



Purpose

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

Vision Statement

We believe the goals of the Woodland Citizen Corps Council are accomplished by developing partnerships within the community to provide: 1) public awareness, 2) offering community education and training, 3) response and recovery planning, and 4) resource coordination.

Mission Statement

The Woodland Citizen Corps Council enhances the regions ability to respond to any natural or man-made disaster by harnessing the power of volunteerism.

Guiding Principles

The Woodland Citizen Corps Council supports the following guiding principles.

a. Personal Responsibility

Each individual mitigates the effects of disasters by their own personal responsibility. Seemingly simple actions not only prepare individuals to cope with disaster, but strengthen community ties and reduce demand on services in the aftermath of disaster. Actions each individual can take include:

- Developing household preparedness plans and disaster supply kits,
- Promoting home health and safety practices,
- Implementing disaster mitigation measures, and
- Participating in crime prevention and reporting.

The Council supports personal responsibility by promoting resources that are readily available, such as emergency preparedness guidelines published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

b. Training

Some mitigation measures require more formalized training. The Council supports training by promoting classes in emergency preparedness, response capabilities, first aid, CPR, fire suppression, and search and rescue procedures.

c. Volunteer Service

The Council supports volunteer service by engaging individuals in volunteer activities that support first responders, disaster relief groups, and community safety and public health organizations.



Organization

The WCCC consists of an executive council and three primary committees:

- **Executive Council** – As described in the City of Woodland Municipal Code Chapter 8, section 8-3 (to become an approved); A working Corp Council that shall consist of the following:
 - The mayor, who shall be chair,
 - The director of emergency services, who shall be vice-chair,
 - The assistant director of emergency services,
 - Such chiefs of emergency services as are provided for in the current emergency plan of the City of Woodland Fire Department,
 - Such representatives of civic, business, labor, veterans, professional or other organizations having an official emergency responsibility, as appointed by the director on the advice and consent of the city council.
- **Public Outreach Committee** – educates the public on the mission and goals of the Council.
- **Volunteers Committee** – develops processes that efficiently and effectively manage volunteer resources in all phases of emergency management.
- **Coordination Committee** – implements capabilities that support the mission of the Council.



History

The role of the Council is best understood after considering how emergency volunteerism has evolved. Early in the 20th century, volunteerism was coordinated by organizations such as the American Red Cross and Salvation Army. Major catastrophes spurred volunteerism to organize in response to events.¹ Hurricane Camille in 1969 led to the emergence of the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster. The Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989 spurred non-governmental organizations such as Collaborating Agencies Responding to Disaster and Community Agencies Disaster Relief Effort. The Oakland Hills fire in 1991 led to the development of the California Standardized Emergency Management System and its Incident Command System. The Northridge earthquake in 1994 resulted in a coalition of affiliates creating the Emergency Network Los Angeles.

- ⇒ ARRL – American Radio Relay League
- ⇒ BICEPP – Business and Industry Council on Emergency Planning and Preparedness
- ⇒ CADRE – Community Agencies Disaster Relief Effort
- ⇒ CARD – Collaborating Agencies Responding to Disaster
- ⇒ ENLA – Emergency Network Los Angeles
- ⇒ ICS – Incident Command System
- ⇒ NVOAD – National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
- ⇒ SEMS – Standardized Emergency Management System

