

Memorandum



DATE: September 17, 2010

TO: Members of the Public Safety Committee

SUBJECT: **Dallas Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)**

Attached is the briefing material on the "Dallas Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)" to be presented to the Members of the Public Safety Committee on Monday, September 20, 2010.



Ryan S. Evans
First Assistant City Manager

Attachment

c: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Dallas City Council
Mary K. Suhm, City Manager
Deborah Watkins, City Secretary
Tom Perkins, City Attorney
Craig Kinton, City Auditor
C. Victor Lander, Administrative Municipal Judge
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
A.C. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager
Forest E. Turner, Assistant City Manager
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
Helena Stevens-Thompson, Assistant to the City Manager Mayor - City Council

City of Dallas



www.dallascert.com

Office of Emergency Management



Dallas CERT Objectives

- Increase disaster preparedness and training for citizens and businesses in the City of Dallas
- Prepare for “all hazards” to include severe weather, natural disasters, hazardous materials incidents, or other significant events
- Respond to immediate needs in the neighborhood following a major incident or disaster when professional responders are delayed or to assist our public safety departments

CERT Training Teaches Participants to:

- Identify the types of hazards most likely to affect the home or workplace
- Describe the function of CERT and their roles in immediate response
- Take steps to prepare themselves, families and communities for a disaster
- Identify and reduce potential fire or other hazards in their communities and homes

How Long is Training?

- 16 - 20 hours - Students attend nine class sessions consisting of nine units
- Students are able to make up missed sessions at future CERT class offerings
- Lecture is supported by a variety of media and hands-on methods
- At the end of the course a disaster simulation exercise is staged using facilities at the Dallas Fire-Rescue Academy Training Facility on Dolphin Road

More Information on Training

- Previously trained CERT members are often utilized as volunteer “victims” in future CERT exercises
- After completion of the course, additional continuing education and refresher trainings are offered and strongly encouraged

CERT Continuing Education Training

- Shelter management
- Donations management
- Special needs concerns
- Debris removal
- Advanced first aid
- Ham Radio Operators License
- CPR Skills/ AED
- Refresher Courses



Team Composition

- Teams are organized by Dallas Police Patrol Divisions
- Neighborhood and Homeowner Associations
- Police and Fire Auxiliary Academies (VIP, COPS, Citizens Fire Academy)
- City Employees
- Schools, Places of Worship, Businesses, Civic Groups, Hospitals, and Homes For The Elderly

Session One

Disaster Preparedness

- Recent disasters and emergencies in the area
- Impact on infrastructure
- Structural and Nonstructural hazards
- Being prepared at home and in the workplace
- Preparing the community in which you live
- Disaster volunteer protection



Session Two

Fire Safety

- Fire Chemistry
 - Reducing fire hazards at home and in the workplace
 - Hazardous Materials
 - Firefighting Resources
 - Fire Suppression Safety
- * This module is presented in cooperation with Dallas Fire-Rescue Fire Prevention Officers



Sessions Three and Four

Disaster Medical Operations

- Conduct triage
- Perform head-to-toe assessments
- Opening airways
- Controlling bleeding
- Treating shock
- Employ basic treatments for various wounds



Session Five

Light Search and Rescue

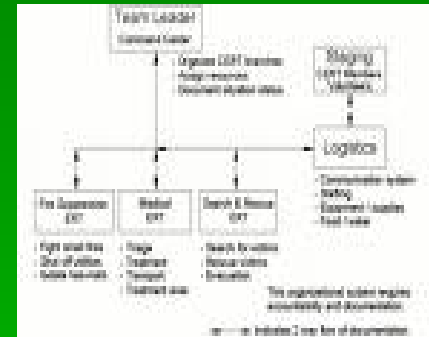
- Search and Rescue Size-up
- Conducting Search Operations
- Conducting Rescue Operations



Session Six

CERT TEAM ORGANIZATION

- How to organize and deploy volunteer resources
- Protection of self and buddy during search and rescue
- Documentation situation and resource status



Session Seven

Disaster Psychology

- Team Well-Being – disaster and post-disaster emotional environment
- Steps that can be taken to relieve stress of team members and disaster survivors



Session Eight

Terrorism and CERT

- What is Terrorism?
 - Terrorists targets and weapons
 - Preparing at home and work
 - CERT's and terrorist incidents
- * This module is presented in cooperation with Dallas Police Department Terrorism Squad, Criminal Intelligence Unit



Session Nine

Course Review, Disaster Simulation Exercise and Graduation

- Culmination of entire course
- Opportunity to utilize skills learned in a simulated disaster exercise
- Graduation and certificate presentation



What Can CERT Do To Help?

- Upon being notified by authorities of the impending danger of severe weather, CERT members are able to begin:
 - Taking inventory of their neighborhood
 - Identifying neighbors that have special needs or have to make special preparations
 - Coordinating equipment that will be useful during and after the emergency or disaster

CERT to the Rescue!

- After the hazard has occurred:
 - Assess and assist neighbors or co-workers with special needs
 - Locate injured neighbors or co-workers, render first aid and where necessary move them to a safe area for further treatment
 - Extricate neighbors or co-workers entrapped in collapsed structures
 - Identify and isolate areas of potential danger



CERT ACTIVATIONS

- Southwest Gas Explosion Incident – July 2007
- Mesquite Flood/USAR Incident – March 2008
- Hurricanes Gustav and Ike – August/September 2008



What Else Do CERT's Do?

- Staff first aid booths at special events
- Assist with disaster and emergency drills in their neighborhoods and workplaces
- Recruit new members and distribute preparedness materials on behalf of OEM
- Volunteer at various City of Dallas and regional and City of Dallas events

What Else so CERT's Do (cont.)?

- Dallas Fire-Rescue Smoke Detector Installation Program
- Dallas Police Safety Fairs
- Fire-Rescue International Conference 2009
- DART Terrorism Tactics and Tools class
- NBA Jam Session
- City of Dallas Recycling Events

CERT NOW

- To date, over 800 CERT members through 60 business and community classes have been trained in the City of Dallas
- Dallas CERT Monthly Meetings
- Currently organizing a Dallas CERT Leadership Team
- Additional CERT classes are scheduled throughout the year in the City of Dallas

Questions?

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