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Make a difference.

READYColorado E-newsletter

March 2011



### Volunteer Motivates Citizens to Take a Class

When Dennis Moore retired from the Air Force in December 2007, he took on a new role as a volunteer with the Colorado Springs Police Department. During the past three years he's tirelessly devoted up to 120 hours a month delivering crime prevention and disaster preparedness messages to the Sand Creek District's 112 active Neighborhood Watch Programs.

His message is about citizen empowerment; and he encourages people to be involved in their community and to get to know their neighbors. Included in his message to area residents is the importance of being prepared, and stressing that in a disaster you can't assume someone else is going to take care of you.

Pauline Nelson, the CERT (Community Emergency Response Training) Program Manager with the Colorado Springs Office of Emergency Management, knows they're privileged to have a volunteer like Dennis. *"He talks about preparedness everywhere he goes. It's something he embodies with all his heart."*

Nelson recently asked Dennis to spread the word about their 2011 CERT classes; and in his normal fashion he went to work promoting it to the city's more than 820 neighborhood watch captains and in just one week the class had 76 people registered. In addition to filling the January session beyond capacity registrations keep coming and extend all the way into their Fall schedule.

To register for a Colorado Springs CERT program contact Pauline Nelson at **719-385-5950**; but don't wait because with Dennis Moore spreading the word the classes will fill quickly!

### READYColorado, AmeriCorps, and Volunteers of America Team Up to Distribute 500 Disaster Preparedness Kits

Fourteen young men and women spent a Saturday in the "Five Points" area of north Denver on Martin Luther King day with a goal of providing disaster preparedness materials to neighborhood residents. Prior to the outreach, one of the two adult leaders explained to the youth the basics of emergency preparedness, and how difficult it is for low-income residents to think in terms of food storage and 72-hr kits when



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they have to worry about where their next few meals will come from. The package of emergency planning materials provided a "starter kit" and was to be delivered with this message—it doesn't take money to have a good emergency plan. The outreach team also learned what simple 72-hr kits looked like and how those could be put together inexpensively.

When the street team went out, the big question was "how would they be received?" The verbal reports were that they were better received than most had expected. This was partially due to the bag of tools being free and also because most all of the residents at home were insecure about what they would do in an emergency. The pre-briefing and demos for the street team turned out to be very helpful in positioning the youth as "valued experts at the door."

All of the packets were handed out and no materials were returned. Hopefully, there are now 500 Files of Life filled out and hanging on refrigerators in the Five Points area!



### **Springtime Means Snow Melt, Rain, and Flood Potential**

Flooding is a coast to coast threat to the United States and its territories in all months of the year. National Flood Safety Awareness Week is intended to highlight some of the many ways floods can occur, the hazards associated with floods, and what you can do to save life and property.

FEMA Regional Administrator Ken Murphy said *"Flooding is this nation's No. 1 natural disaster. You don't need to live in a mapped floodplain to need flood insurance, and it just doesn't pay to quibble over what side of a line on a flood map one lives on,"* he said in a release. *"The fact is, more than 20 percent of all flood insurance claims are filed in low-to-moderate flood-risk areas, where flood insurance premiums can be a real bargain."*

Citizens can take steps to protect property and financial security before disaster strikes. In addition, many eligible residents qualify for flood insurance, and affordable flood insurance is available. Learn your flood risk. Properties not located within high-risk areas can also flood. Find out your flood risk by entering your address at [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).

### **Watch for READYColorado at Upcoming Events**

Cathy Prudhomme from the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Stephanie Hackett from Aurora Emergency Management recently spent the day talking to students at a Health Fair at Eastridge Elementary School in Aurora. Students learned about Colorado disasters, why a communication plan is important, and got to spin the "disaster" wheel to test their knowledge of disaster preparedness and win prizes. The two will be back talking with more Eastridge students on March 28th.



Here are some upcoming events where you can connect and talk with READYColorado representatives:

- April 8 & 9 @ The Self-Reliance Expo at the National Western Complex
- April 12 @ 9Health Fair at the Village in Centennial
- April 28 @ Public Weather Safety Class in Brighton
- May 7 @ The Furry Scurry

Visit [readycolorado.com](http://readycolorado.com) for more information on upcoming events.



**Denver Urban Area Security Initiative**

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