



CERT ALERT



Bedford, Texas
October 2006
Issue 2

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First On The Scene

The next American Red Cross Emergency Response (ER) class is scheduled to start in January 2007. This course prepares its students to manage emergency situations until more advanced medical personnel arrive. It's taught by Bedford CERT's Val Roach, and is the Red Cross equivalency course for the State of Texas Emergency Care Attendant (ECA) certification. It meets national registry requirements for certification, and upon course completion, students are qualified to take the ECA exam. Bedford's Melanie Curl is nationally and regionally registered with this classification.

The course is approximately 60 hours total, and is usually held in four-hour segments on two weeknights a week. All-day Saturday sessions are also possible, running simultaneously. Topics include prioritizing, oxygen administration, backboarding, and cardiac, muscle, head, and bone injuries, and information on *why* as well as *how*.

Special thanks go to the First United Methodist Church on 183 and Bedford Road for providing the space for the past class.

In related news, Val is the host of the television production, "Your American Red Cross." The next taping will be about Disaster Mental Health, in which she will discuss CERT and the Red Cross. It airs on Tuesdays and Sundays on Charter Cable 31, which is available in some parts of Texas. More channel information will be forthcoming, as it becomes available.

Upcoming CE's

Two Continuing Education classes are planned:

- **Saturday, October 21st:** Radios and Communication. Time and location to be announced.
- **November:** Animals and Disasters. Date, time, and location to be announced.

CERT Granted Federal Funds

Congratulations to Bedford CERT, which has been awarded a fiscal year 2006-2007 federal Department of Emergency Preparedness grant for \$5,500. Items to be purchased include: a generator for the trailer, additional safety equipment, and medical supplies for training.

CERT Class #5 Update

CERT Class #5 began on Monday, September 25th, and is thriving with 25 participants! Past grads are invited to join in, and attend any sessions as refreshers. Details are as follows, and all dates are on Mondays, unless indicated otherwise.

Time: 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Location: Bedford Law Enforcement Center, L. Don Dodson Drive

October 23rd: Search and Rescue (lifts, carries, cribbing, field searches)

October 30th: CERT organization and Incident Command System (ICS)

November 6th: Terrorism

November 11th (Saturday): CERT #5 drill. Victims are needed!

November 13th: Graduation

If you would like to attend any of these classes, please e-mail Melanie Curl at bedfordccc@yahoo.com or just drop by. It would be great to catch up with past CERT grads, and CERT #5 students would enjoy meeting you!

If you would like to volunteer as a victim for the drill on **Saturday, November 11th**, please e-mail Melanie Curl at the above e-mail address before **Wednesday, November 8th**.

Pruning The Call Tree

New communication leaders, a.k.a. pager carriers, are revising the call tree, which you will be receiving soon. Team Leader and Bedford CCC VP David Beck will be taking over management and maintenance of the call tree.

Become An Amateur Radio Personality

Earn your Technician Class license! The Bedford Amateur Radio Club (BARC) is planning a Saturday-Sunday training event to be held in December, to prepare attendees to pass the Technician Class license test.

The Technician Class license is the entry-level license for ham radio, and it requires general knowledge, including radio operations, FCC rules, and basic electronics. The test will be given at the end of class. Note: Morse code is not a topic on the test.

Details such as dates and cost are TBA. For additional information, please contact Frank Knox at 817-283-9141 or fsknox@sbcglobal.net.

Thanks To All Participants!

These events were outstanding successes:

- **Preparedness Day** at the library was September 16th. Members from CERT, CPA, CFA, the Red Cross, and BARC attended. Thanks to Rick Nash for providing lunch. Many attendees at this function were recruited for CERT class #5.
- **Emergency Drill Day** was September 30th. Planners and safety officers were Battalion Chief James Richardson, Battalion Chief Mark Johnson, Lt. Mike Swanson, C-Shift crew, Melanie Curl, Frank Knox, Jen Lindsey, and Val Roach.
- **Bedford Fire Dept. Open House** was October 14th. Thanks to all CERT members who participated in staffing the information table.

October Tip

October is Bedford's fire safety month. With the weather (maybe finally) getting cooler, visit the U.S. Fire Administration's website for tips on topics such as "Fireplace and Home Fire Safety" at this link:

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/safety/tips/fireplace.shtm>.