

# FEMA Corps Selected Accomplishments

Every year disasters strike throughout the United States resulting in human losses, social problems, economic harm, and environmental damage. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is committed to fortifying its existing disaster workforce. As a result, FEMA partnered with the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) to establish a unit of service corps members solely devoted to disaster preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. The partnership adds an additional 1,600 service corps members annually within AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC). Since its inception, FEMA Corps has achieved a great deal including:

**Hurricane Sandy** is the largest deployment of FEMA Corps teams to date. 128 FEMA Corps teams have been deployed since October of 2012 working to assist Hurricane Sandy survivors in various capacities. Several teams who served in the disaster area immediately after the storm assisted with Access, Inform, and Report (AIR) missions where they responded directly to survivors' needs. Most recently FEMA Corps teams have been working on projects to improve the process in which federal aid applications are reviewed. Since 2012, FEMA Corps teams have assisted Sandy survivors by collecting and distributing over 100,000 gallons of water, answering over 7,000 helpline calls, distributing 22,000 educational materials, and completing 2,700 damage assessments.

A FEMA Corps team was deployed to West, Texas to help residents affected by the **Texas Fertilizer Plant explosion**. The team sent was one of the first groups of FEMA Corps members to implement the Disaster Survivor Assistance iPad program. This program allowed FEMA Corps members to register applicants from their own home or anywhere in the town. FEMA Corps members were able to go door to door to register applicants and inform them of services that were available to help the city recover from the deadly fertilizer plant explosion. The FEMA Corps team registered 22 percent of West's residents in the Disaster Survivor Assistance iPad program.

During the **Colorado floods** in the fall of 2013, ten FEMA Corps teams were deployed to the disaster area. One FEMA Corps team delivered accessibility kits to every Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) and provided training on how to utilize the kit's tools, which are designed for assisting individuals with a disability. The team also conducted an accessibility kit needs assessment and successfully advocated for significantly enhancing the kits.

In the aftermath of the **Colorado floods**, a FEMA Corps team played an instrumental role in surveying damaged roads and bridges. Roadway and bridge assessments do not normally fall under FEMA jurisdiction; however, given the extreme damage and public risk that these roadways posed, FEMA made an exception. One FEMA Corps Member called over 50 local stores and donation centers to procure donations, such as boots and antifreeze for Colorado flood victims. This Corps Member also worked with the Direct Housing Operations and visited 20 potential rental sites for survivors.

AmeriCorps NCCC is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). CNCS improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering.

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FEMA Corps





# FEMA CORPS Selected Accomplishments continued

21 FEMA Corps teams assisted survivors following the devastating **Oklahoma tornadoes** during the spring of 2013. One team aided survivors by using tablets and associated apps to conduct Assess, Inform, and Report (AIR) Mission; on-site registration and status checks; geographic information systems (GIS) tagging; and needs assessments. The team visited 7,139 homes, completed 1,604 status inquiries, provided information to 3,720 people, made 989 referrals to voluntary agencies, and visited 783 businesses.

FEMA Corps members took part in a mass care mission to assist **Alaskan flood survivors**. Members assisted with sheltering and feeding survivors. During their time in Galena, A FEMA Corps team operated laundry services for 554 loads of laundry, distributed 5,779 meals to survivors, provided 575 meals to volunteer rebuilders, created 216 reports and documents, moved 500 pounds of materials and supplies, and managed daily operations at up to 4 shelters. FEMA Corps members additionally helped with many clean-up projects that helped beautify the town of Galena, AK

A FEMA Corps team assisted with the Incident Management Assistance Team pilot training session at FEMA's Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, AL. The team supported field exercises and simulations by formulating scenarios and facilitating exercise messaging. The team also assisted in the completion of the academy, final paperwork, and future planning materials. The team's service at the Center for Domestic Preparedness **will better prepare America for future disasters**.

While stationed at FEMA's headquarters, a FEMA Corps team prepared closeout paperwork valued at **\$5mil** that had previously been granted to states for Disaster Unemployment and Crisis Counseling. Teams serving at FEMA's Washington, DC headquarters have re-launched the FEMA Connect program, which is designed to prepare 14-18 years old for disasters. FEMA Connect's aim is to better enable young adults to help themselves, their families, and their communities in the event of a disaster. A FEMA Corps team assisted the Personal Property Accounting office at FEMA headquarters in Washington, DC. The team evaluated computers and cellphones and classified equipment no longer in working condition. The team also identified equipment to be **donated to a local school**.

FEMA Corps

## FEMA Corps Selected Accomplishments Since 2012

- ★ 19,500 locations tagged using geographic information systems (GIS)
- ★ Over 18,000 individuals provided with food and/or water
- ★ Over 29,000 meals served in disaster areas
- ★ Over 2,600 people assisted at mass care facilities
- ★ 30,000 registration or helpline calls answered
- ★ 10,000 resources identified
- ★ 164 shelter sites assessed
- ★ 1,000 training, instruction, and other materials developed for an existing activity

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