

Friends and Partners,

Our hearts continue to go out to the many that have been affected by the spring storms, tornados and flooding. As we move through hurricane season we will undoubtedly continue to face significant weather events. Our federal and nonprofit partners including FEMA, the State Service Commissions, Hands On, National VOAD members, all of our grantees and the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) have extraordinary disaster response capabilities and have been working tirelessly for many months. I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize the dedication and commitment demonstrated by these extraordinary groups. If you would like to learn more about how you can help visit www.serve.gov or <http://www.fema.gov/rebuild/recover/howtohelp.shtm>

ALABAMA

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Alabama Tornadoes

Severe thunderstorms, winds and massive tornadoes moved through the South on April 27, 2011 and caused significant damage and loss of life.

NEW Stories of Service in Alabama from the Southwest Conservation Corps

When I first found out I was going to Alabama I didn't want to go. I wanted to stay in the Southwest and spend my summer doing trail work.

It turned out to be one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

We at first walked into a mass of confusion. Where do we go? What do we do? Who do we talk to? Who are you? After spending a few days in this state the guidance we had been looking for walked through the door of the Flat Rock Alabama food bank. His name was Dennis Hicks and he told us to meet him outside the radiator shop Monday morning at 8am and to "get ready to work". From then on we spent our time traveling around Jackson an DeKalb county helping the people who we heard needed it. We helped get trees off their property, and to salvage their lumber so they could rebuild again. We picked up the mess of a blown over house. We cut paths back into the shops and sheds that were once a part of their everyday lives. We also worked along side volunteers from all over the country working together to help restore a community. We were welcomed with open arms and smiling faces and overall we made a difference. That is how I spent my month in Alabama.

-Joe Hall, SW Conservation Corps Member

For additional stories visit: <http://sccorps.org/?p=5582&preview=true>

Reported Number of AmeriCorps Members Serving in Alabama to date:

Total number of volunteers coordinated by the Alabama State Commission and All Hands on Disaster: 54,300

Average number of volunteer service hours under the authority of Serve.Alabama: 217,200

Senior Corps: Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

AmeriCorps NCCC Atlantic Region campus

AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Region Campus

Washington Conservation Corps

Southwest Conservation Corps
VISTA
Prevent. Prepare. Respond (American Red Cross – Louisville Chapter)
National Preparedness & Response Corps

Current National Service assignments include:

NCCC Atlantic region Campus

- Jefferson County (Birmingham, AL) – working with ALL Hands in the call center and completing incoming work orders
- Walker County (Jasper, AL) – working with the Walker County LTRC to complete work orders and assessments
- Jackson County – working with local Faith-Based leaders to complete work orders
- RSVP recovery and relief projects are ongoing throughout the state

Tasks include but are not limited to: Debris removal, Warehouse work, Donations management, Volunteer coordination, Supply coordination, Volunteer Reception Centers

Recovery Partners include but are not limited to:

Alabama State Service Commission, FEMA, Hands On Disaster, CitilImpact, Temporary Emergency Services, United Saints Recovery Project, Bay Area Food Bank, United Way

Volunteers can register at 211 or by visiting www.ServeAlabama.gov Donations can be made by visiting www.ServeAlabama.gov (the Commission utilizes Aidmatrix (the National Donations Management System)).

IOWA

Tornados

On April 9, 2011, multiple tornadoes hit Central Western Iowa and caused significant damage.

Flooding

Weeks of relentless flooding have plagued portions of Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri. Forecasts predict that the Missouri River could stay above flood stage until August.

NEW Approximately 170 NCCC members and staff have assisted with disaster cleanup from 100 mph straight winds following a storm that impacted Vinton, Iowa on Monday, July 11th. NCCC members have assisted with debris removal at the Iowa Braille School, Vinton Parks and Recreation and Benton County Conservation.

MISSOURI

Joplin, MO Tornado

On May 22, 2011, a massive EF-5 tornado hit Joplin, MO and caused significant damage, injury, and loss of life.

Total Volunteer Hours served through the AmeriCorps run Volunteer Reception Center: 116,678

Total Volunteer Hours in Joplin: 258,482

Total National Service Members Currently in Joplin: 112

Total NCCC Members to date in Joplin: 130

National Service Programs Represented in Joplin:

Senior Corps: Retired Senior Volunteer Program
Americorps St. Louis (5/23/11-present),

NEW AmeriCorps NCCC North Central Region (July 13, 2011 -)

AmeriCorps NCCC: Denver Campus (5/23/11-present),

AmeriCorps NCCC Pacific Region Campus (6/30/11 – present)

Washington Conservation Corps (5/24/11-present),

Iowa and Minnesota Conservation Corps (5/27/11- present)

HEAL AR: Little Rock, Arkansas (5/27-5/30)

Trail Rangers of St. Louis (5/27/11-5/31/11)

Environmental Corps at American Youthworks-Texas (6/1/11-present)

Northern Arkansas Habitat for Humanity

Harvester's of Kansas City

Missouri Riverway

AmeriCorps Alums

Southwest Conservation Corps

TCCC Hoopa

MONTANA

Flooding

The Governor of Montana signed an executive order on Sunday 5/22/11 declaring a Statewide Emergency due to the flooding across the state. Emergency response personnel and the National Guard mobilized to respond to the needs throughout MT communities. Montana's request for the Presidential Disaster Declaration was approved 6/17/11. Since this time, NCCC has been in conversations with the MT State Program Specialists, the DES Volunteer Coordinator, an RSVP Director in Musselshell County, and the Musselshell Valley Community Foundation, all of whom are working to coordinate response and assistance.

