



CERT ALERT



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CERT In Action

By Melanie Curl

For the third time officially, and the first time in support of our own community, Bedford CERT was dispatched in response to violent storms that hit Tarrant County in the pre-dawn hours of Thursday, April 10th. Our team worked like a well-oiled machine, from dispatch to ICS to objective completion. It was a textbook-perfect operation, a true testament to your dedication to your community and your commitment to training. High praise has been pouring in from the Fire and Police departments, as well as from professionals from other communities. Great job, everyone!

This dispatch also highlighted a couple of reminder topics: if you have not put together your responder bag and want to be on Level 1, PLEASE assemble your bag! We may not always have immediate access to the training bags in the LEC or to the very few spare bags in the trailer. There are many places on the internet where equipment can be had, including MTS Safety Products, whom we frequently use. Also, remember appropriate responder apparel – for your safety, please avoid shorts, open-toed shoes, etc.

A sincere thanks to all who were able to respond that day, and to those who couldn't, we know we had your thoughts and support. You all touched the lives of many people that day, and your efforts were very much appreciated!

**Important
Phone Number
Change:**
Effective April
16th, the CERT
number is
changing from
[817-684-7255](tel:817-684-7255) to
[817-605-0015](tel:817-605-0015).

Gear To Grab And Go



MTS Safety Products and Bedford CERT have an arrangement for CERT gear. Please see www.mts-safety.com, or call 800-647-8168, and ask to speak to Linda.

Kudos To CERT #7

By Melanie Curl

Another drill has come and gone, and with it, we welcome 25 new members to the Bedford CERT family! Over a dozen have already signed up for Dispatch Level 1, and many of the grads are ham radio operators. Be sure to welcome them when you see the new crew at future gatherings!



CERT Road Trip To Disaster City

By Melanie Curl

Photo: Pat Lane

It was a gray, cool, rainy day that greeted our caravan Friday, April 4th. But, as flexible emergency responders, nothing put us off! We set up our convoy and hit the highway towards College Station.

Disaster City is the stuff of a Search and Rescue fanatic's delight! Our instructor/tour guide Billy Parker toured us all over the 50+ acres of SAR training sites, including multiple debris piles, structures to illustrate and practice various pancake collapses and voids, and confined-space tunnels and concrete pipes. There was a structure specifically for "tornadoes", but the crowning glory for each of us was the mock "Murrah Building" with damage copied after the building struck in Oklahoma City. We learned a lot about various techniques used by the professionals, and even got information on how to be victims for them at future drill days. It was a wonderful day, and we look forward to going again next year – don't miss it!

The Disaster City website is:

<http://teex.com/teex.cfm?pageid=USARprog&area=usar&templateid=1117>.

Practicing For The Real Thing

Thanks to all who participated in the tabletop drill on Wednesday, March 19th. The scenario was that a tornado had come through Bedford, and CERT was dispatched. Responders "went" to three separate areas of the city to assist citizens and to search for damage.

Party Plans Change

By Melanie Curl

The party is still on, but with a few changes. Due to low RSVP numbers, we are canceling the original date of May 3rd. A targeted new date is forecasted for early June – watch for emails and mark your calendars. This will be your chance to relish your own CERT tales of glory and have fun with comrades!

Calendar

Addresses are:

Law Enforcement Center (LEC), 2121 L. Don Dodson Drive
Fire Station 1, 1816 Bedford Road

- **Saturday, May 17th:** LEC Open House. CERT has been invited to set up an information table. This is an excellent opportunity to recruit, and to show others the work we do. If you would like to volunteer, please email bedfordtxccc@yahoo.com, and please stay tuned for more information.
- **Wednesday, April 30th, 6:00 p.m.:** Come to the April Continuing Education class! The topic is Search and Rescue “Show and Tell.”
- **Friday, July 4th:** It’s fewer than three months until Bedford Fourth Fest – more information is to come!

April Tip

It’s April already, and with that comes spring cleaning. The American Academy of Pediatrics has compiled a list of safety tips, including:

Check the garage for flammable liquids such as gasoline, paint thinner, paint and cleaners. Make sure safety caps are in place and they are not near any heat sources. Keep only the amount you need to use - don't stock up on extra cans.

<http://www.aap.org/advocacy/releases/aprspringtips.htm>

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

If you missed a past issue of the newsletter, please go to <http://bedfordccc.net> and click on the Newsletters link.