

Windsor woman's public service efforts honor Hurricane Katrina's fifth anniversary

With the fifth year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina approaching, one local resident is working in communities devastated by the 2005 disaster. Kristine Emily Morse, of Windsor, is serving with a team of AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) members to support the rebuilding efforts of New Orleans. As assistance is further drawn from hurricane relief work due to the oil spill and other natural disasters across the nation, NCCC members like Morse continue to provide necessary support in the Gulf, five years onward.

Morse, along with her team, is in the middle of a six week project deployment working with The Saint Bernard Project in the New Orleans area. Together the team is leading volunteers and doing other various jobs including helping rebuild houses for people who are still displaced after Hurricane Katrina.

"Working with The Saint Bernard Project has been eye opening. I didn't realize so many people are still without homes five years after the hurricane. It's an honor to be part of the effort to rebuild. I have learned so much and have met so many amazingly wonderful people!" said Morse.

Based at the NCCC Atlantic Region campus in Perry Point, Maryland, Morse is one of 219

young people pledging to perform 10 months of public service throughout the country as part of the 16th class of NCCC. Morse has already served with NCCC for seven months and will continue to serve until she graduates from NCCC in November.

Through an inter-agency agreement with FEMA and arrangement with the American Red Cross, NCCC members have responded to every national disaster since the program was established. Since Hurricane Katrina, NCCC members from all campuses have served more than 2.7 million hours in the Gulf Coast on over 1040 relief and recovery projects, assisting approximately three million people.

AmeriCorps NCCC is a leadership program for young people ages 18 to 24. In exchange for completing 1,700 hours of service during a 10-month term, these young people receive an education award of over \$5,000, plus a living stipend, housing and more. AmeriCorps programs are administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency. Interested applicants and project sponsors are encouraged to learn more by visiting www.americorps.gov/nccc or calling 1-800-942-2677.



HOW TO TREAT A BURN

Treating a burn begins with stopping the burning process. Cool the burned area with cool running water for several minutes.

If an ambulance is coming, continue running water over the burned area until the ambulance arrives.

Victims with burns to the following areas need emergency medical assistance (call 911): face, hands, feet, genitalia.

Mild burns with reddened skin and no blisters may be treated with a topical burn ointment or spray to reduce pain.

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- Electrical cords are in good condition
- Appliances and lights are plugged into separate electrical outlets
- All smoke alarms work when tested and have fresh batteries
- All escape routes are clear of clutter and easily accessible (designate two ways out of every room)
- Escape ladders are available near second floor windows
- Curtains and other things that can burn are away from the stove. Windows are not stuck closed.
- Portable space heaters are off when not in room and at bedtime and placed 3 feet away from anything that can burn
- The clothes dryer has a clean vent and filter (no lint build up)
- All extension cords are used safely
- The furnace has been inspected in the past year
- The chimney has been inspected and cleaned in the past year
- Teach children how to use 9-1-1
- Teach children STOP, DROP AND ROLL
- Practice your escape plan twice per year
- Teach children "Once out, stay out"

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