Montana State Commission, AmeriCorps NCCC Pacific Region, Montana Conservation Corps

NCCC assistance has been specifically requested in Musselshell County. Due to the devastating flooding of the Musselshell River in May 2011, there is great need for assistance with clean up. Thus far, 20 to 25 Musselshell County ranchers and residents have requested assistance to restore their homes, out buildings and farmland. The Musselshell Valley Community Foundation (MVCF), a nonprofit organization which serves the upper and lower Musselshell Valley region, is requesting the assistance of an NCCC team to support cleanup efforts throughout the community. Materials, equipment and point of contact will be provided by each landowner/resident with assistance from MVCF members.

RSVP Projects Mobilize Volunteer Leaders in Flood Emergency

Recently retired RSVP Volunteer Ernie Kolar answered the request from South Central Montana RSVP to go to an American Red Cross meeting in Lewistown early this spring. The purpose of the meeting was to build the volunteer force in this very remote area rather than to depend on the Great Falls unit, which is completely inaccessible during winter storms when the road is frequently impassable. Ernie came away from the meeting with a leadership role as Disaster Action Team volunteer and began immediately assessing the community needs and resources. He first identified potential shelters for emergency situations and assessed the readiness of the Red Cross

trailer holding shelter supplies. When he began these tasks he was told that “not much ever happens in Lewistown”. That quickly changed when the spring floods hit the community. Due to torrential rains, water began flowing over the spillway at East Fork Dam and Spring Creek subsequently overflowed its banks, running through the south east end of town filling yards, basements and homes with muddy water and washing away roads, culverts and bridges. Ernie quickly set up an emergency shelter for 25 families that were displaced. He was later called upon after the waters subsided to assess damages to people’s homes. He estimates that he spent over 80 hours responding to this major event – reminding him again that “not much ever happens in Lewistown”.

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When Missoula RSVP put the word out to their volunteers via email, Facebook, and personal networking over 30 trained RSVP volunteers and a large number of other community volunteers immediately responded to be added to an “On-Call” list to help with the flooding emergency.

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Missoula RSVP Task Force leader, Norman Moeller stepped in to cover the Missoula City/County Flood Coordinator duties for two full days June 24th and 25th, when the coordinator had to be gone.

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RSVP Collaborates with AmeriCorps NCCC and Community Partners to Get Things Done

Area II RSVP Director Shirlee Brillhart was instrumental in working with the Tammy Zemliska from the MV Community Foundation to secure the help of 11 NCCC AmeriCorps, redirected from Wyoming to the Musselshell County area to help with flood clean-up efforts from July 2nd through July 11th. Brillhart organized a list of neighbors needing help, housing, and food for the team in this remote frontier farming and ranching area of Montana as they try to rebuild after almost completely being engulfed in water.

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As a result of the recent flooding emergency across most of Montana, the Action for Eastern Montana Senior Companion Program Director, Karen O’Dell organized several community partners on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation to provide a Disaster Training Clinic at three different locations on the reservation including Frazer, Fort Kipp, and Poplar. The 4-hour clinic includes presentations by the National Weather Service, County DES, Tribal Emergency Response & Housing Authority, Fort Peck Tribes Caregivers/Outreach, MSU-Extension, and Aging Services. SCP volunteers are also putting together “Grab & Go” kits for their clients and event participants, with the bags provided by Montana Citizen Corps.

Richland/McCone RSVP

RSVP Staff met with Red Cross to determine how they can help. The Health Department and other organizations will be purchasing generic flood kits to be distributed by volunteers. They will also be running PSAs and information on how to safely clean your flooded basement and other precautions. Links to sites listing flood information will be posted on the Health Department web and facebook page, as well as RSVP’s facebook page. Volunteers will be activated to support efforts.

Area II RSVP

RSVP is contacting the DES Coordinator in Wheatland County to see how they can help. They have already had several requests to help people move belongings to higher ground. Needs identified so far are sandbagging, helping with road blocks, getting information out, and potentially helping those needing to evacuate.

NORTH/SOUTH DAKOTA

Flooding

Spring flooding in the Missouri River caused by snowmelt and heavy rains have prompted evacuations and displaced residents.

NEW Minot, ND NCCC North Central Region and Lutheran Disaster Response

Monday, July 18, 2011

The NCCC North Central Region has deployed 17 members to support the Lutheran Disaster Response team in Minot, ND. The NCCC members will support the Lutheran Disaster Response in Minot, North Dakota. The NCCC members will depart Iowa on July 18 and will assist with the mucking and gutting of homes impacted from 2011 flooding.