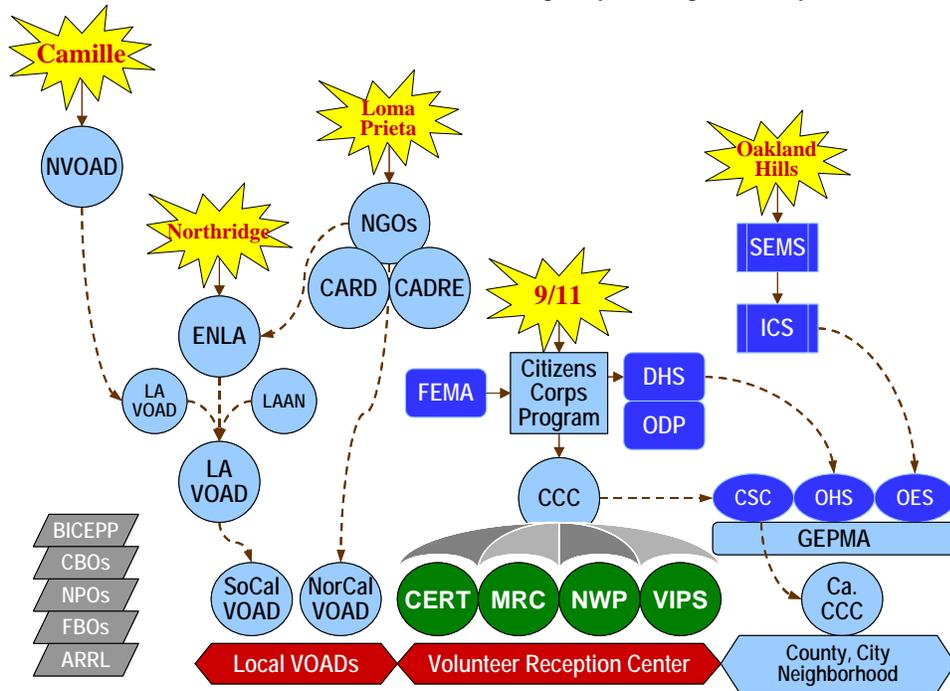


Figure 1. Background History

¹ State of California. "Citizen Corps Councils and VOADs: A Model for Cooperative and Collaborative Relations", Undated, <http://www.csc.ca.gov/cc/ccpublications.asp>



The events of September 11, 2001 put a focus on a different dimension of disaster and the role of emergency volunteer response – terrorist attacks. The Citizens Corps Program stemmed from an effort by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate volunteer resources in the aftermath of “9/11”. Now under the Department of Homeland Security and its Office of Domestic Preparedness, the CCP is the model for Citizen Coordinating Councils.

- ⇒ *CCC* – *Citizen Coordinating Council or Citizen Corps Council*
- ⇒ *CCP* – *Citizens Corps Program*
- ⇒ *DHS* – *Department of Homeland Security*
- ⇒ *FEMA* – *Federal Emergency Management Agency*
- ⇒ *ODP* – *Office of Domestic Preparedness*

While CCCs are modeled after the overall program, they are organized in California under the California Service Corps². DHS-ODP guidance is channeled through the California Office of Homeland Security. SEMS and the ICS are managed by the California Office of Emergency Services. All three elements – CSC, OHS, and OES – work with government emergency planning management agencies to prepare for emergency response.

- ⇒ *CSC* – *California Service Corps*
- ⇒ *GEPMA* – *government emergency planning management agencies*
- ⇒ *OES* – *California Office of Emergency Services*
- ⇒ *OHS* – *California Office of Homeland Security*

In California, CCCs are organized to mirror the layers of the SEMS structure. There are CCCs at the state, county (or operational area (OA)), and city levels. Unlike SEMS, CCCs are also organized at the neighborhood level. This structure supports horizontal integration across government-based organizations.

Each CCC acts as an umbrella organization to key programs, including:

- ⇒ *CERT* – *Community Emergency Response Team*
- ⇒ *MRC* – *Medical Reserve Corps*
- ⇒ *NWP* – *Neighborhood Watch Program*
- ⇒ *VIPS* – *Volunteers in Police Service*

² The Governor’s Office on Service and Volunteerism (GOSERV) was renamed the California Service Corps in August 2004. (<http://www.csc.ca.gov/aboutus/history.asp>)



