



KENAI PENINSULA CITIZEN CORPS

Resources for building stronger, safer communities on the Kenai Peninsula

Spring 2007

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KENAI PENINSULA CITIZEN CORPS COUNCIL

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Award Winning Young Author

Our favorite young author, Hannah Watkins, is in the news again! Recently, her volunteer work earned her the Soroptimist International of the Kenai Peninsula, Violet Richardson Award (at both the local and regional levels), the Nestle “Very Best in Youth” Award and a “Do Something” Brick/GameStop Youth Grant. In 2006, she also won the Prudential Spirit of Community Award, the President’s Volunteer Service Award (gold level) and trips to Washington D.C. and Las Vegas as the 2006/2007 Alaska Youth Leadership Council Representative.

Hannah’s achievements are remarkable at many levels, but have also resulted in our program receiving \$2700 in grant funding, which is being channeled to the Kenai Peninsula School District to support CERT based emergency response training for all the Borough schools! Her support of this important Borough-wide emergency preparedness project is very much appreciated!

Hannah’s children’s books: *Heidi and the Tsunami*, *Molly and the Earthquake*, *James and the Volcano*, and *Spencer and the Wildfire* were distributed to all the Borough community libraries and kindergarten through sixth grade classrooms last fall. Currently, we’re working to provide the books to day care centers, dentist’s offices and other facilities where they will receive multiple use.



Soroptimist Paula Roloff presenting Hannah Watkins with the Violet Richardson Award (March 3, 2007)

Hannah’s books are a great educational tool - and if you haven’t already seen them, check them out online at :www.borough.kenai.ak.us/emergency/books/watkins.htm!



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful and committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has...”

Margaret Mead

CERT PROGRAM UPDATE

The Anchor Point CERT and Disaster Response Group (DRG) participated in the annual Snow Rondi Parade on February 24th. From the photo they sent, it appears there wasn't a lot of snow at the time - but given the spring we've been having, I'm sure that's not the case now! Amy Cox,



their new Americorps Volunteer, led the group with able assistance from Sarah, Rachel, Candy and James. They handed out program information and had a Neighborhood Disaster Response Zone Map on display at the Anchor Point Senior Center!

The Anchor Point DRG is currently working on neighborhood emergency preparedness and collecting items for their Zone 2 and 4 Disaster Caches. If you live in the greater Anchor Point area and are interested in learning more about emergency

preparedness for your neighborhood, or have a disaster cache donation, contact Amy Cox at 235-7786 or email amync101206@yahoo.com. WAY TO GO - ANCHOR POINT!!

Also in Anchor Point -

Sgt. Dunn and Lt. MacDonald of the Alaska State Troopers organized a 20-hour introductory Search and Rescue class in Anchor Point. The class was 20 hours long and held on Feb. 23-25th. A number of Homer and Anchor Point CERT volunteers attended and by all reports it was a good course. Thanks A.S.T. and good job CERTS!



SCHOOL DISTRICT EMERGENCY RESPONSE WORK SESSION

In February, a two day training/work session was held at Kenai Central High School that involved the Kenai and Nikiski Fire Departments, school principals, School District Central Office staff, the Office of Emergency Management and the Department of Risk Management. The focus of the work session was to develop an emergency response training protocol that could be used in all the Borough schools. The training is a composite of CERT training (fire suppression, search and rescue, incident command, and emergency medical) and the School District Emergency Action Plan (EAP) procedures and protocols. The product of the February work session will be shared in mid-April in training sessions scheduled in Homer, Seward, and the Central Peninsula area with principals, as well as at least one teacher and parent from each school. In August, the participants of the April training will help deliver the training to staff in all the Borough schools.



The upcoming school district training is a great example of what can happen when people work together. Our goal is to take this training into 44 schools borough-wide. The training will involve CERT instructors, firefighters and emergency medical personnel, school staff and parents from each community. Many will be volunteering their time to help make sure our schools are as ready as possible to deal with a variety of emergency situations. This kind of leadership, commitment and cooperation is what disaster readiness is all about!

