireWise on the Kenai Workshop

When: September 20, 2008,
9:00am to 4:30pm

Where: KPB Emergency Response Center,
253 Wilson Lane, Soldotna

This informative workshop will cover peninsula wildfire history, current fire hazards, agency response capabilities as well as practical defensible space information for homeowners. Lunch will be provided and drawings for door prizes will happen throughout the day!

Space is limited, you must pre-register to attend. To sign up, contact Glenda at 262-2098, Boroughwide: 1-800-478-4441, ext. 2098, or email glandua@borough.kenai.ak.us.

October FireWise Classes

Learn more about Peninsula fire history and hazards, creating defensible space, and how to decide: evacuate or stay & defend?

October 14th, 6-9pm, Kachemak Emergency Services, Mile 12 East End Road, Homer

**October 16th,
6-9pm, Emergency Response Center, 253 Wilson Lane,**



NOVEMBER

KENAI CERT CLASS

**Tentatively scheduled for 6:30-9pm,
November 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 14, 17, 19, 21 and 9am-2pm, Saturday, Nov. 22**

Topics include disaster preparedness, fire safety, light search and rescue, disaster medical, CERT organization, disaster psychology, terrorism and community safety.



For location and to sign up, call Glenda at 262-2098 or email glandua@borough.kenai.ak.us

American Red Cross of Alaska

One disaster every other day...

That's how many emergencies the American Red Cross of Alaska responded to on average last year. Here on the Kenai Peninsula this summer, local Red Cross Disaster Action Team, or DAT, members responded to four single-family incidents, providing shelter, food, and clothing to those who needed it most. Three Kenai DAT members are currently assisting our Gulf Coast neighbors in need in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. There are so many ways you can get involved and use your valuable CERT training in local Red Cross activities. We welcome you to attend FREE Red Cross Disaster Services classes that will be held in Soldotna this year. If you are interested in how to turn your compassion into action and any of the classes listed below, please contact Mary Lowery at Lowerym@usa.redcross.org or (907) 646-5407 today!

Disaster Services Classes September – December 2008:

Fulfilling Our Mission Introduction to the mission, values, and guiding principles of the Red Cross. Participants will learn how to assess their skills and abilities to strengthen the capacity of both the community and the Red Cross to better serve people affected by disaster.

Shelter Operations and Simulation Prepares participants to effectively and sensitively manage shelter operations as a team and to meet the needs of people displaced by disaster.

Client Casework Introduction to the skills and tools needed to conduct an effective client interview and provide services to those affected by disaster.

Fundamentals of Disaster Assessment Prepares participants to obtain and report disaster assessment information from a variety of sources as well as learning how to provide operational support during a disaster response.

Psychological First Aid Essential for all Red Cross responders, this course helps participants identify, understand, and cope with the difficult situations often presented in emergency

What's Happening

What's Happening

Although there's always more to be done, look at what we're accomplishing! Here are some of the remarkable things that are happening during September Preparedness Month (and on into the fall):



- ◇ The Peninsula Clarion and the Homer News published the 24-Weeks To Preparedness series (thank you **Kim Lorentzen, Nan Misner and Lori Evans**).
- ◇ Central Peninsula Health Services is supplying emergency “to-go” kits to their 175 employees (thank you **Debbie Standefer**).
- ◇ The United Methodist Church of Kenai is assembling 50 emergency kits for members of their congregation as well as families served by their food pantry (thank you **Sue Pike**).
- ◇ Cook Inlet Spill Response, Inc. is distributing preparedness information packets to their staff (thank you **Warren Isham**).
- ◇ The Soldotna Library set up a “preparedness” book display and will feature Hannah Watkins’ children’s books during story hour (thank you **Terri Burdick**).
- ◇ Central Peninsula General Hospital, the KPB Risk Management Office and Homer Electric Association all featured September Preparedness Month information in their monthly newsletters (thank you **Kate Jefferson, Dennis Tidwell, and Joe Gallagher**).
- ◇ Preparedness checklists are being distributed to area Senior Centers, veterinarians, pet stores, pet clubs, Rotary Clubs and Chambers (thanks to **Varvara Larson, Jackie and Stephen Stringham, Jane Schultz, and Mary Jane Hanley**).
- ◇ The University of Alaska is working to bring CERT to campuses all around the state (thanks **Lt. Ron Swartz, Cameron Carlson, and Paula Martin**).
- ◇ Neighborhood leaders in Soldotna, Homer and Seward are using the Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) booklets to improve preparedness in their neighborhoods (thank you **Amorette Payment, Jacki Michels, Shana Cardoza, Kathy Hill, and Sue Lang**).
- ◇ The Kenai Peninsula Borough, Division of Forestry and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are providing a FireWise Workshop on September 20th at the Soldotna ERC. This will be followed by two additional FireWise classes in October (thank you to **Roberta Wilfong, Joe Stam, Bob Ciccarella and many, many others**).
- ◇ The Kenai Fire Department is planning a November CERT class (thank you **Chief Tilly, Sam Satathite and Cory Lehl**).
- ◇ The Alaska Christian College is planning a weekly fall CERT class for staff and students (thanks **Mike Huckabay and Adam London**).

*In addition to the people mentioned above, we know there are countless others working on these and other great projects. We wish there was enough space to give everyone the individual credit that's due. **Thanks to everyone for all of the good work!***

CERT Volunteers—Those who haven't completed IS-100 and IS-700, we still need you to work on this!

IS-100: Introduction to Incident Command System
IS-700: An Introduction to the National Incident Management System

FEMA - Online Emergency Management Training
<http://www.training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.asp>

After you complete each class, please forward the completion message from FEMA to glandua@borough.kenai.ak.us or fax a copy of the certificate to 907-714-2395.

Thanks!

KENAI PENINSULA

CITIZEN CORPS

CERT Volunteers and Instructors

We value your feedback! Please help guide the program by visiting

kpvunteers.org

and clicking on the short online survey.



PLEASE HELP GET THE WORD OUT!

September 20, 9am-4:30pm, **FireWise** Workshop

October 14, **FireWise**, 6pm-9pm, KES Fire Station, East End Road, Homer

October 16, **FireWise**, 6pm-9pm, Soldotna ERC

November **CERT** Class, Kenai

See page 2 for details on these valuable no cost training sessions!

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