



CERT ALERT



March 2011

Doing the greatest good
for the greatest number of people

Issue 39

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From the President —

This is not a drill—Are you prepared?

By John Sargent

On March 11, 2011, a magnitude 9.0 earthquake strikes Honshu, Japan. (This is not a drill and not one of Melanie's scenarios.)

Japan experienced the fifth-strongest earthquake ever recorded in the world at 2:45 p.m. local time. What has followed the earthquake are more than 50 aftershocks, as well as a tsunami, flooding, and a state of emergency when the cooling system failed at the nuclear reactor at Fukushima. Over 11,000 people are dead, 17,000 are still missing, more than 215,000 are living in shelters, one million households have no water, and four million buildings have no power.

Bedford CERT members, are you ready? Now is the time to check your emergency kit, which should be equipped to last at least 72 hours. Do you have enough water and food for you, your family, and your pets? Do you need to update your family's communications plan? Maybe it's time to put some emergency supplies in your car? Have you thought about getting your amateur radio license? How about some refresher training in the skills you learned during your CERT class?

These are just a few of the questions we need to ask ourselves. Since we live in North Texas, we probably won't see a tsunami or volcanic eruption, but we do have the potential for other disasters, due to living in tornado alley for example, or to our proximity to the Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant which is 40 miles south of Fort Worth.

Please talk to your neighbors, family and friends about CERT. If someone's local community doesn't have a team, I will help that person find a team and receive training. Being prepared is the first step towards dealing with a disaster.

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

CERT offers regular continuing ed courses; helps with Bedford community projects



Ed McGinley, left, a licensed paramedic, confers with Bedford CCC President John Sargent and Rick Nash, executive fire officer and coordinator for Emergency Management. Ed, who works at Plaza Medical Center in Fort Worth, presented the continuing ed class in March on “Medical Care in Disasters/Lessons Learned Since 2001.” Melanie Curl, Bedford CCC Vice President in charge of training, arranges our ce classes.

CERT volunteer Ann Treleven points to the Fire Department’s motto to be “committed to excellence.” Darren Wallerstedt, president of the Bedford Amateur Radio Club, tripled his duties for CERT and the Bedford Citizens Fire Academy. A new Bedford resident, Ben, showed up to help.



Many CERT members wear several hats. Some recently assisted Bedford Fire Department personnel in checking smoke detectors for city residents.

Instructor Insight —

First Responder Butch Lindsey focuses on terrorism while Pat Lane specializes in radio communications

An instructor who becomes readily familiar to CERT students is Butch Lindsey, a community services officer (crime prevention officer) with the City of Bedford. He



has been a police officer with the city for 25 years and was recently recognized by the Mayor and City Council for his service.

Butch became a CERT instructor with Class 2 and concentrates on community emergency response topics with a special focus on terrorism. As an employed "first responder," he brings his expertise into the teaching situations. As a first responder and after deploying with Hurricane Ike, Butch said he knows firsthand what services are needed during a disaster.

"I feel that an informed public is better to able service themselves and their neighbors in their time of need," he remarked.

"We, as first responders, will have limited resources to attend to all the needs of the community all at once. We will have to prioritize our responses and there will be people that we just can't get to as fast as they would like. This is where CERT can make a great deal of difference to the life of the community."

Butch adds that with the introduction of amateur radios into the CERT program, he sees the training as continually improv-

ing.

"When the power lines and phones are out, for whatever reason, ham radios allow us to communicate with each other. If we can talk to each other, then we can help others faster," he remarked.

His wife of nearly 25 years is Teresa who is in the medical field. They have two daughters, and their older daughter Jennifer is now a professional firefighter and paramedic who often served as a victim in CERT field drills. Younger daughter Ashley is a student at East Texas Baptist University and plays volleyball for the college. Ashley also serves as a volleyball coach for a group of 14-year-old girls.

Pat Lane's face is another that becomes



quickly familiar to new CERT volunteers as he attends training sessions to assist with the various subjects being presented. He is usually the "radio man" who distributes

our radios for learning two-way communication. He also serves in the background with setup and supplies for the particular subject being taught on any given date. Pat is vice president in charge of operations for the Bedford Citizen Corps Council. He has completed CERT Train the Trainer and hopes to take over more teaching duties in upcoming sessions.

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Calendar

Monday, April 11: DFW Emergency Operations Center field trip, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 14: Bedford Police Open House at the LEC, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Instructor Insight continued from page 3 –

CERT is obviously a family affair as he and wife Sloane have two children who are also involved in our emergency training program. Son Landon, 18, is a graduate of Class 12. Daughter Morgan, 16, has been a willing CERT “victim” during field exercises. Pat himself is a graduate of Class 3 and has been involved for about five years.

Volunteering is nothing new for Pat as he served with the Colleyville Volunteer Fire Department in the 1980’s. He is an amateur radio operator and belongs to Bedford Amateur Radio Club (BARC). He is also a member of Tarrant County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES).

Pat finds CERT to be very important for the City of Bedford and says, “It provides additional resources to the city if and when needed. CERT is even more important because it offers members of the community a chance to learn about helping themselves and their families if needed during a disaster. The training gives members the knowledge to think about safety and what to do when the time presents itself for action.”

Pat’s salaried job finds him handling auto accident investigations and bodily injury claims so he is well acquainted with disaster problems. He has worked for State Farm Insurance for 22 years.

**CERT Class 13
postponed until this fall.
Please help recruit.**