UPCOMING TRAINING

Avalanche Safety



The Snow Dynamics Avalanche Safety Program, working under a grant from the State of Alaska Department of Public Safety, is presenting a **free** avalanche awareness course entitled Avalanches across Alaska. This eight-hour, all-ages workshop will be held at the Cook Inlet Aquaculture meeting room from **9:00am to 5:00pm on Saturday, March 31st.**

The course will cover Alaska avalanche hazards, avalanche formation, avalanche terrain, Alaska weather, safe travel, trip planning and avalanche transceiver orientation and practice. Food and refreshments will be served. Please bring a lunch and warm clothes.

Space is limited. Please call 907.775.2600 or email snow_dynamics@yahoo.com to sign up.



CERT ALERT

We have people interested in CERT classes in Kenai, Soldotna, Sterling, Anchor Point, Homer, Hope, Seldovia, Tyonek, Nikiski, Port Graham, and Seward. *If you can help instruct in one of these communities - please get in touch - we need your help!*

American Red Cross

First Aid/CPR/AED/Shelter Ops

The Kenai branch of the American Red Cross offers monthly First Aid, Adult, Infant & Child CPR and AED classes. They also periodically offer classes on shelter operations. Check with Annette Hakkinen for the current class offerings (283-4556 or by email: hakkinena@usa.redcross.org).

Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness

This spring we're turning our attention to the important work of neighborhood readiness. We're currently developing a pilot program similar to neighborhood watch - but with an important emergency preparedness focus. Get in touch if

you'd like to work with your neighbors to increase emergency readiness! If you live in Anchor Point, contact Amy Cox at the Anchor Point Senior Center (235-7786). If you live elsewhere in the borough, contact Glenda Landua (262-2098 or 1-800-478-4441, ext. 2098

Fire Corps - Wildfire Preparedness

As we reported in the last newsletter, the KPB Spruce Bark Beetle (SBB) Mitigation Program is continuing to work on Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP). Currently, eight plans are completed and are available on the KPB Spruce Bark Beetle website (<http://www.borough.kenai.ak.us/sprucebeetle/>). Community meetings will be scheduled in the near future to review the plans and prioritize mitigation projects.



Fire Corps training, which covers the basics of wildfire behavior, defensible space, fire-resistant landscaping, evacuation and sheltering-in-place will be coordinated with the CWPP community outreach. Watch the SBB website and we'll also provide email updates as training and meeting schedules develop!

If you're interested in learning more about wildfire preparedness or helping with the CWPP in your community, contact Glenda Landua at the KPB Office of Emergency Management (907-262-2098) or Roberta Wilfong at the KPB Spruce Bark Beetle Mitigation Program (907-260-6202). Useful wildfire preparedness information is also available online at: www.borough.kenai.ak.us/sbb/; www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry/; www.borough.kenai.ak.us/emergency/; www.firewise.org/

NIMS Training Reminder

If you've been tuned in to recent emails and newsletters, you'll recall that we need all of our CERT volunteers to complete two of the introductory **National Incident Management System (NIMS)** training modules - IS-700: NIMS, An Introduction and ICS-100: Introduction to Incident Command System. The courses need to be completed as soon as possible and are available online at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslist.asp> The course materials are also available in hard copy or on disk - just stop by or give us a call.

Online Courses

FEMA's Emergency Management Institute

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslst.asp>



ICS-100: Introduction to Incident Command System

IS-700: NIMS, An Introduction to the National Incident Management System

As you complete the ICS 100 and IS 700 courses, please forward the course completion acknowledgement from FEMA to glandua@borough.kenai.ak.us. Thanks!

IS -22: Are You Ready? An In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness

IS - 317 CERT Refresher Course

The National Association for Amateur Radio Operator's website has online classes available at:

<http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html#ec001>

KENAI PENINSULA CITIZEN PROGRAMS CORPS

Volunteer opportunities!

Coming in April - Stand-by for the 2007 Northern Edge/Alaska Shield statewide disaster exercises.

If WE CALL, WILL YOU COME?

Teen CERT - new training materials are now available from the National CERT program. Anyone interested in starting a pilot Teen CERT program in a school, church group or scout troop?

The Kenai Peninsula Borough Emergency Response Plan has been revised and is available for review at the Borough Clerk's Office. Call 714-2160 for more information.

Thanks for your interest in emergency preparedness and happy spring!

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