



PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS INC. is to support and serve as the official sponsoring agency for all PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS Citizens Corps groups Commonwealth wide, CERT and related programs to best harness the power of every individual through education, training, and volunteer service to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues, and disasters of all kinds by serving as support to emergency response units.

MOTTO

“The PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS Train Together; Respond Together, Support Together”

GOALS

The PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS have been developed because of the need for a well-trained civilian emergency work force. The PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEER teams will assist local government by responding during disaster situations where the number and scope of incidents may have overwhelmed conventional emergency services.

To form good working relationships with county Emergency Management agencies as well as other government officials and agencies (County Commissioners, Sheriff’s Offices, local police, fire and ambulance departments etc.) to form a cohesive county Citizens Corps Advisory Council. These Councils will identify the training path as well as any needed special training. These various trainings can then be given by the Pennsylvania Volunteers or one of our certified affiliate organizations, so that the local area volunteers might best be equipped to serve as support for all the counties first responder agencies.

The ability of the community to effectively recover from the devastating effects of a terrorist act or disaster requires the active participation, planning, and cooperation of all levels of the population. The fundamental responsibility for preparedness still lies with every individual

The PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS will;

- Actively work to develop the 6 areas identified by FEMA for effective community response
 - 1) Community emergency response team (CERT)
 - 2) Fire Corps
 - 3) National neighborhood watch program (NWP)
 - 4) Medical reserve corps (MRC)
 - 5) Search and Rescue Corps
 - 6) Ministry in Action
- Actively recruit and vet volunteers to fill key positions
- Create effective communication programs* Provide training related to the Mission Statement under the direction of FEMA, PEMA and the local EMS, Police, Fire, Medical professionals and any other professionally organization recognized by the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD)

- As the official sponsoring agency for all Pennsylvania Volunteers Citizens Corps groups the Pennsylvania Volunteers Inc. has administrative and oversight on all training of the volunteer teams and personnel for use by official emergency first responders at the local, state and federal level. This includes but is not limited to the 6 areas listed above.
- Provide opportunities for Law Enforcement, Fire and Emergency Medical Services employees to interact with the citizens they serve
- Create databases of qualified volunteers that can assist in a disaster
- Allow direct input to elected/appointed officials
- Develop a public education program in support of the Mission Statement
- Allow individual volunteers to become subject matter experts and conduct

RESPONSIBILITIES

The PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS will under the direction of the activating agency;

- Assist with community recovery in times of disaster
- Promote citizen self-sufficiency following a major incident
- Public (Adult and Child) education for home emergency preparedness
- Assist in the development and training of CERT teams for communities, business, industry, education centers etc. This includes but is not limited to the 6 areas listed above.
- Streamline communications with professional emergency personnel in times of disaster
- Render and/or summon assistance for the victims of a disaster
- Facilitate damage assessment of buildings/homes
- Encourage and assist with citizen and business disaster preparedness
- Coordinate and help establish Shelter management
- Assist with Citizen and or Traffic Control
- Support City sponsored events
- Aid and assistance with Point of Distribution (POD) activities
- Coordinate and work in concert with all local, state and federal Emergency Management agencies as well as any other professional organizations recognized by the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD)
- Search & Rescue through training and being available to first responders when called upon