



CERT ALERT



Bedford, Texas
May 2007
Issue 9

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Congratulations, CERT #6!

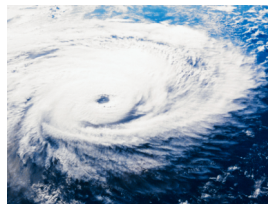
CERT Class #6 wrapped up with its drill on May 12th and graduation on the 15th. Thanks to all who participated, and to those who volunteered and provided refreshments!

Open House At The LEC

The Bedford Police Department is hosting an open house at the Law Enforcement Center on **Saturday, May 19th**. CERT will have its trailer and table set up from 12 noon to 4:00 p.m. Please drop by and see what's new!

Also, CERT will have more opportunities for recruiting events this summer, so keep watch for more details!

You Know That Severe Weather Season Is Here ...



... but did you know that Bedford CERT is part of the city's shelter activation plan?

The topic for the May Continuing Education is Red Cross Shelter Operations, on **Thursday, May 31st** at 6:30pm at the Bedford LEC.

Bedford CERT Introduces Dispatch Levels

Effective **Monday, May 21st, 2007**, Bedford CERT will have two dispatch levels:

- **Dispatch Level 1** responders will be activated in the first wave of response to any incident, be it self-dispatch or agency request.
- **Dispatch Level 2** responders will be activated in a second wave of response should the incident be anticipated to extend past 6-8 hours, or if a need for lower-physical-impact, administrative, or other support functions is determined by the Incident Commander (be that role a CERT person or a department/agency person).

Dispatch Level 1 responders will be asked to meet the following requirements:

- participate in one drill event per year (team wide, curriculum, or tabletop) AND
- accrue eight hours of Continuing Education per year.

Continuing Education requirement:

- assume that each Bedford CERT CE class equals two CE hours.
- two hours may be submitted for attendance at other classes (Red Cross, National Weather Service, Texas Dept. of State Health Services, or others with approval of the BCCC).
- two hours (one class) may be submitted for participation in a mutual aid request of any other CERT team or other agency simulated disaster exercise with approval of the BCCC).

Dispatch Level 2 responders will be asked to meet the following requirements:

- be a graduate of the basic CERT curriculum AND
- communicate their interest to serve in a more secondary response capacity.

All CERT responders currently on the dispatch list will be “grandfathered” to the Dispatch Level 1 while activity is tracked for the next year. Anyone who would like to request a move to Dispatch Level 2, please email bedfordtxccc@yahoo.com.

Action Items:

Please help Bedford CERT update its records! Send an email to the above address with:

- The phone numbers you'd like included on the call tree and in what order of preference (*for example: cell phone primary, home phone secondary*),
- A change of home address or email address,
- A request to be removed from Bedford CERT's records,
- Any questions or suggestions you have.

Picture This!

Frank Knox, who lists CERT instructor, Bedford Amateur Radio Club President, and photographer among his many titles, will make a CD copy of photos from any CERT class; these CD's must be picked up at the CE class on **Thursday, May 31st** only. Please notify him ASAP at fsknox@sbcglobal.net.

Study To Be A Ham

If you would like to take the amateur radio technician license class on the two consecutive Saturdays of **June 23rd** and **June 30th**, please email Frank Knox at the address above.

Gear To Go

Shop for CERT gear from the convenience of home! Bedford CERT has arrangements with MTS Safety Products for CERT gear. The website is www.mts-safety.com, and the telephone number is 800-647-8168; the CERT contact is Linda.



<http://www.mts-safety.com/CERTapparel.htm>

May Tip

The “Four D’s” to defend yourself against West Nile Virus

- **Dusk/Dawn** are the times of day you should try to stay indoors. This is when infected mosquitoes are most active.
- **Dress** in light-colored long sleeves and pants when you’re outside. For extra protection, you may want to spray thin clothing with repellent.
- **Deet** is an ingredient to look for in your insect repellent. Follow label instructions, and always wear repellent when outdoors.
- **Drain** standing water in your backyard and neighborhood – bird baths, old tires, flowerpots, and clogged rain gutters. These are mosquito breeding sites.

If you have symptoms that include stiff neck, high fever, or severe headache, contact your health-care provider immediately.

Texas Department of Health, www.tdh.state.tx.us

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.