



PIMA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
3950 S. COUNTRY CLUB, Ste. 100 ● TUCSON, AZ 85714

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PIMA COUNTY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE

Tucson, Arizona – September 22, 2008 – In support of September as National Preparedness Month, a disaster preparedness volunteer and shelter management exercise will be held in Pima County on Saturday, September 27, 2008, beginning at 7:00 am.

The full-scale exercise is based on the need to shelter residents of an independent living facility evacuated due to an emergency. An actual evacuation of this type would require providing resources for immediate sheltering, feeding, and basic medical care for the displaced individuals. More than 100 volunteers from Citizen Corps and other community organizations are expected to participate.

The focus of the exercise is using pre-credentialed and trained volunteers to manage a mass care shelter. Additional volunteers, needed to assist in operating a shelter for extended periods, will be recruited and provided with just in time training. The shelter will be based on the American Red Cross model and located at Desert Diamond Casino on Pima Mine Road and I-19.

Volunteers for the shelter from Pima County, Santa Cruz County, and Cochise County will be coordinated through a Volunteer Reception Center managed by the Volunteer Center of Southern Arizona. The reception center will be located at the Abrams Public Health Center, 3950 S. Country Club Road. "The goal of the exercise is to develop disaster ready volunteers," said Tim Siemsen, Exercise Director.

Exercise participants include the Pima County Citizen Corps Council, Pima County Health Department, Pima County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Pima Health System, Southern Arizona VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters), regional response partners, and local faith and community based organizations.

For more information on volunteering or Citizens Corps log onto www.pimahealth.org or call 520.243.7750

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