

FY18 Red Cross Liaison Report

Craig Ogilvie, Nov 2016

Need:

- Red Cross disaster preparation is vital for the safety and well-being of our community.
- Red Cross provides important services for families of armed service personnel and returning armed service personnel.

Strength of Program

Internationally, nationally and in the State of Iowa, Red Cross has tremendous assets that it brings to a community in times of greatest need. The reorganization in the past few years has allowed for resources to get to needed locations faster and easier. The staff of Red Cross are energetic and committed to their work. Currently Red Cross has 27 active volunteers that live in Story County and 5 volunteers who are in the onboarding process. Angie Jewett, Kim Linduska and Anne Cooper, VP Sammons Financial Group, serve on our Board of Directors. Both Kim and Anne live in Story County and Angie works at ISU. Red Cross works closely with the county's Emergency Management Coordinator and is active in the Story County Coalition for Disaster Recovery. Red Cross is engaging the ISU community. Nationally, Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity has designated the Red Cross as their charity of choice. Iowa Red Cross is working with the local ISU chapter and CyServe to host a military card signing.

Weakness of Program

Training of local volunteers seems to still be an area that could be increased. Of the 27 volunteers in Story County only 4 are characterized as "disaster responders". While the value of decentralization is that disaster responders can come from anywhere if Story County has an emergency, there is likely to be more capacity in the county. Especially with veterans studying and working at ISU, plus major medical facilities, DOT, and construction expertise in the county. The sense of the county's Emergency Management Coordinator was that after a recent fire most of the Red Cross volunteers were from outside the county. Red Cross has completed a Volunteer Needs Assessment this past year for the Iowa Region and determined that they would like to recruit 3 – 5 volunteers in Story County. A positive step is that Dena Howard, the "Service to the Armed Forces" Red Cross staff member, has just connected with Jathan A. Chicoine at Iowa State's campus who serves as the Veteran's Service Coordinator. This relationship is important in both directions.

General Assessment

Community support for Red Cross is important as they continue their reconfiguration since disaster preparation is vital for the safety and well-being of our community. The service delivery risks in Story County are single/multi-family fires; I-35 closure due to blizzard and flooding.

Future Outlook

- Increase training for Story County volunteers, potentially using the talent and experience of professions in Story County, as well as veterans connected to ISU or ROTC cadets as they have a passion to serve. This model has worked at UNI.
- Continue to build on community partnerships/ active relationships with RSVP, Volunteer Center of Story County and other entities that benefit the community and the Red Cross.
- Red Cross has expressed a concern that the amount of accounting work to be paid from ASSET is large. Since much of the ASSET Red Cross request is for small fraction of Iowa-wide salaries, rather than direct service (which for emergencies is hard to predict,) is it possible for funds from ASSET funding agencies to be reimbursed on an automatic schedule?