



# KENAI PENINSULA CITIZEN CORPS

Resources for building stronger, safer communities on the Kenai Peninsula

Fall 2007

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## CITIZEN CORPS COUNCIL

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## SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH!

### Are you prepared for a disaster?

No matter where we live, no matter what we do in our day to day lives, there are simple things we can all do to be better prepared for emergencies.

Here are a few:

1. refresh and winterize your home and car emergency kits (step-by-step checklists to help organize your kits are available by contacting our office or online at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov));
2. participate in CERT classes to become informed and refresh basic response skills;
3. contact our office about the Neighborhood Emergency Watch program that will be beginning this winter;
4. participate in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) process in your community. For more information contact the Spruce Bark Beetle Office at 260-6202 or [www.borough.kenai.ak.us/sbb/pages/communityaction.html](http://www.borough.kenai.ak.us/sbb/pages/communityaction.html);
5. visit [www.WhatsYourRQ.org](http://www.WhatsYourRQ.org) to take a simple online test and find out your "readiness quotient".

"Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has..."

Margaret Mead

### National First Responder Appreciation Day is September 25<sup>th</sup>.

This day is set aside to honor and thank all the EMS, fire and law enforcement personnel in our communities who routinely answer the 911 calls and handle the most difficult situations. Please reach out and let the first responders in your community know that you recognize their contributions and appreciate their service!



### UPCOMING!! October CERT Class

Where: At the Emergency Response Center, 253 Wilson Lane, Soldotna

When: 6pm-9pm on Oct. 22, 23, 25, 26, 29; Nov. 1 and 2; and 9am-2pm on Nov. 3

Space is limited. Don't delay! Call 262-4910 or visit [www.kpvolunteers.org](http://www.kpvolunteers.org) for more information or to reserve a space.

## ***CERT Volunteer and Networking Opportunity***

***What: An opportunity to tour the KPB Mobile Command Center, network with other CERT volunteers and help with community preparedness outreach.***

***When: September 29th from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.***

***Where: Homer Library Parking Lot***

***If you can help or would like more details, contact Frank Vondersaar ([yondersaar@hotmail.com](mailto:yondersaar@hotmail.com)).***



## ***CERT volunteers stand by to help with Caribou Hills Fire***



Thanks to all the CERTs who were standing by to help with evacuation during the Caribou Hills Fire this summer! Over 20 people agreed to assist if a large-scale evacuation had become necessary. As it turned out, weather conditions and firefighting efforts were enough to turn the fire away from populated areas. Plans were in place, however, to evacuate up to 4,000 people. We deeply appreciate everyone's willingness to serve!

## ***Training and Recent Goings On...***

### **SCHOOL DISTRICT EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING**

In August, our office helped the School District organize emergency response training for the schools. The training sessions combined the School District's Emergency Action Plan (EAP) procedures with sections of CERT training (fire suppression, search and rescue, incident command, and emergency medical triage). Over 30 schools and 700 people participated in eight all-day consolidated sessions. Instructors for the sessions were provided by Kenai, Homer, Seward, Moose Pass and Nikiski Fire Departments, CES, KPB OEM (Mike Huckabay), KPB Risk Management (Dave Gottschalk) – Twenty-seven instructors in all! In addition, each of the law enforcement agencies provided presentations on school lock-down and intruder response.

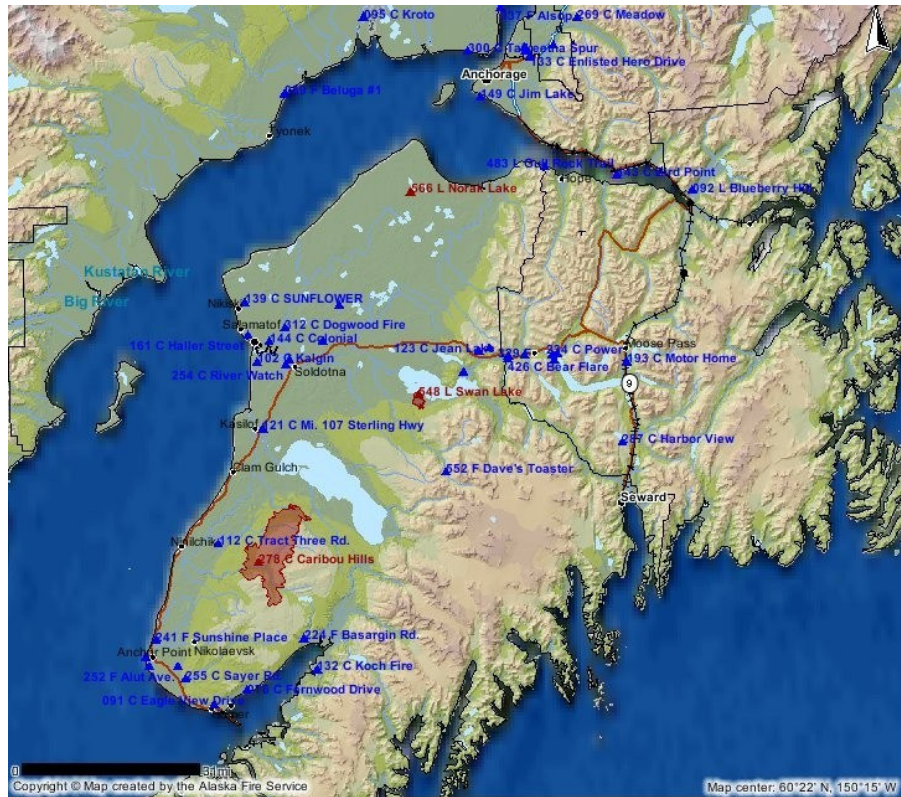
We owe the following group of dynamic instructors a big thank-you for helping organize and deliver the training: Robert Painter, Mike Huckabay, Curt Jacobson, Sam Satathite, John Harris, Abe Porter, Eric Wilcox, Jason Diorec, John Wichman, Pete Coots, Greg Coon, Tony Prior, Justin Horton, James Dye, Lesley Quelland, Mike McConahy, Cameron Carter, Tray Turner, Ian Pennell, Dave Cory Lehl, Dave Gottschalk, Eddie Athey, Chris Cushman, Dan Miotke, Dean Theomke, Josephine Ryan, Andy Fidino. Thanks also to Glen Szymoniak (KPBSD), Scott Walden (OEM Coordinator) and Chiefs: Tilly (Kenai), Mokracek (CES), Painter (Homer), Squires (Seward) and Gregory (Nikiski) for their personal and departmental support. This training was a great example of how leadership, commitment and cooperation can foster disaster readiness in our schools!

