



# KENAI PENINSULA CITIZEN CORPS

Resources for building stronger, safer communities on the Kenai Peninsula

Spring 2006

## INSIDE

Congratulations to our  
New CERT Volunteers &  
CERT Instructors, [pg. 2](#)

Preparing for Wildfire  
Season, [pg. 3](#)

Online Courses, [pg. 4](#)

Volunteer Opportunities,  
[pg. 4](#)

## KENAI PENINSULA CITIZEN CORPS COUNCIL

**Annette Hakkinen**,  
American Red Cross of  
Alaska, Kenai Peninsula  
Branch Manager

**Mary Jane Hanley, RN**  
State of Alaska, Dept. of  
Health & Social Services,  
Div. of Public Health

**Sue Hecks**,  
Kenai Peninsula  
EMS Coordinator

**Rick Warren**,  
Agrium U.S. Inc.  
Emergency  
Preparedness &  
Response Coordinator

**Kim Lorentzen**,  
Public

**Glenda Landua**  
Citizen Corps Coordinator  
KPBC Office of Emergency  
Management

## What's Been Happening..

It's been a very busy six months since the last newsletter!! We held an emergency preparedness community forum in Nikiski, organized CERT volunteer and instructor training sessions, and started a new Fire Corps wildfire preparedness program!

In mid-November, the "*MAKE SURE WE'RE READY*" Nikiski Community Emergency Response Forum involved representatives from six North Kenai oil and gas companies, Homer Electric, Enstar and response organizations, including KPBC/OEM and 911 Soldotna Communications Center, Nikiski Fire Dept, Alaska State Troopers and the U.S. Coast Guard.



Three CERT classes were successfully completed - one in Soldotna and two in Anchor Point; a CERT Train-The-Trainer course was held in February; and at the end of March, we held a Central Peninsula CERT get-together and invited the volunteers, instructors and Fire Chiefs. In addition to meeting each other, some good training and team-building ideas were generated.

In mid-April, we cooperated with **Sharon Roesch**, Division of Forestry, **Doug Newbould**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and **Bob Painter**, Homer Fire Department to provide two Fire Corps wildfire preparedness

trainings in Soldotna and Homer (27 people attended). In between our other activities, we provided emergency response and preparedness information at the Seward, Homer and Soldotna Health Fairs and the Soldotna Home Show!

## National Incident Management System Training

As most of you know, the primary goal of the Citizen Corps Program is to involve citizens in hometown emergency preparedness through training, exercises and volunteer service. To fulfill this mission, the Borough applies each

year for grant funding through the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. This year, everyone involved with emergency response and preparedness is being asked 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. These classes are available online at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslist.asp>.

National Incident Management System-related training is one of the important elements that local entities must complete during FY-2006 to be eligible for FY2007 federal preparedness funding assistance. Because of this, we're encouraging (continued on page 2)

(NIMS - continued) everyone to take the courses. Along with helping us with program funding, the training will provide you with a solid understanding of how Incident Command works during an emergency. If you have any questions about the courses or the reasons we're asking CERT volunteers to take the trainings, please feel free to contact Glenda (262-2098) or Kay (262-2096). Thanks in advance for your help with this!

## Congratulations and Welcome Aboard!

### To new CERT members in Kenai, Soldotna, and Anchor Point!

Thanks to Rick Warren and Mike McConahy for being such capable and engaging instructors! CERT members graduating from the November *Soldotna* Community Schools class included:



**Laura Sievert**                      **Jane Handy**                      **Patty Besse**  
**Linda Berryman**                      **Ruth Poage**                      **Larry Poage**                      **Bunny Chong**

*Anchor Point* held two classes between February and April. A big thanks to Carolyn Roderick, Rachel Bice and Jay Graham for their work with the classes! On track to finish their drill on May 4th and become Anchor Point CERTs are:



**Candice Thornton**                      **Viola Hall**                      **Marvin Rollins**  
**Richard Whitney**                      **Carol Whitney**                      **Homer Ireland**  
**Sandra Newton**                      **Sue Clemson**                      **Davis Clemson**  
**William Schoppert**

### New CERT Instructors!

Twenty-one people attended the February CERT Train-The-Trainer class; sixteen from Kenai Peninsula (KP) communities and five from Palmer, Valdez, Chickaloon, and Eagle River. KP graduates included: **Chip Arnold** (Seward), **Dave Christensen** (Seward), **Maggie Holeman** (Hope), **Mike Huckabay** (Soldotna), **Warren Isham** (Nikiski), **Cory Lehl** (Kenai/Nikiski), **Melvin Malchoff** (Port Graham), **Peter Merryman** (Tyonek), **Lesley Quelland** (Soldotna), **Tim Robertson** (Seldovia), **Sam Satathite** (Kenai), **Cordi Sewall** (Seward), **Brad Stephan** (Tyonek), **Dennis Thaute** (Homer), **Robin Vorpahl** (Cooper Landing), and **Peter Wilber** (Seldovia). This is a talented group and we look forward to their help providing CERT training in the very near future!

