

April 2012

Emergency Preparedness Pointers

Volunteer For Training

April 15-21 is National Volunteer Week. This week is dedicated to encouraging, supporting and joining the volunteer organizations that help make our community a great place to live. There are several volunteer opportunities that support disaster preparedness, response and recovery. Volunteering with these groups provides mutual benefits. First, individuals can contribute their unique skills to the benefit of the community before, during and after a disaster. Second, they can learn new skills through free training. Volunteers are trained in a variety of areas that will make them not only more useful to the group, but also better prepared personally. Trained volunteers can provide support to first responders before, during and after a major event. They also provide shelter and food to those in need and help restore and improve the community post-disaster. Here are some examples of organizations that assist communities when needed.



SKYWARN
WEATHER.GOV®

Modern computer models help the National Weather Service predict and track weather events. However, trained weather spotters are still an important part of weather observation and warnings. [Weather Spotter](#) training is free; the next class in Ada County will be:

When: Wednesday, April 25, 2012 from 7pm to 9pm

Where: Public Safety Building, 7200 Barrister Drive, Boise. Meet in the Lobby no later than 7pm. Class will be held in the Ada County Emergency Operations Center.



**American
RedCross**

The American Red Cross is active in many aspects that provide support to communities not only during a disaster, but also in the day-to-day needs. Red Cross volunteers receive a broad array of training that can include CPR, first aid or shelter management. They are a vital part of any disaster response and always in need of more volunteers. For more information go to: redcrossidaho.org



Idaho Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (IDAVOAD) is an umbrella organization composed of a variety of charitable agencies. VOAD functions include animal control, clean up, child care, building repair, clothing, communication, counseling, disaster welfare inquiry, damage assessment, financial assistance, food, human relations, mass care, sheltering, bulk distribution, transportation, volunteer staffing, and warehousing. Many people already belong to a group that has a disaster branch within the VOAD.

For more information go to: idavoad.org



Citizen Corps is a Federal program that partners groups together for both daily and disaster operations. In Ada County that includes the Medical Reserve Corps, Neighborhood Watch, Volunteers In Police Service and Community Emergency Response Teams. Links and contact information for these groups can be found at: accem.org/citizencorps



Animals need food and shelter everyday and especially after a disaster rips through a community. The Idaho Humane Society (IHS) provides these much needed services both daily and in times of emergency. For information on how to become a volunteer with IHS call (208) 331-8553 or go to: idahohumanesociety.org



**IDAHO
MOUNTAIN
SEARCH AND
RESCUE UNIT
(IMSARU)**

IMSARU is an all volunteer organization that is dedicated to saving lives through search, rescue and mountain safety education. They conduct operations throughout the year in and around Ada County. For information on training and volunteering with them go to: imsaru.org

To all those who volunteer, thank you!



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