

Montana Local Citizen Corps Council

*Citizen Corps is a program to Serve Montana
Montana Governor's Office of Community Service*

1301 Lockey Ave, 3rd Floor

P.O. Box 200801

Helena, MT 59620

406-444-9077



What is a Citizen Corps Council?



FEMA

FEMA's grassroots strategy to bring together community leaders to involve citizens in emergency preparedness and resilience.

The mission of Citizen Corps is to harness the power of every individual through education, training, and volunteer service to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues, and disasters of all kinds.

Citizen Corps asks you to embrace personal responsibility to be prepared;

- to get training in first aid and emergency skills
- to volunteer
- to support local emergency responders, disaster relief, and community safety.

What Will Your Citizen Corps Council Look Like?



1. Citizen Corps is meant to fit each communities strengths.
2. Citizen Corps is unique to each community.
3. State components are revised locally to meet individual community needs.

What Does A Citizen Corps Council Do In Montana?

- Match the needs of local first responders (police, fire dept, DES) with the skills and abilities of volunteers to make families, homes, and communities safer from the threats of disasters, crime, and terrorism.
- Educate the public on safety, help citizens take an active role in protecting themselves from harm, and teach citizens what to do in the event of a crisis. (Map your neighborhood and CERT)
- Spearhead efforts to offer citizens new and existing volunteer opportunities, educational information, and training courses.
 - Promote the importance of drills in the home, workplace, and school
 - Capture 'best' practices and report accomplishments

What are Montana Citizen Corps Responsibilities?

Create a Disaster Action Plan for the Community which includes plans for:

Spontaneous volunteers, special needs populations and pet preparedness

Partner with and encourage cooperation and collaboration among local agencies and organizations including:

Fire Department, Police Department, City, County, DES, Faith based groups and Places of worship

Prepare Citizens through:

Educational opportunities, community events, CERT Training, Map your Neighborhood training, first aid

Partner with other Citizen Corps Programs:

Fire Corps, Neighborhood Watch, Medical Reserve Corps and Volunteers in Police Service

Create opportunities for citizens to participate and volunteer

Benefits of Starting A Citizen Corps Council?

Better Prepared Citizens and Communities

- Citizen can take care of themselves, their families and their neighborhoods during times of crisis when emergency personnel may not be available
- Citizen Corps allow first responders to focus their efforts on the most critical, life-threatening situations.
- Volunteer for routine or administration responsibilities during an emergency frees up sworn officers, licensed health professionals, and professional firefighters to focus on immediate emergency response needs
- Citizen Corps help citizens take a more active role in crime prevention, risk reduction and emergency preparedness.

Already have a Citizen preparedness organization in your community?

Communities which already have a committee, group, or agency which function similar to Citizen Corps Councils can be used to set up a council no need to duplicate efforts.

Some of these groups may include:

- *Local Emergency Planning Committee*
- *Public Health Dept Pandemic Planning Committee*
- *Home Owner's Association*
- *Community Volunteers Active in Disaster (COAD)*

Why become a Citizen Corps Council?

- Partnership opportunities with the 5 Citizen Corps Components – which are required to only work with active Citizen Corps
- By becoming a Citizen Corps Council, you have access to regional, state, and national funding and resources.

Who Needs To Be On A Citizen Corps Council?

Need Representatives from the following groups:

- **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND THE FIRST RESPONDER COMMUNITY.**
Law enforcement, Fire, Emergency Medical, and Health Care.
 - **ELECTED OFFICIALS.**
Mayors, City Council, County Commissioners, Sheriffs and Police.
 - **SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**
Red Cross
 - **BUISNESS LEADERS**
- **SCHOOLS OR YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE**
 - **CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE**
Water and Sewer Districts,
 - **MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES**
 - **FAITH BASED LEADERS**
 - **MILITARY**
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS REPRESENTATION**
- **CULTURAL OR LANGUAGE COMMUNITIY**
 - **COMMUNITY CIVIC GROUPS**
Voting Precincts

What Does An Ideal Citizen Corps Council Look Like?

- **Strong leadership within Citizen Corps Council.**
- **Representation and leadership is diverse touching all aspects of the community and able to assess the needs of the community.**
- **Everyone on the council has a clear idea of their role and the Citizen Corps Mission.**
- **State/Local Components are developed and implemented.**
- **Formal links with the five Partner Programs.**
- **Preparedness is practiced and promoted.**



Citizen Corps Council Partner Programs

FIVE PARTNER PROGRAMS

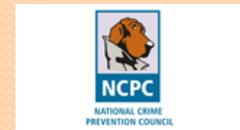


National Affiliate Programs

MULTIPLE AFFILIATE PROGRAMS



One Day's Pay



What is CERT?

Community Emergency Response Team



The Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) are overseen by FEMA.

These very special teams are trained to help first responders in an emergency.

What does that mean?

In a large emergency, emergency responders such as firefighters, will be very busy. They will not be able to help all the people who might need help. This is where CERT comes in. These special teams are trained to help out. They can provide basic first aid, assist with evacuations and other duties that are very important in an emergency.



Map your Neighborhood

“**Map Your Neighborhood**” (MYN) is a program designed to help neighborhoods prepare for disasters and is offered through the Montana Citizen Corps program.

- Learn the “**9 Steps to Take Immediately Following a Disaster**” to secure your home and to protect your neighborhood. It is hard to think clearly following disaster and these steps will help you to quickly and safely take actions that can minimize damage and protect lives.
- Identify the **Skills and Equipment** each neighbor has that would be useful in an effective disaster response. Knowing which neighbors have supplies and skills helps your disaster response be timely, and allows everyone to contribute to the response in a meaningful way.
- Create a **Neighborhood Map** identifying the locations of natural gas and propane tanks for quick response if needed.
- Create a **Contact List** that helps identify those with specific needs such as elderly, disabled, or children who may be home alone during certain hours of the day.
- Work together as a team to evaluate your neighborhood during the first hour following a disaster and take the necessary actions.

For more information please contact the
Citizen Corps Team

- Danielle Shyne dshyne@mt.gov 406.444.9077
- Lori Ward-Brown lbrown@mt.gov 406.444.1718
 - Mikelle Joki mjoki2@mt.gov 406444.1745