Accomplishments

1. Organized the Citizen Corps to resemble successful models that have been identified in "Best Practices Programs" as identified by FEMA and establish a working and approved Citizen Corps Council Body by re-establishing the City Disaster Council as described in the City of Woodland Municipal Code Chapter 8, section 8-3 to become an approved and working Corp Council that shall consist of the following:
 - The mayor, who shall be chair,
 - The director of emergency services, who shall be vice-chair,
 - The assistant director of emergency services,
 - Such chiefs of emergency services as are provided for in the current emergency plan of the City of Woodland Fire Department,
 - Such representatives of civic, business, labor, veterans, professional or other organizations having an official emergency responsibility, as appointed by the director on the advice and consent of the city council.
2. Brainstormed a list of the roles, responsibilities, and practices of the first responders, volunteer organizations, and any existing neighborhood organizational structure in the community;
3. Identified the existing activities and resources within our community that support Citizen Corps principles;
4. Identified possible resources to support Citizen Corps, including local private sector support and contributions from foundations and non-profit organizations;
5. Discussed opportunities to build public awareness and to educate the community about Citizen Corps opportunities within our community;
6. Discussed how community volunteers could help or lighten the load of first responders;
7. Identified volunteer groups and opportunities within our community that could assist in reducing risk or that could supplement resources in an emergency;



8. Created a menu of volunteer opportunities in which community residents could easily participate to design volunteer recruitment strategies;
9. Assessed resources within our community that could be drawn on to support volunteerism and public education in our community;
10. Developed a wish list of additional resources that our community might need to support a comprehensive Citizen Corps effort;
11. Developed a Volunteer and Service Program Management Draft Plan by
 - a. gathering internal and external information on current and past volunteer and service programs in the community for use in providing direction in the development of a draft plan,
 - b. acquiring specific information on the requirements needed for development of a successful Volunteer and Service Program Management Plan,
 - c. completing the first draft of the Volunteer and Service Program Management Plan after interviewing, soliciting input and compiling data from local Service and Volunteer Organizations.



Next Steps

Immediate Next Steps (for August 23rd meeting)

Develop a Citizen Corps Strategic Implementation Plan by

- a. gathering external information on current and past Citizen Corps Programs throughout Northern California
- b. Identifying internal information on current Neighborhood Watch Programs, Volunteers in Policing, Medical Reserve Programs and the newly established CERT Program as data for development of a revised Citizen Corps Strategic Implementation Plan. The plan will address the following significant issues:
 - i. Securing funding and development of a budget plan capable of meeting the needs of the Citizen Corp Program,
 - ii. Dedicating staff time toward accomplishing the goals set by the Citizen Corp Council,
 - iii. Changing the culture of the community and the current volunteer organizations to a culture that focuses the separate missions of each organization toward a goal of “working together” as a single-focused volunteer force during times of emergency

(* scroll down to see next table)



Beyond August 23rd

Table 1. Strategic Goals

Goal	Title	Description	Committee
1	Improve Grant Management	Maintain and improve upon grant management skills.	Executive
2	Coordinate Volunteer Management	Prepare and coordinate volunteer resource management plans.	Executive
3	Implement Public Education	Increase public education, outreach and communication efforts.	Outreach
4	Manage Volunteer Resources	Develop processes and tools for managing volunteer resources.	Volunteers
5	Increase Volunteer Skills	Increase skills and capabilities through training and education.	Volunteers
6	Develop Operational Roles	Develop roles for use in emergencies that are realistic, appropriate and achievable.	Coordination
7	Promote Citizen Groups	Help cities, neighborhoods and groups participate in community support programs.	Volunteers
8	Coordinate with Emergency Response Groups	Help develop and maintain emergency response teams and community support programs.	Coordination
9	Coordinate with Support Programs	Encourage participation in community support programs.	Volunteers
10	Coordinate with Reserve Corps	Coordinate with reserve corps and other related programs.	Coordination
11	Coordinate with Local Government	Coordinate with government efforts to develop plans, guidance and programs that enhance, integrate, and modernize emergency volunteer programs.	Coordination
12	Recruit Stakeholders	Coordinate and develop stakeholder involvement in emergency volunteerism.	Outreach
13	Educate Decision-Makers on Volunteerism	Educate decision-makers in all sectors about the need to support emergency volunteerism.	Executive
14	Implement Fund-Raising	Pursue new funding and resource opportunities for emergency volunteer programs.	Outreach