



CERT ALERT



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Issue 37

Doing the greatest good for the greatest number of people

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CERT Class 12 begins September 13th

Be sure to encourage relatives and friends to attend CERT Class 12 which will meet Monday evenings from September 13th through November 15th. All classes will be held at the Law Enforcement Center on L. Don Dobson.

If you're a CERT graduate, you are eligible to attend any class for a refresher on particular subjects. The syllabus has been posted on the Yahoo group calendar, so you can see the topics that are being taught at each session.

Applications are available online at either Bedford CERT <http://bedfordccc.net> or Bedford Fire Department <http://www.bedfordfire.net/emergencymanagement/cert.htm>. Completed applications should be returned to the Bedford Fire Department administration building, 1816 Bedford Rd., Bedford, TX.

From the President –

Santa will provide Christmas training October 9

By John Sargent



Christmas training for Santa USA will be held Saturday, October 9 for new timers and veterans. It will be at the Pat May Center, 1849B Central Drive in Bedford, from 8 a.m.-noon.

This is a wonderful organization. Santa, Mrs. Clause, Rudolph, Frosty, elves, and a host of helpers visit schools, nursing homes, hospitals and local businesses to spread holiday cheer. Santa usually arrives on a helicopter which makes the experience magical.

There are many volunteer positions to fill: drivers, elves, other helpers, a landing crew, security personnel, and ham radio operators.

You will help make Christmas enjoyable for children and adults. Come to the training and see what it's all about. I'm sure you will recognize someone who will tell you what a great time you'll have.

Calendar

Mondays, Sept. 13-Nov. 15: CERT Class 12, at the L.E.C.

Saturday, Oct. 9, 8 a.m.-noon: Santa USA training at Pat May Center.

Saturday, Oct. 23, 10 a.m.-noon: Bedford Fire Department's Open House

To Be Rescheduled: "Working with Special Populations" by Val Roach. See article on page 2.

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/>

Ready America site: www.ready.gov

Bedford Citizen Corps Council (BCCC) positions available to those who want to be more involved

You've been through CERT training, you've come to the continuing education classes, and you've participated in the drills. Now you want to do more.

The Bedford Citizen Corps Council (BCCC) holds elections every year for its executive board. The BCCC positions are President, Vice President Training, Vice President Operations, Secretary and Treasurer. The other board members are representatives from the police and fire departments, along with members from the local business community.

The BCCC meets once a quarter. If you are interested in running for one of the positions or would like more information, please contact John Sargent at jrsarge23@yahoo.com.

Continuing Ed class on special population situations to be rescheduled

An important continuing education class on special population situations will be held for CERT graduates at a future date. The class was scheduled for September 8th but was cancelled due to flooding across the community. A continued forecast for rain prompted the Bedford Police and Fire Departments to make this recommendation as just a few inches of moving water can move a car. It is vital we all remember not to drive into water.

A rescheduled date for the class will be announced as quickly as possible, so watch your email notices.

Val Roach, instructor, will teach "Working with Special Populations." The session will cover how to handle a visually, hearing, or mobility-impaired victim. It will also address how we handle someone who doesn't speak English.

Monthly CE classes are very beneficial. The August session was on "Fire Topics (a history of the Bedford Fire Department)" by Frank Knox.

Texas Citizen Corps, volunteers meet in Dallas

Many volunteer organizations were represented from all over Texas and parts of Oklahoma and Arkansas at the Texas Citizen Corps Conference in Dallas. Exhibitors included The American Red Cross, FEMA, MRC, ProPac, Teex, and many others.

Workshops that were offered included Psychological First Aid, Medical Issues in a Disaster, CPR, volunteer safety, and many more.

The conference was held June 22-24 at the Dallas Fairmont Hotel.

More information will be provided in future issues of *CERT ALERT*.

Free Nixle service offered

Have you heard about Nixle?

Nixle is a safe internet-based site for use by governmental agencies. Your information will never be shared with third parties.

Sign up for Nixle and you can receive important information from the Bedford Police, Bedford Office of Emergency Management and other local agencies. The information will be transmitted directly to your cell phone or email. It's free. Go to the following:

<http://www.nixle.com/>

Instructor Insight -

Rick, Val offer expertise to CERT program



Rick Nash has a very responsible job as the Emergency Management Coordinator and Radio Frequency Communication Manager for the City of Bedford. He is a Master Firefighter and has been with the Bedford Fire Department since 1970.

Rick began his CERT journey in 2002 as a member of a citizen's initiative team that was spearhead by former City Council Member Pam Conley. Their involvement was in response to President George W. Bush's plea for citizens to volunteer to help their communities after the infamous September 11, 2001 disaster with terrorists and airplanes. Rick helped spearhead the development of a specific program for citizen involvement.

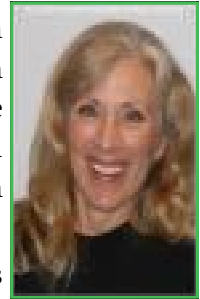
After he completed the first regional CERT Train-the-Trainer course with Fire Chief James Tindell in August 2003, these two then organized, coordinated, and instructed our first CERT class from January-March 2004.

He said, "I believe all the disciplines of our CERT program are equally important. However, I felt the time allotted and study material provided originally as recommended by CERT authorities for Disaster Psychology was lacking. So that subject became my personal project to improve.

"That was then, but now, as with all the other subjects of the course, the expertise and talents of our current instructors have progressively overhauled our CERT program that fits our needs here in Bedford. They continue to do an excellent job."

**NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH
BEGINS SEPTEMBER 1ST**

When it comes to being an enthusiastic instructor, Val Roach certainly fits that description. She is a graduate of CERT Class 3 and said she is delighted to now be an instructor.



Val says, "Life experiences make us who we are, and that's why there's a job for everyone who wants one with CERT. Our gifts come from within and are waiting to be given out."

Val is a "retired" nurse and engineer and is a "Jacqui of all weird stuff" and a master only of being a GiGi (her four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren's name for her). She describes herself as a "master of playing" with these children who love to come to her house because she puts up tents in her home for them to play in.

It's difficult to think of Val as truly being retired as she has her own company, All About Emergency Response Training (AAERT) and is an instructor for Emergency Medical Response.

In addition to her volunteer instruction with CERT, she is also a Disaster Responder for the American Red Cross. Val is the Sheltering Supervisor when she's not actually managing a shelter, which she said she loves.

Want to be more involved?

These programs offer you that opportunity.

The Bedford Police Department offers the Citizens Police Academy. The Bedford Fire Department offers the Citizens Fire Academy. The Bedford Amateur Radio Club will help you get your Amateur Radio License. The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is always looking for volunteers. If you want seasonal involvement to bring cheer to others, then Santa USA will satisfy that desire (see article on page 1). Ask John Sargent about these programs.