



CERT ALERT



Bedford, Texas
April 2007
Issue 8

In This Issue	Page
CERT #6 Springs Forward	1
Start Planning Ahead ...	1-2
What Would You Do?	2
The CE Before The Storm	3
April Tip	3

CERT #6 Springs Forward

Welcome to all
class members of CERT #6!
Also, a big thank you to everyone
who participated in recruiting!

CERT #6 started Thursday, March 22nd, and currently has 19 participants. If CERT alumni would like to attend any class sessions as a refresher, the schedule and topics are as follows:

April 19th: Lifts and Carries, Disaster Med Ops 1
April 26th: Disaster Med Ops 2
May 3rd: Disaster Psychology
May 10th: Terrorism, Field Searches (includes interior searches), Review
May 12th (Sat.): Drill; if you would like to be a victim, please contact Melanie Curl
May 17th: Graduation

Start Planning Ahead ...

Please join in these activities, and help make them a success!

Monday, April 23rd: Planning meeting for September's Preparedness Day. Be ready with your great ideas and organizational skills to make this a memorable, fun, and educational opportunity for Bedford. Time and location are pending, and will be announced later.

Start Planning Ahead ... continued from page 1

Saturday, May 19th: Val Roach's Saturday Emergency Responder class begins. All who are interested, please contact Val at cpra2c2@sbcglobal.net.

May CE: Forecasters are predicting this to be a significant year for hurricane activity. Val Roach will be guest instructor for the May Continuing Education class, American Red Cross Shelter Operations. Watch for future e-mails about the date, time, and location.

Also upcoming:

May: Bedford Smoke Alarm Campaign.

July 4th: Bedford 4th Fest.

September: National Preparedness Month, Preparedness Event (Sat.), Live Drill.

October: Fire Prevention Month - Bedford Open House, Smoke Alarm Campaign; ARTober Fest.

What Would You Do?

At 3:00 on a Wednesday afternoon, straightline winds and torrential rain blow through Tarrant and Dallas counties. The Bedford Wal-Mart's roof collapses, and all Bedford Fire and Police personnel are called out. Bedford CERT is dispatched to do a neighborhood assessment after a report of damage at Bedford and Murphy.

This was the scenario for the team that responded to the Tabletop Drill exercise on Saturday, March 24th. Responders included David Beck, Jean Belton, Jim Blount, Helen Dunlop, Jamie Janke, Grace Janke, Mark Johnson, Pat Lane, Vivian Larson, John Larson, Tiffany Wallace, and Darren Wallerstedt.

Jean Belton was Incident Commander, and she did an excellent job in her rookie run! The team responded to minor structural damage at a day care in Martin Methodist Church. They were challenged to do a thorough interior search, care for numerous children suffering minor injuries, and conduct a field search after two children were reported to be missing. Angry, worried parents showed up to claim their children, the media arrived to pester them, and one elderly resident didn't want to leave her flooding home without her dog.

The team did an exceptional job with the scenario, and it was a great example of a CERT team at work!

THE CE Before The Storm

Meteorologist Gary Woodall of the National Weather Service provided Storm Spotter Training on Monday, April 9th. One attendee said that many of the items that were discussed at the training came up just four days later, when the Friday the 13th storms hit the area.

April Tip

Lightning Awareness

Source: *The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*
www.noaa.gov/lightning.html

Lightning Dangers

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) says that most lightning deaths and injuries occur when people are caught outdoors during thunderstorms. Thunder is the result of air being heated to extreme temperatures (15,000 to 60,000 degrees) as a result of a lightning strike.

If you are outdoors during a thunderstorm and cannot get to shelter, find a low spot away from trees, fences, and poles. If you are in the woods during a storm, take shelter under the shortest trees. Do not lay flat. Make yourself the smallest target possible and minimize your contact with the ground by squatting low to the ground on the balls of your feet, placing your head between your knees, and putting your hands on your knees.

Lightning Facts

- NOAA rates lightning the number two cause of weather-related deaths in the U.S., killing approximately 100 people annually and injuring an additional 500. (Floods and flash floods are number one.)
- More than 50% of lightning deaths occur after the thunderstorm has passed.
- Lightning can strike in clear skies and at greater than 10 miles distance from the thunderstorm.
- Lightning can strike a person in contact with an electric appliance, telephone, or plumbing fixture by traveling through power or telephone lines or plumbing pipes.

Bedford CERT: <http://www.ci.bedford.tx.us/council/boards/cert.htm>

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.