The success of the February CERT Train-The-Trainer class was largely due to the time and talent of a great set of instructors, who included **Curt Jacobson** (Moose Pass VFD), **Dick Krapp** (CES), **Ben Simonds** (CES), **Mike McConahy** (CES), **Buzz Bainbridge** (DHS&EM), **Ken Hepner** (C.I.S.D), **Bill Mackreth** (MatSu EMS), **Allen Hulse** (103rd Civil Support Team). Also many thanks are due to DHS&EM staff (**Doug Lewis, Michelle Heun, Buzz Bainbridge, Jamie Littrell, Tiffany Passmore & others**) for their organizational and financial support as well as to **Bea Adler** and **Bill Mackreth** at the MatSu Borough for their contributions to planning and instructing! And last, but not least, thanks to **Scott Walden, Bonnie Hanson** and **Kay Steele** (KPB/OEM) for cheerfully pitching in at every turn and to **Uta and Richard Thomas, Mike Groskopf, Paul McBride, Gary Hale, Scott Wilkenson** and **Zach Allen** for being such talented victims during the drill!



# Preparing for Wildfire Season

By Kim Lorentzen

Well, spring is approaching once again and it's time to start thinking about planting flowers, mowing lawns, and other outdoor chores. As you pull out the gardening gloves, begin to plan how you will incorporate some fire prevention into your yard work this year. The past few summers of wildfires should be all the motivation any of us needs to get serious about the risk of wildfire to our homes and property.

Defensible space is a term that most of us will be familiar with by now. Creating defensible space reduces the fire-feeding fuels around your home in order to give you the best possible chance to evacuate and see your house spared by fire. At a minimum, you should clear all flammable vegetation within a 30-foot radius of your house. You may want to increase the radius up to 100 feet, depending on the slope of the surrounding land and the fuels that border your property. Replace highly flammable plants in the cleared area with fire-resistant plants. A list of fire resistant plants is available from the Division of Forestry (260-4260), the Kenai Peninsula Borough Office of Emergency Management (262-2098), or the Cooperative Extension Office (262-5824).

After you've taken care of the land immediately surrounding your home and any other structures you want to protect, consider thinning trees in the outlying wooded areas of your property – particularly any that are dead or diseased. Trim any dead limbs – especially those that overhang your roof or any (even healthy) that are within ten feet of your chimney. Keep your roof, gutters, decks, and other areas of the house free of dead leaves, needles, bark or other debris that could ignite if burning embers fall.

When it's time to clean up the dead stuff, make sure you are following all requirements for burn permits and keep your burn barrel at least 30 feet from any structure, clear the ground around it (at least ten feet), keep the barrel in good condition and cover it with a screen.

When it's time to start putting up firewood, be sure to stack it (along with any scrap wood piles you may keep) at least 30 feet away from any structure, in a cleared spot that's free of vegetation. You don't want to lead the fire

right to your front door! You'll also want to store fuel, snow machines, four-wheelers, lawnmowers and machinery away from your house.

While you're out in your yard, take a look at your "curb appeal" from the firefighter's perspective: are your house numbers easily seen from the road? (If your house is set back from the road, post your address or name at the entrance of the property.) Are any road signs missing in your neighborhood? Is the access to your house fire truck-friendly? Narrow roads, overhanging vegetation, unmarked dead-ends or weak bridges all make it difficult or impossible for a fire truck to reach you.

If your summertime agenda includes building or remodeling, consider incorporating materials that will make your house itself more fire-resistant. If you're building a new house, situate the house at least 30-feet from the lot boundaries to allow for proper defensible space planning. You'll also want to consider the slope of your property when planning structure placement: ridges, canyons and areas that sit between two high points are all high risk for wildfire because fire can intensify as it moves up a slope.

Look for building materials that resist fire (like metal roofing) and use them as much as possible. Skirt the access underneath your house or porch to prevent wind-carried embers from becoming trapped and igniting your home.

Two Fire Corps wildfire preparedness workshops were held in April - one in Soldotna and one in Homer. If you missed these, but are interested in attending or helping organize a workshop in your community, call Glenda at 262-2098. Other resources include Community Wildfire Prevention Plans, which are being developed Borough-wide for communities with high fire risk. The draft plans can be reviewed online at: <http://www.borough.kenai.ak.us/sprucebeetle/New/CWPP/CWPP.htm>. FireWise information is also available online at: <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry/> or by calling Sharon Roesch at the Division of Forestry at 260-4260.



## Online Courses

### *National Incident Management System (NIMS)*

Go to: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslist.asp>



**IS-700: NIMS, An Introduction**

**ICS-100: Introduction to Incident Command System**

***Are You Ready? An In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness***

Go to: <http://www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/is>, Click on "Our Courses" on the left side of the page, Click on IS-22.

***CERT Refresher Course***

Go to: <http://www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/is317.asp> to download the course.

***Please let us know if you complete these courses so we can make a note on your volunteer record.***

## KENAI PENINSULA CITIZEN PROGRAMS CORPS

***Volunteer opportunities abound!***

Please let us know if you're interested in helping with any of the following projects or activities:

- ❖ distributing emergency preparedness information to your church, workplace or neighborhood;
- ❖ writing a newsletter article;
- ❖ helping with the Medical Reserve Corps program needs assessment;
- ❖ helping plan CERT get-togethers, drills or refresher training in your area.



*This newsletter is published quarterly by the Kenai Peninsula Citizen Corps with support from Award 2005-GE-T5-0031 by the US Dept of Homeland Security, Office of Domestic Preparedness and the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.*

**Phone:** 262-2098  
1-800-478-4441, x2098

**Email:**  
glandua@  
borough.kenai.ak.us

[www.kpvolunteers.org](http://www.kpvolunteers.org)

**Address:**  
144 N. Binkley St.  
Soldotna, AK 99669

**KENAI PENINSULA CITIZEN CORPS**  
144 N. Binkley St.  
Soldotna, AK 99669