



CERT ALERT



Bedford, Texas
November 2006
Issue 3

<u>In This Issue</u>	<u>Page</u>
CERT #5 Goes The Distance	1
Planning For 2007	1
Here Comes Santa Claus ...	2
November Tip	2

CERT #5 Goes The Distance

Congratulations to the 21 graduates of CERT class #5! Graduation was Monday, November 13th at the Old Bedford School. The class had its drill two days prior to that, on Saturday, November 11th. Thanks very much to all the participants and volunteers!

Planning For 2007

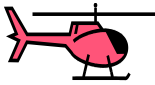
More details will be forthcoming about these classes, which are planned to start in January 2007:

- **American Red Cross Emergency Response (ER)** class.
- **The Bedford Amateur Radio Club (BARC)** two-day class to prepare attendees to pass the Technician Class license test.

CERT, CFA and CPA:

- **CERT #6.** It's never too early to start recruiting students! Plenty of applications are available, and you can get them online at http://fire.ci.bedford.tx.us/EMO_Cert.htm.
- **Citizens Fire Academy.** More info is at http://fire.ci.bedford.tx.us/FMO_CFA.htm.
- **Citizens Police Academy.** Please see <http://www.bedfordpolice.com/cpa.htm>.

Also, get geared up for upcoming CE's in 2007!



Here Comes Santa Claus, Here Comes Santa Claus ... In A Chopper From The Sky

Santa is coming to town, and he has upgraded from his traditional sleigh. The **Santa USA** program launched the beginning of its season with a training and certification session on Saturday, November 4th at the Pat May Center.

In this program, helicopters transport Santa, Mrs. Claus, Frosty the Snowman, and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer to several locations, such as schools, hospitals, retirement homes, and prisons, bringing holiday cheer to the community's children, elderly, and terminally ill. Volunteers give their time both in the air and on the ground to make Santa's itinerary possible, with most visits taking place during the first two weeks of December. Teams of "elves" and other volunteers travel via motor vehicles to meet Santa's helicopter on site, and these volunteers include fire and police personnel and the Bedford Amateur Radio Club (BARC).

Santa USA started 30 years ago with the dedication of one individual, and it began with ground transportation only, with helicopters introduced later. One hundred percent of each dollar donated goes directly to Santa USA, and the primary expense is based on fuel costs and helicopter flying time, which can be approximately \$1,000 per hour. The Santa USA Foundation has been established to provide funds for a future Santa House, which will be a place where terminally ill children and their families will be able to celebrate Christmas year-round.

The mailing address for Santa USA is PO Box 362, Bedford, Texas 76095, telephone 817-268-7028.

(Source: Santa USA brochure)

November Tip

Holiday safety tip from the National Fire Protection Association:

- Purchase only lights and electrical decorations bearing the name of an independent testing lab, and follow the manufacturer's instructions for installation and maintenance.

<http://www.nfpa.org/itemDetail.asp?categoryID=301&itemID=19027&URL=Research%20%200Reports/Fact%20sheets/Seasonal%20safety/Winter/holiday%20safety&cookie%5Ftest=1>

(Or go to <http://www.nfpa.org/> and type in the search words "holiday safety")

Happy Thanksgiving!



Information for the "CERT Alert" newsletter should be submitted by the 10th of every month to John and Kathi Sargent at kc8@tx.rr.com.