

ICP AWARDS

OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL
AND COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

CONGRATULATIONS – 2016 ICP AWARD WINNER

THE HALTER PROJECT

Awareness to Action



Tim Manning, FEMA Deputy Administrator for Protection and National Preparedness

HALTER at the White House

On September 13 & 14, HALTER was presented with an Individual and Community Preparedness Award in the Awareness to Action category, and, Honorable Mention as a Community Preparedness Champion. As guests of FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security, we joined 19 other honorees from around the country in Washington, DC for 2 days of exciting, inspiring activities. We also shared the spotlight with the 6 groups receiving the “Building Resilience with Diverse Communities” (BRDC) Awards, which recognize the enormous contributions of faith-based organizations. The interchange between our groups was powerful and eye-opening.

The adventure began with the award ceremonies in The White House, where each program was introduced by a distinguished panel of federal officials. Afterward, honorees participated in the first of several Q&A panels and round-table sessions with Tim Manning, FEMA Deputy Administrator for Protection and National Preparedness, Helen Lowman, FEMA Director of Community Preparedness, and Josh Barnes, Disaster Recovery Coordinator, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Over the course of two days, we had the opportunity to meet with top officials from FEMA, the American Association of Counties, the International Association of Fire Chiefs (the “chief Chief”!), FEMA External Affairs, American Red Cross, and other federal agencies and policy-makers. Activities included intimate breakout sessions with leaders in fields specific to our local needs and challenges. FEMA leaders plied us with questions about our programs and initiatives, methods, and ideas. Each program is chosen for its value to community leadership across the country.

The Awareness to Action Award “is presented to an individual or organization for the effective use of outreach and messaging techniques not only to raise awareness about hazards and disaster preparedness, but also to persuade members of the public, organizations, and whole communities to take action to prepare.” HALTER was chosen from 160 applicants for its work in the North Bay. While visibility increased during and after the fires of 2015, the project began in 2013, utilizing a variety of platforms to reach residents first in rural areas of Sonoma County, then expanding outreach in Marin, Napa, Lake, Solano, Yolo, Tehama, Glenn, Stanislaus and Tuolumne Counties. To date, the program has facilitated training of more than 110 first responders, produced 2 major “whole community” Preparedness Fairs, and connected with several thousand rural residents through local outreach events and volunteer development.

Honorees join a cadre of award recipients from the past 7 years. ICP award winners are charged with responsibilities such as collecting data, reporting to FEMA regional leadership, and acting as Ambassadors within their respective regions. The HALTER Project was recognized for its unique approach to emergency awareness and preparedness in rural and agricultural communities. Meeting, networking, and exchanging ideas with others was an experience that enriched and invigorated us all. During the long, intense whirlwind of activities, we forged terrific new friendships and connections.

The ICP Award has strengthened HALTER relationships with emergency managers in our own county and region. We are optimistic and enthusiastic about evolving programs for both volunteers and paid responders.

Best takeaway message? “If you STAY ready, you never have to GET ready!”

Learn about upcoming opportunities by tuning in to the www.HALTERproject.com, and subscribe to our newsletter to receive info about trainings, classes, and other programs. Let’s work together to make every rural neighborhood, farm, ranch, dairy, stable, and show facility safe havens and models of preparedness.

Bye for now!



2016 ICP Honorees



FEMA National Response Coordination Ctr.



Gary Curmode
International Association of Fire Chiefs