



CEMA CERT

Volume 1, Issue 1

December 1, 2011

Special points of interest:

- Changes to CERT Program
- Meet the Board of Directors
- Calendar

CERT Functional Teams

Training

Continuing Education

Communications/Website

Simulation

Neighborhood Team Liaison

Recruitment/Outreach

Time Management

Search and Rescue

Hot off the Press: First Chatham CERT Newsletter!

Welcome to the first edition of CEMA CERT. The idea behind this quarterly newsletter is to keep you informed of the latest news regarding your CERT program. The newsletter will feature articles on CERT events, volunteerism, individuals going the extra mile, and much more!

We will also feature a calendar in each edition to keep you up-to-date on

events, training, and meetings. If you have anything you would like to see in the newsletter, please let us know. We would love to feature the writings of our volunteers.

Enjoy!



Above: CERT member Courtney Cox tends to a victim during the latest CERT training simulation; 11 people graduated from the August class.

Changes Coming to the Chatham County CERT Program

Change can be a good thing. That's why we have decided to make some changes to the Chatham County CERT program. We are a growing organization with a variety of talents and we have to better meet the needs of our program. One of the biggest changes you'll see is that the program is now led by a Board of Directors versus an Executive Board. The 15 board members will meet quarterly and will serve two year terms. Another big change is that geographical teams are going to be turned into functional teams. The Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) still encourages neighborhoods to meet on a regular basis; however, monthly team meetings will no longer be required. CERTs will instead meet on a quarterly basis and those meetings will feature some

sort of training and where possible, hands on exercises.

The reasons behind the changes are to improve attendance, make it easy for CERTs to attend regular meetings, and to really focus on the skill sets of each volunteer. The functional teams include: Training, Continuing Education, Website/Email/Communications, Simulation, Neighborhood Team Liaison, Recruitment/Outreach, Time Management, and Search and Rescue. If you are interested in helping with any of these teams, please contact the leader of that team (See back page for board member names and teams).

We hope that you will find something you like and participate in some of the activities that will take place.

To stay active we ask that you attend the quarterly

meetings as well as the disaster simulation we have planned for June 2, 2012. For the simulation we will need CERTs for victims, rescuers, and spotters. Please get involved!

We ask that you review the updated CERT Standard Operating Procedures for the specific details on the changes. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact CERT Coordinator Kelly Foster or any of the board members.

We appreciate all that you do for your community and your interest in the Chatham County CEMA CERT program. We look forward to both growing and improving the program in the new year and look forward to seeing you at the various events throughout the year.

What's In Your Bag?

When people graduate from CERT training, CEMA gives each participant a CERT backpack, a multi-purpose tool, a vest, and a helmet. Of course there are plenty of other items that many of you carry in your kit. Some people add gloves, goggles, a first aid kit, a mask, and even bug spray.



So what's in your kit? Think about some of the items you have in there now and some of the things you think you could add that may come in handy one day.

To encourage participation, CEMA will raffle off a "backpack" item at each quarterly meeting. The idea is to give you something you can add to your backpack. If you win an item you already have, maybe you can trade with another CERT!

Hello CERT Volunteers,

I hope that you are enjoying this newsletter. This is just one way we are trying to keep you better informed. Your Board of Directors is working on some changes to the CERT program to improve communications and training. Knowing that we all have very busy schedules, we are trying different ideas to provide more knowledge and skills that will be used during a disaster. I hope that you will share your ideas with the Board. The East and West teams are without captains and attending monthly meetings seem to be a hardship for some. So to address this we are considering changes to the team make-up and the monthly meeting schedule. Please let me know how you feel about possible changes or any suggestion you have for building a better organization.

Remember this is your organization. You as a volunteer are an important part of recovery from any disaster and it is important that you be a part of how this organization runs. If you have the skills to lead a team or would like to lead a committee, there are opportunities to do so. You have taken the first step to being a leader by taking the basic training. To keep your training on track you need to practice your skills and stay abreast of what is going on in your community.

Please step up and move our organization forward with your skills, training and personalities, by doing so we can have a county team that will surpass all of the others in the state.

Dan Mobley
CEMA CERT Chairman

Meet the 2012 Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is comprised of members of the former Executive Board. Several new members were nominated by the CERT Coordinator. Directors will serve two years and must remain active CERT members.