## IT WAS TRULY A WILD FIRE SEASON!

This summer over 58,000 acres burned on the peninsula. The Caribou Hills fire was the largest, burning approximately 56,000 acres, 89 cabins and 110 outbuildings. The Swan Lake fire, south of Skilak Lake, burned nearly 2,000 acres. There were also three smaller fires near Ninilchik and Anchor Point, which burned around 33 acres and threatened a number of homes.

If this isn't sobering enough, take a peek at the Alaska Fire Service Map to the right. The blue triangles show the location of fire starts that were recorded this summer. Although the majority were caused by humans, on the evening of July 29th, there were 40 lightning strikes recorded on the peninsula!

For the last couple of years, the Borough's Spruce Bark Beetle (SBB) Mitigation Program has been working on Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs). The first eight plans are complete and available on the KPB SBB website. Core teams have been formed in each community to help review and implement the plans. Upcoming community meetings to work on the plans will be posted on the SBB website.



Work will begin shortly on CWPPs for the southern Kachemak Bay coastal communities (from Bear Cove to Nanwalek). If you have local knowledge to share or are just interested in the planning process, please contact Terry Anderson ([itstea@yahoo.com](mailto:itstea@yahoo.com)). Work on CWPPs for the Sterling, Soldotna, and Funny River areas will also begin this winter. Public meetings for all the plans will be posted on the SBB website under CWPPs: [http://www.borough.kenai.ak.us/sbb/pages/community\\_pages/cwpp.html](http://www.borough.kenai.ak.us/sbb/pages/community_pages/cwpp.html).

**Fall Firewise Roadside Slash Pickup Project** (Aug. 15 to Sept. 30) - Five communities identified slash disposal as a priority in their CWPP. If you live in one of these areas, you can arrange to have slash removed from your property. To sign up or confirm eligibility, call Laura Gough, 907.714.2434 or email: [lgough@borough.kenai.ak.us](mailto:lgough@borough.kenai.ak.us).

**Firewise and Fuel Reduction Home Assessments** - If you live in an area with a completed CWPP, the Division of Forestry can assist you with Firewise education and fuel reduction assessments. Information and appointments are available by contacting Sharon Roesch at the Division of Forestry, 907.260.4260 or email: [sharonr@dnr.state.ak.us](mailto:sharonr@dnr.state.ak.us).

Online Resources:  
[http://www.borough.kenai.ak.us/sprucebeetle/;](http://www.borough.kenai.ak.us/sprucebeetle/)  
[http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry/;](http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry/)  
[http://www.borough.kenai.ak.us/emergency/;](http://www.borough.kenai.ak.us/emergency/)  
[http://www.firewise.org/.](http://www.firewise.org/)

## 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.

*As you complete the NIMS courses, please forward the course completion acknowledgement from FEMA to [glandua@borough.kenai.ak.us](mailto:glandua@borough.kenai.ak.us). Thanks!*

## **KENAI PENINSULA CITIZEN CORPS PROGRAMS**

*Volunteer opportunities abound!*

Although September is National Preparedness Month, being prepared is important every day!

We can use your help planning CERT volunteer networking opportunities, participating in exercises and helping with educational outreach.

Call or email today and let us know how you can help support emergency preparedness in your community  
([glandua@borough.kenai.ak.us](mailto:glandua@borough.kenai.ak.us), 907-262-2098).



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