



CERT ALERT



June 2010

Issue 36

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CERT ALERT to publish quarterly

CERT ALERT will become a quarterly-published e-newsletter sent to members. We want to recognize and thank **Kathleen Sargent** for editing our publication for three years with 35 informative issues.

If you have information or photos to be considered for publication, please contact President **John Sargent** at jrsarge23@tx.rr.com or Editor **Judy Yacio** at jkyacio@sbcglobal.net.

Beginning with this issue, we will offer brief features on our very dedicated officers and instructors who give of their time and expertise. Many times Bedford CERT leaders are called upon to help other groups organize in the North Texas area.

From the President —

CERT inherits ambulance

By John Sargent

The city of Bedford has donated an old ambulance to Bedford CERT. This ambulance will be our disaster response vehicle and will serve as an Incident Command Post as well as be used to tow our Disaster Response Trailer.

Our new vehicle is in need of a paint job. If you know a company or individuals who would like to donate to this great cause, we would advertise their names on our vehicle. As you know, we are a 501c3 organization with no financial income from the city of Bedford. A tax-deductible receipt will be available upon request

CERT participates in Police Open House

Thanks to all who helped at the Police Department Open House on Saturday, May 8th. Many Open House attendees showed interest in CERT and the Radio Operators group. The event, located at the Bedford Law Enforcement Center, on L. Don Dobson, was an all-around success!

Calendar

Tuesday-Thursday, June 22-24: Texas Citizen Corps Conference, Fairmont Hotel, Dallas. Want to attend or volunteer to help?

Sunday, July 4, 2-10 p.m.: Bedford 4th Fest at Bedford Boys Ranch. If you would like to help staff the CERT booth, go to bedfordtxccc@yahoo.com. 4th FEST is an excellent recruiting opportunity for CERT plus giving you a super seat for the fireworks show.

Webmaster Needed

Bedford CERT is in need of a Webmaster. The website hosting has been handled, so you would be responsible for adding pictures and updating class schedules and events. If you are interested in this position, please contact Frank Knox at fsknox@sbcglobal.net.

Website: <http://bedfordccc.net>

Yahoo Group: BedfordCERT

E-mail: bedfordtxccc@yahoo.com

Citizen Corps: <http://www.citizencorps.gov/>

AAERT (All About Emergency Response Training): <http://www.aaert.net/>

Instructor Insight -

John, Melanie donate time, efforts to Bedford CERT

Beginning with this issue we will focus on CERT instructors to briefly familiarize you with their backgrounds and involvement in our group. This month we are featuring President **John Sargent** and Vice-President **Melanie Curl**.

John, a dispatcher for American Airlines, began his CERT involvement with Class 3 in 2005. His wife Kathleen, a Class 2 graduate, encouraged him to use his organizational skills and Eagle Scout background in the event of disasters.



In April 2008 John's skills were tested as he was Incident Commander during a major storm in the Bedford area.

He is also active in ham radio operations.

Melanie, the founding president of Bedford CERT, graduated in Class 1. She works in Human Resources for the City of Keller.



Melanie's interest in first aid began at the age of 14 with a Red Cross baby-sitting course.

When she's not planning disasters for class exercises or arranging continuing ed classes for CERT or becoming certified as an EMT, she enjoys spending time with family, reading, and singing in her church choir.

Bedford CERT graduates Class 11

Bedford CERT Class 11 members officially graduated May 6th. A very successful field drill was held May 1st. In addition to class members, other certified CERT personnel showed up to include over 50 participants.

Our next class is scheduled to begin in the Fall. Sessions will be at the Law Enforcement Center on L. Don Dobson. Please encourage family and friends to sign up for this class as we know there will always be more victims than responders in a major disaster.



Some Class 11 participants prepare to use newly acquired skills for field drill.



Area CERTs participate in joint training event

By Melanie Curl

CERT teams from Bedford, Euless, and North Richland Hills partnered together in a first-ever joint training event on March 23, 2010.

The joint tabletop exercise was conducted at the Bedford Law Enforcement Center. Leaders from all three cities were delighted at the overwhelming response with nearly 50 volunteers from all three teams participating.

Responders were given a weather-related scenario of a suspected tornado striking the NRH area. Teams were asked to conduct damage assessment and respond within their training to any issues discovered, per protocol.

Responders were confronted with multiple victims of varying injuries for whom they provided appropriate medical care, performed minor rescues of trapped victims, assisted with traffic control, and dealt with numerous citizen questions and issues.

Instructors were extremely pleased with the performance of all responders as skills were performed with success, communication was well-handled through the use of HAM radio operators, and responders from all three teams blended well and worked together seamlessly. This was a perfect example of the universal flexibility of the training, allowing all three groups to mix and still perform the needed task successfully because all had received identical/similar training.

Guests included: Emergency Management Coordinator **Rick Nash**, Bedford; Police Chief **David Flory**, Bedford; Police Lt. **Joe Craft**, Euless; and Emergency Preparedness Specialist **Melanie Devine**, NCTCOG.

Class 12 planned for Fall

Please recruit for Class 12, planned for Fall. Applications are available online at either the Bedford CERT website <http://bedfordccc.net/> or Bedford Fire Department website <http://www.bedfordfire.net/emergencymanagement/cert.htm>. Completed applications need to be returned to the Bedford Fire Department administration building at 1816 Bedford Rd., Bedford TX.