



BRACE YOURSELF

Be Ready Alliance Coordinating for Emergencies



BRACE Annual Meeting Update

On June 29, BRACE held its annual meeting at First Baptist Church in downtown Pensacola. Speakers at the meeting were Dr. Steven Picou, Professor of Sociology from the University of South Alabama; Dr. Doug Zimmerman, President of VisionLink; Escambia County Commissioner and Chairman Grover Robinson; Pensacola City Council Member P.C. Wu; and Escambia County Chief of Emergency Management John Dosh.

Missed the Annual Meeting? Click here to watch online!!

Councilman Wu, Commissioner Robinson, and Chief Dosh each gave an update on the local response to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. Dr. Zimmerman spoke about the community resource management systems created by VisionLink and how those systems have been utilized in times of crisis to create community-based partnerships and better connect needs and assets for individuals and families. Dr. Picou, who has studied the Exxon Valdez oil spill, spoke on the types of economic, social and psychological impacts experienced in the communities affected by the Valdez and how that information relates to the current and future impact on our community from the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Dr. Picou explained the effects that should be expected in our community beyond the economic disruptions. The mental health of individuals and the stability of our families is also at stake.

The impact of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill is still unfolding. Its effects will be felt by our community for years to come, and will require a resolve and a resilience our community typically reserves for hurricane recovery. Dr. Picou recommends *The User Friendly Guide Book For Technological Disasters*, an important resource available online at pwsrccac.org. For more information on Dr. Picou and his research, visit his website at stevenpicou.com.

The BRACE Annual Meeting, including Dr. Picou's and Dr. Zimmerman's presentations, can be seen in its entirety on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com) courtesy of WSRE-TV, PBS for the Gulf Coast.

Governor Crist Names Brunie Emmanuel as Point of Light



BRACE's Volunteer Leader Brunie Emmanuel was recognized in July by Governor Charlie Crist as the Governor's Point of Light for volunteerism.

"Brunie's service has not only prepared countless Floridians for times of disaster, his service has brought prompt relief in times of need as well," said Governor Crist. "I applaud his outstanding leadership in the safety and preservation of Florida's citizens and environment."

Brunie Emmanuel is the leader of the BRACE programs & services team, which implements programs and procedures to reduce loss of life, injury, property damage, environmental impact and economic loss due to disaster. Recently, he led more than 350 volunteers in a pre-impact cleaning of the beaches of Perdido Key and Johnson beaches, including the National Seashore. He has also facilitated the efforts of more than a dozen organizations to meet the behavioral, physical, case management, direct assistance, volunteer, and public information needs of those affected by the BP oil spill.

Emmanuel also participates in the Poverty Solutions Program, Escambia VISTA Coalition, and Community Database Solutions development. The Governor's Point of Light Award recognizes Florida residents who demonstrate exemplary service to the community.

Helping Children Cope with Disaster



The Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill is now affecting Florida's Gulf Coast, and many adults and children are showing signs of distress. To help children deal with their emotions concerning the oil spill, Lutheran Services Florida, in partnership with the Florida Department of Children and Families and other local sponsors, will provide a therapeutic camp experience.

Camp Beyond the Horizon will address the educational and emotional needs of children affected by the disaster. It is specifically designed for children in kindergarten through sixth grade, and will allow children to process their experiences and grief in a safe, supportive, caring atmosphere that also offers fun and recreation. Each camp will last one week and will be held in churches and community centers. There is no cost to families for children to participate. **The first four camps are scheduled in Pensacola as follows:** July 26-30: Grace Lutheran Church; July 26-30: St. Paul Lutheran Church; August 2-6: Grace Lutheran Church; August 16-20: St. Luke Methodist Church. For updates, visit lsfnet.org. To register your child, call (850) 453-2772 or email jcochran@lsfnet.org.

Calendar of Events

Don't Miss It!
Youth Preparedness Expo (YEP)
September 25, 2010 • 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mark Your Calendars:

CERT Training – Tuesdays or Thursdays beginning August 3rd and 5th, 6 - 9 p.m., Bayview Senior Center

YEP! Youth Emergency Preparedness Expo
Saturday, September 25, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Bayview Park

Prepare, Pensacola – Hurricane Preparedness Workshop for African-American Communities
Saturday, September 18 – Time and Location TBD
Call BRACE for more information.

Recurring BRACE Meetings:

BRACE Homebound Committee Meeting –
First Wednesday of each month • 10 a.m.;
United Way Building

BRACE Executive Committee/Board of Directors Meeting – Fourth Wednesday of each month
7:30 a.m.; United Way building or Baskerville Donovan building

BRACE Preparedness/Mitigation Committee Meeting – First Thursday of each month • 8 a.m.;
United Way building

BRACE Programs and Services Leadership Meeting – Second Thursday of each month
7:30 a.m.; United Way building

BRACE Marketing Committee Meeting –
Third Thursday of each month • 4:30 p.m.
United Way building

BRACE CERT Sub-Committee Meeting –
Fourth Friday of each month • 12 p.m.;
Location varies

Call Maralee at 444-7135 for details and updates.

Contact Us

BRACE welcomes your calls and emails. We can be reached at (850) 444-7135, or by email at BRACE@BeReadyAlliance.org.

Visit us at BeReadyAlliance.org for more tips and facts to help prepare you and your family in case of an emergency.

Planning for Recovery from the Oil Spill

On July 1, United Way of Escambia County and BRACE convened a meeting of agency representatives to begin planning for the long term recovery of our community from the impact of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. Led by Jean Norman of United Way of Escambia County and BRACE's Programs and Services team leader Brunie Emmanuel, this Health and Human Service Oil Disaster Recovery Team will work together to develop and implement a recovery plan that focuses efforts in the most effective way in order to achieve and enhance our community's resilience in the face of this new challenge. For more information about the team, or how you can participate, email brace@bereadyalliance.org.



Are You Ready for an Emergency? YEP!



On September 25, 2010, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., BRACE will host its first Youth Emergency Preparedness Expo (YEP!) at Bayview Park in Pensacola. The event is free and open to the public. YEP! knows that "Kids save lives too" so the event will focus on educating kids from kindergarten through twelfth grade in their roles before,

Are you prepared for an emergency? After this fun-filled day at the park with BRACE, kids and parents will answer, "YEP!"

during and after an emergency. Join BRACE for a day of fun activities, where the whole family can learn and try new skills. Activities include a full-scale water rescue exercise by the Coast Guard; interactive games from Police, Fire and Hazmat trainers; water safety demonstrations; rescue training skills appropriate for all ages; a student talent competition; pet activities and more! Adults – don't feel left out! A special preschool section will teach parents and caregivers how to prepare for an emergency with infants and young children. Adults will also learn home mitigation techniques as well as tips on preparing for an emergency when you have pets. Bring your dog along for the day – YEP! is a pet friendly event.

New CERT Training Begins in August

New CERT classes begin August 3rd and 5th at the Bayview Senior Center in Pensacola. Classes are free! Choose either Tuesday or Thursday evenings, from 6 to 9 p.m., and join us for eight weeks of training that will include disaster preparedness, fire suppression, disaster psychology, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, bioterrorism, and a disaster simulation exercise.

Classes will also tour the Emergency Operations Center. To register, call Peggy Armstrong at (850) 444-7046, email Peggy at cervista@bereadyalliance.org, or register online at escambiacert.samariteam.com. CERT training is open to anyone ages 12 and over. Class space is limited, so register today! If you are interested in starting a CERT Team at your workplace or place of worship, training is free! Call Peggy at (850) 444-7046. Additional information about CERT can be found online at citizencorps.gov/cert.