

- Formation of Phoenix Citizen Corps Committee
- CERT 90 Training
- VIPS and COPS Program

- Phoenix Neighborhood on Patrol
- September is National Preparedness month
- Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Arizona

*The Newsletter of the
Phoenix Citizen
Corps Committee
Volume 1 • Issue
June/July 2005*



Phoenix Citizen Corps Committee

On January 20, 2005, the Phoenix Citizen Corps Committee met for the first time. This committee, chaired by Councilman Dave Siebert, will provide oversight for several City of Phoenix volunteer programs that are initiated out of the Police and Fire Departments.

What is the "Citizen Corps Committee"?

After September 11, 2001, President George W. Bush initiated the Citizen Corps. The spirit of Citizen Corps is to unite Americans in the service of volunteering in their own communities.

Citizen Corps Councils exist in hundreds of communities throughout the United States. They exist in public safety agencies, college campuses and private businesses.

Citizen Corps Councils can serve as an "umbrella" organization for other volunteer programs: Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) and FIRECORPS

The CERT Program

Community Emergency Response Team is a training program designed to teach basic disaster survival skills. This training is sanctioned and promoted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

In 1984, the Los Angeles City Fire Department developed CERT as a training program for citizens in preparation for and response to earthquakes. In 1994, FEMA adopted the program and made the training curriculum applicable to all man made and natural disasters.

In 2004 the City of Phoenix Homeland Defense Bureau set in motion the CERT program for the City of Phoenix. Phoenix is one of hundreds of communities nationwide offering CERT training.

CERT training promotes a partnership between emergency services and Citizens of the various communities throughout the city. The goal for CERT instructors is to train neighborhoods, community organizations or workplaces in basic disaster survival skills. A tiered system of training is offered to students that continue with the program.

Tier 1 is an awareness level of CERT training. Tier 2 is additional training and is considered a preparatory step for Tier 3. Tier 3 is the official classification of a student that has been accepted as an official city volunteer through an application process. A criminal background check must also be completed. Tier 3 CERT volunteers are those that may be called upon to respond in the event of a disaster situation. Tier 3 may also be called to deploy by FEMA possibly nationwide in the event of a disaster situation.

Tier 1 CERT training will teach participants to 1) describe the types of hazards most likely to affect their homes and communities 2) describe the function of CERT and their roles in immediate response 3) take steps to prepare themselves for a disaster 4) identify and reduce potential fire hazards in their homes and workplaces 5) work as a team to apply basic fire suppression strategies, resources and safety measures to extinguish a burning liquid 6) apply techniques for opening airways, controlling bleeding and treating shock

7) conduct triage under simulated conditions 8) perform head-to-toe assessments 9) select and set up a treatment area 10) employ basic treatments for various wounds 11) identify planning and size-up requirements for potential search and rescue situations 12) describe the most common techniques for searching a structure 13) use safe techniques for debris removal and victim extrication and 14) describe ways to protect rescuers during search and rescue.

Target audiences include neighborhoods, businesses, faith communities, scouting organizations, school staff and students, clubs and organizations, and amateur radio emergency services.

"CERT 90" Training First of It's Kind in U.S.

The City of Phoenix launched CERT 90 Training on Saturday January 29, 2005. Thanks to the efforts of Councilman Dave Siebert and his staff, the Mayor's Office and the City of Phoenix Homeland Defense Bureau, approximately 90 people attended three CERT classes taught simultaneously on three consecutive Saturdays. The CERT training included 21 hours of combined classroom and hands-on activities such as learning to conduct light search and rescue and basic first aid.

Nationally certified instructors from the Phoenix Police and Fire Departments taught the classes with support from personnel from Phoenix College, and Paradise Valley Community College and the Red Cross.

Participants expressed enthusiastic support for the training and most

expressed an interest in continuing in the tiered training process.

Volunteers in Police Service

Individuals involved in the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) are **indeed very important people!** These folks provide an invaluable service to the Phoenix Police Department performing a variety of duties to support the officers.

VIPS is one of five programs offered under the umbrella of Citizen Corps. In the City of Phoenix, the VIPS program functions under the C.O.P.S. Program (**C**itizen **O**ffering **P**olice **S**upport). Volunteers in the C.O.P.S. Program work under the direction of the Police Employment Services Bureau and play an important role in our city's police operations. C.O.P.S. volunteers work side-by-side with sworn officers in almost every aspect of law enforcement, from administration to investigation.

C.O.P.S. is open to anyone who wants to lend a hand, learn new skills and make new friends. Some of the opportunities available through this program include Motorist Assist Patrol, Data Entry Aide, Alarm Section Clerk, Crime Analyst Assistant, Community Action Program Assistant, Missing Persons Case Assistant, Administrative Aide or Secretary and the Police Academy.

For more information about the **C.O.P.S. Program**, call 602-262-6925.

Phoenix Neighborhood on Patrol – Neighbors helping Neighbors

Phoenix Neighborhood On Patrol has long supported the notion that involved residents are the most effective crime fighters, reporting suspicious activities as they occur. This program allows residents to become more actively involved as partners in crime prevention. They are the “eyes and ears” of the Phoenix Police Department.

The Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol Program began in 1994 as Block Watchers on Patrol. In 1999 the program adopted the name of Phoenix Neighborhood on Patrol. Over 1500 citizens have been trained in observation skills, criminal codes, police procedures and drug recognition through non-confrontational methods.

Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol participants are citizens, not police officers or police department volunteers. They have no powers of arrest beyond that of any private citizen. They are trained for observation purposes only and participate for benefit of their community or neighborhood.

Especially since September 11, 2001, crime prevention is every citizen's responsibility. Some communities in Phoenix already have conducted citizen patrols with success. Providing these patrols often gives people a stronger sense of ownership in their neighborhood, as well as drawing neighbors together in a common cause.

Need more information? Contact the police precinct in which you live, or call 602-495-0440.

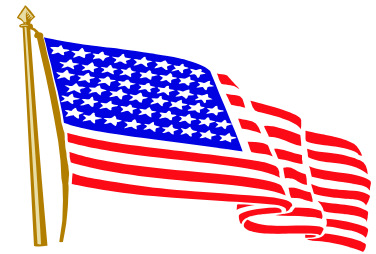


Taking Care of Business

Several local businesses have expressed interest in obtaining CERT Training for Business. Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Arizona, Discover Financial and Desert Sky Mall have requested classes for their security personnel and safety wardens. “Training for businesses make sense, since workplaces function as “neighborhoods” for many citizens during any part of the day,” said Fire Department CERT Program Coordinator Don Peyton.

“For the most part, the training is similar to that taught to the community,” said Officer Doug Burrow, Police Department CERT Program Coordinator. “Some additional training in the form of high rise security and hazardous materials storage is added to fit the needs of those businesses.”

As the City of Phoenix grows to the fifth largest city in America, CERT training needs will increase, both for residential and businesses communities. This presents unparalleled challenges to all aspects of the City of Phoenix Homeland Defense Bureau. Efforts are underway to meet those challenges while still working within budget restraints.



September is National Preparedness Month

September 2005 will be “National Preparedness Month” within the Maricopa County area. There is much to be done during this event and volunteers will definitely be needed for a variety of tasks. More on scheduled events will be available in future issues.

Thanks, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Arizona! -

Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Arizona has agreed to print thousands of copies of CERT training manuals. This donation confirms Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Arizona as a community partner in CERT training. Thanks to this community-minded business for their contributions to the City of Phoenix Homeland Defense Bureau, recognizing the importance of this program.