

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 19, 2012

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Jefferson County Community Emergency Response Teams

You Can't Predict...But You Can Prepare!

CERT Training Class begins October 17, 2012 in Jefferson County!

Community Emergency Response Teams, or CERT, is a critical program in the effort to engage everyone in America in making their communities safer, more prepared, and more resilient when incidents occur.

Community-based preparedness planning allows us all to prepare for and respond to anticipated disruptions and potential hazards following a disaster. As individuals, we can prepare our homes and families to cope during that critical period. Through pre-event planning, neighborhoods and worksites can also work together to help reduce injuries, loss of lives, and property damage. Neighborhood preparedness will enhance the ability of individuals and neighborhoods to reduce their emergency needs and to manage their existing resources until professional assistance becomes available.

This training covers skills that are important to know in a disaster when emergency services are not available. With training and practice, and by working as a team, you will be able to protect yourself and do the greatest good for the greatest number after a disaster. The training is designed for citizens with little or no training in the areas listed below, but those with some skills in these areas are also welcome to attend the training and participate in CERT. Homeowners or neighborhood groups, PTA's, service and social clubs, churches, businesses, or a group of individuals from a neighborhood are ideal groups to form CERT teams. The only requirements are that you be over 18 years old and live or work in Jefferson County.

Basic skills are taught in the areas of: Disaster Preparedness, Fire Safety, Disaster Medical Operations I and II; Terrorism Preparedness and Crime Prevention; Disaster Psychology, Special Populations and Animals in Disaster; Light Search and Rescue and CERT Volunteerism. All students participate in a final exercise at the end of the course.

Class Schedule: Classes are from 6:00pm – 9:00pm (Some class dates may change due to Instructor scheduling and weather conditions)

- **Wednesday, October 17, 2012:** Disaster Preparedness, Barbara Miller, Instructor
- **Thursday, October 18, 2012:** Fire Safety and Fire Simulation, David Holmes and Bryan Lavalley, Instructor
- **Wednesday, October 24, 2012:** Disaster Medical Ops I, Gene Rice, Instructor
- **Monday, October 29, 2012:** Disaster Medical Ops II, Gene Rice, Instructor
- **Wednesday, October 31, 2012:** Disaster Mental Health, Jeff Levesque, Instructor; Animals in Disaster, Terri Mehling, Instructor; and People with Special Needs, Terri Mehling, Instructor
- **Monday, November 5, 2012:** Light Search & Rescue, Mike Kanehl, Instructor
- **Wednesday, November 7, 2012:** Crime Prevention & Terrorism Awareness, Lt. Dave Colbert, Instructor
- **Thursday, November 15, 2012:** CERT Volunteerism, Test, Final Exercise & Graduation – David Holmes and Bryan Lavalley

Location: Location of the classes: Classes will be held at the Jefferson County Emergency Communications Center, 28 Industrial Boulevard, Kearneysville. (Dates and locations are subject to change due to inclement weather, scheduling conflicts with either the instructors or the venue. All attempts will be made to stick with this schedule and enrolled students will be notified as soon as a decision has been made on rescheduling or changes that are necessary).

All classes are taught by professionals in the corresponding field of expertise.

All Classes are provided at no charge to the participants. All participants who complete all sessions and the final exercise will receive a certificate of participation and be issued a hard hat and a CERT Vest. Any participant that does not attend all courses or that is late or leaves early will have to make up that section of the course when the next round of courses are offered.

Pre-registration is necessary and can be done by calling Terri Mehling at 728-3329 to request a participant form or email to tmehling@jeffersoncountywv.org. You can also find the CERT Training Form as well as additional information by visiting: <http://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/government/departments/homeland-security/cert-2.html>.

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