NCCC North Central Region and Lutheran Disaster Response

Ten AmeriCorps NCCC members from the North Central Region will depart on Tuesday, June 7 for Williston, North Dakota. They will be working with Lutheran Disaster Response to assist residents that have been impacted by 2011 flooding. Members will clear debris from homes, sanitize and remove sheetrock/paneling as needed.

Senior Corps and AmeriCorps

The Corporation's Senior Corps and AmeriCorps programs are involved in assisting in not only the larger towns mentioned above but smaller communities that line the Missouri River in evacuating and sandbagging their own properties as well as helping others do the same. National service members are operating call centers, assisting at emergency shelters in Pierre, Bismarck, and Minot, ND.

Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions

FGP and SCP volunteers are continuing to serve children and the frail elderly as they are confronted with the problems of flooded homes, etc.

ND RSVP

RSVP volunteers are manning call centers, assisting at shelters in schools, churches and other facilities, providing food preparation and service to volunteers and other tasks as necessary. The Central ND RSVP office in ND state capitol city of Bismarck formalized an agreement with RSVP to facilitate disaster-related volunteer dispatch as the city wanted a one-stop shop to manage that part of the emergency plan. RSVP in Bismarck has a MOU with the city of Bismarck to coordinate all volunteers

North State Commission

Bismarck, ND

North Dakota State Commission staff is helping sandbagging efforts in Bismarck, ND in anticipation of significant flooding along the Missouri River.

TENNESSEE

Tornadoes

Severe thunderstorms, winds and massive tornadoes moved through the South on April 27, 2011 and caused significant damage and loss of life.

NEW Atlantic Region NCCC and Greene County Emergency Management Agency

Greene County, TN

To be deployed: Monday, July 19

A second AmeriCorps NCCC team from the Atlantic Region will be deployed to Greene County, TN to assist with light-medium chain saw work. Members will also separate materials related to complete home/mobile home destruction, recycling of related materials and relocation of materials to within 25 feet of main roads for the Tennessee Department of Transportation to use grapple trucks to remove debris. Additionally, there is a need to educate residents about removing and cleaning of their properties.

Volunteer Tennessee

Greene County, TN

Volunteer Tennessee staff is assisting in recovery work in Greene County, TN in a rural area that was heavily affected.

Memphis AmeriCorps Members

Members are volunteering their assistance with sandbagging, delivering meals, and volunteering at local shelters.

Red Cross Rural Initiative

The state-wide Red Cross Rural Initiative project has generated 91 VISTA-recruited Red Cross volunteers in the Bradley (Cleveland), McMinn, Meigs Polk County region.

Volunteers have received Red Cross training and 22 of them were/are active as a result of the recent tornado activity.

Tennessee Campus Compact VISTAs

Bradley County, TN

Two VISTAs, currently serving with the Tennessee Campus Compact, have been involved in recovery and one VISTA member was asked by local EMA to be the point of contact for the county.

Alexian Brothers-RSVP

Chattanooga, TN

RSVP has several volunteers working in disaster response at the Salvation Army warehouse. The RSVP project is collecting non-perishable food, water, etc.

UTAH

Flooding

Spring flooding along many of Utah's rivers have prompted evacuations and displaced residents.

NEW NCCC Pacific Region and Friends of the Green River PACT

Green River, UT

Currently Deployed

One AmeriCorps NCCC team from the Pacific Region is working in Green River, Utah on the flooding response in Green River. Members are filling and laying sandbags.

NEW HELP US TELL YOUR STORY!

Over the years National Service has established a strong reputation within the disaster services community as a reliable and effective volunteer force. RSVP, NCCC, AmeriCorps and other National Service Participants can be highly effective in times of disaster and have been heavily engaged in supporting human needs efforts with local volunteers who are culturally competent and experienced at human services work.

If a disaster event is occurring within your state – chances are RSVP members and other National Service Members are engaged. To assist us in telling this very important story of disaster response and recovery we ask that you please provide our office—as soon as you are aware:

- The name of the program(s) engaged in disaster service
- The number of members participating
- A general summary of the type of work or activities they are engaged in and include any quantifiable numbers available (number of volunteers registered, food distributed, etc).
- And -- updates to information already provided as you become aware of good human interest stories and/or additional impact information.

Please provide information as it is occurring. Please send your information directly to Kelly DeGraff @ kdegraff@cns.gov and Phil Shaw @ pshaw@cns.gov.

Montana Flooding Resources

DES and National Service Volunteer Community Network Directory (<http://serve.mt.gov/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/DES-and-National-Service-Volunteer-Community-Directory-Updated-5.31.11.pdf>)

Serve Montana Flood Resources (<http://serve.mt.gov/?p=6512>)

The Volunteer Center (<http://volunteer.truist.com/uwyellowstone/volunteer/>) to register as a volunteer with the American Red Cross or Salvation Army

Build Montana (<http://www.mtnonprofit.org/content.aspx?id=2751>) to look for volunteer opportunities

South Dakota Flooding Information

Be Ready South Dakota, Emergency management:

<http://www.breadysd.com/> or call the hotline at 1, 866 446-5324.