



# PRESS RELEASE

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## 2011 FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Awards Honor St. Clair County, Michigan

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced that St. Clair County, Michigan is the recipient of a 2011 FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Award for Innovative Use of Technology as well as an Honorable Mention for Outstanding Local Citizen Corps Initiatives. The awards go to Citizen Corps of St. Clair County and the St. Clair County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The Individual and Community Preparedness Awards recognize the innovative practices and achievements of organizations and individuals that work to make our communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to manage any emergency situation.

This year's winners were selected from across 36 States, as well as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The applications reflected the full breadth of the Whole Community, with submissions from faith-based, tribal, non-profit, private sector, and community-based organizations, as well as individuals.

Citizen Corps of St. Clair County has been honored for its "Be Ready St. Clair County" Public Preparedness Campaign that focuses on FEMA's Ready message "Get a kit. Make a Plan. Be Informed." At the recommendation of the local Citizen Corps Council, the St. Clair County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management created an interactive website, [www.BeReadyStClairCounty.org](http://www.BeReadyStClairCounty.org), as well as Facebook, Twitter, and Youtube pages where they can interact with residents about preparing for disasters and for alerting purposes during emergency situations. The council was also recognized for its first annual Video and Ad Contest and the use of video and audio public service announcements on the radio and before movies at the local theatre.

Jeffrey Friedland, Director of the St. Clair County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management commented, "This is a true reflection of the public-private partnerships that exist within St. Clair County. Preparedness must be a total team effort to protect the lives of our county residents."

Jodi Simpson, Citizen Corps Council Member and Planner for the St. Clair County Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office, will join other honored guests at a FEMA-hosted discussion in Washington, D.C. to further recognize their achievements.

The FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Division announced awards in the following categories:

- CERT
- Citizen Corps Council (Local)
- Citizen Corps Council (State)
- Drills/Exercises/Events
- Faith-Based Programs
- Public Health
- Use of Technology
- Awareness Campaign
- Collaborative Partnerships
- Individual/Community Preparedness Hero
- Training/Education
- Whole Community
- Youth Preparedness

Winning applications demonstrated remarkable innovation and creativity in preparing their communities. Others were exemplary in their ability to train and educate community member. Many of this year's winners also distinguished themselves by bringing together the whole community in emergency preparedness. A complete list of this year's winners, including descriptions and those applicants that received honorable mentions in each category, is available at: <http://www.citizencorps.gov/councils/awards/2011/awardwinners2011.shtm>.

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