Dan Mobley—

Chairperson

912-238-9972

Mike Reinegger—

Training Lead

912-713-9560

Virginia Mobley—

Simulation Lead/Neighborhood Team Liaison

912-238-9972

Laura Watson—

Continuing Education

912-659-4988

Claire Sigman—

Public Outreach/Recruitment Lead

912-257-2063

Colin Elgood—

Communications/Website Lead

912-925-8827

Will Sims—

Neighborhood Team Liaison Lead

912-210-2756

Kathy Gideon—

Continuing Education

912-651-1714

Kevin Strickland—

Search and Rescue Lead

912-659-4015

Betty King—

Public Outreach/Recruitment

912-898-4809

Mimi Pinner—

Neighborhood Team Liaison

912-484-1807

Bert Adams—

Neighborhood Team Liaison

912-897-1369

Roy Hellyer—

Time Management Lead

912-463-1369

Jay Paskauskas—

Continuing Education Lead

912-429-4633

CERTs in action across the Country:

New Jersey: CERT members volunteered more than 40,000 hours during Hurricane Irene in August 2011. CERTs supported evacuations and shelter operations, staffed Emergency Operation Centers, helped with flood response duties, assisted in search and rescue missions, and distributed information to residents.

Nebraska: CERT members assisted in the search for a missing 8-year-old this September. Volunteers went door-to-door and searched rural areas near where the girl was dropped off at school.

California: CERT members distributed free plastic food-grade barrels for emergency water storage at a community event. In September, volunteers reminded residents about the importance of fresh water during an emergency.

Illinois: A woman used skills she learned in CERT training to save her husband's life. Her husband suffered from a heart attack and she immediately jumped into action and performed CPR until paramedics arrived.

Chatham County, GA: This year CERT members have assisted in activations of the Emergency Operations Center answering phone calls and serving as general recorders. CERT members have distributed information at a number of community events, and supported the 2011 Chatham County Hurricane Conference.



Top: Former US Marshal Tom Roberts briefs Vince Jacoby of the situation during a disaster simulation. **Middle:** Phil Bowden helps a family try to locate a missing child. **Bottom:** CERT Coordinator Kelly Foster and CERT Volunteer Laura Watson register people for the 2011 Chatham County Hurricane Conference. **Left:** CERT Volunteer Betty King takes payments for the Hurricane Conference.

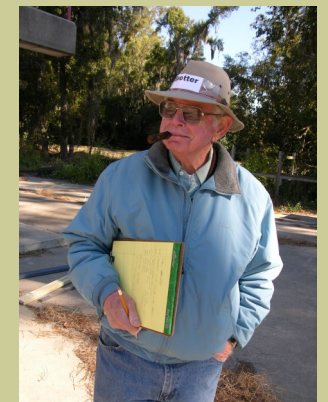
CERT Motto:

To do the greatest good for the greatest number!

CEMA CERT
124 Bull Street, Suite 140
Savannah, GA 31401

Phone: 912-201-4500
Fax: 912-201-4504

E-mail: klfoster@chathamcounty.org



Above: CERTs Greg and Peggy Tsiopanas—Home Depot Hurricane Expo
Middle: SAR member Troy Gilbert—Home Depot Hurricane Expo
Bottom: CERT Chairman Dan Mobley—Disaster Simulation 2010

CERT 2011-2012 Calendar of Events

January 2012	February 2012	March 2012
CERT 20 Hour Training Dates/Times—TBD	CERT Quarterly Meeting 6pm—Feb. 16 Grace United Methodist Church	SAR Training—TBD St. Patrick's Day— March 17
CERT Board of Directors Meeting 6pm—Jan. 18 Grace United Methodist Church	SAR Training—TBD	
SAR Training—TBD		
April 2012	May 2012	June 2012
CERT Board of Directors Meeting 6pm—April 18 Grace United Methodist Church	CERT Quarterly Meeting 6pm—May 17 Grace United Methodist Church	CERT Annual Disaster Simulation 10am to 1pm—June 2
Earth Day in Forsyth Park (Volunteers Needed)	CEMA Hurricane Conference—May 2 (Volunteers Needed)	Home Depot Hurricane Expo (Volunteers Needed)
SAR Training—TBD	SAR Training—TBD	SAR Training—TBD
Volunteer Awards Banquet		
July 2012	August 2012	September 2012
CERT Board of Directors Meeting 6pm—July 18 Grace United Methodist Church	CERT Quarterly Meeting 6pm—Aug. 16 Grace United Methodist Church	National Preparedness Month
SAR Training—TBD	SAR Training—TBD	SAR Training—TBD
October 2012	November 2012	December 2012
CERT Board of Directors Meeting 6pm—Oct. 17 Grace United Methodist Church	CERT Quarterly Meeting 6pm—Nov. 15 Grace United Methodist Church	SAR Training—TBD
SAR Training—TBD	SAR Training—TBD	

