

Macomb Township Fire Department

Fire Safety Tips

March 2009



What is Fire Corps?

In 2002 the USA Freedom Corps was created in an effort to foster a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility, building on the generous spirit of the American people. One of the initiatives of USA Freedom Corps is Citizen Corps. Citizen Corps is an initiative under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to help coordinate volunteer activities that will make our communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to any emergency situation. It provides opportunities for people to support first responders and participate in a range of measures to make their families, homes, and communities safer from the threats of crime, terrorism, and disasters of all kinds.

Citizen Corps is comprised of five programs:

USAonWatch – Neighborhood Watch

Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

Fire Corps

These organizations work to create valuable resources and create programs that will bring together community members and emergency service departments to assist them with non-emergency tasks. Their work is designed to help

emergency service departments be more effective and efficient. Citizen Corps activities are coordinated at the local level by Citizen Corps Councils.



Photo by Claudette Ginter



A benefit that Fire Corps provides is the opportunity for community members to volunteer and assist fire departments by performing non-emergency tasks and roles. This enables department members to focus on emergency response and training. Engaging citizens may also allow departments to increase the services they offer, such as enhanced fire safety education programs. In return, citizens gain a greater understanding of the fire and emergency services and become better prepared to handle their own emergencies as well as those of their neighbors.

Fire Corps members also act as advocates for the fire and emergency services in the community. The types of tasks available for Fire Corps members are limited only by the needs of the department and the imagination of the people involved. Fire/EMS departments seek a variety of skills and try to match the talents and interests to an appropriate assignment.

Nationally there are almost 900 registered programs. Even if a department already has a citizen volunteer program in place, it can benefit by registering a Fire Corps program. Registering with Fire Corps allows the department to use the nationally recognized Fire Corps name, opens the program up to increased funding opportunities, grants and gain access to using all of Fire Corps' resources and materials without having to make modifications.

If a department wants to start a Fire Corps program, the Fire Corps national office has created a myriad of resources to help start, market, maintain, and expand a department's efforts to generate more community support through Fire Corps. These include resource guides, training and evaluation materials, public service announcements, complimentary newsletters, and promotional materials. Access these resources the national website.

In addition, Fire Corps has created a network of State Advocates to assist in starting and implementing a Fire Corps program. These State Advocates serve as the point of contact to assist departments and programs in their assigned geographic area. Sgt. Dwayne Thompson of Macomb Township Fire Department has been appointed the Michigan Fire Corps State Advocate over the state's 30 registered programs.

Macomb Township Fire Corps

Ed Buchanan-President of ISFSI,
Karen Marsh-FEMA Acting
Director of the Community
Preparedness Division, Sarah Lee-
Acting Fire Corps Director,
Dwayne Thompson-Macomb
Township Fire Corps program
captain, John Halsey-Macomb
Township Fire Corps # 24, Tracey
Kaye-Macomb Township Fire
Corps # 33



Since its inception in April 2007, the Macomb Township Fire Department has had a measure of success. The program has been awarded the President Volunteer Service Award and the Fire Corps Award of Excellence as the top program in the nation.

What do they do for the community?

Macomb Township Fire Corps Citizen Advocate Volunteers are selected through an application, interview and background check process. They meet every month for business and training. As volunteers they are free to decide how involved and when they want to volunteer their time.



Photo by Claudette Ginter

Some of the jobs they perform include:

- Fire Safety Public Education
- Teach CPR
- Public Service Announcements
- Rehab on Emergency Scenes
- Photography and Department Historian
- In-station Volunteer Opportunities
- Participate in Public Relation Events
- Smoke Detector Installation
- Emergency Preparedness Training

There is always an active recruiting effort to add to the number of members and programs in the state. Now more than ever, our country needs us to stand up and do more to give back to our communities.

For additional information –

National Fire Corps website: www.firecorps.org

In the U.S. call: 1-800-FIRE LINE

Members of the Fire Corps National Advisory Committee



Reference information provided by National Fire Corps and Macomb Township Fire Corps