



Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

March / April, 2009

Vol. 1, Issue 2

Volunteer Opportunities

**Fort Bend County
Emergency Preparedness
Workshop—Stafford Centre
Fri, May 1 - 8:00a—4:00p**

CERT Team Members are needed to assist with vendor set up / take down and participant registration.

Please wear your CERT vest and badge.

Contact:

Shauna Evans,
Fort Bend County
at 281-238-3419 or
volunteers@fbcoem.org

**Houston / Galveston
National Weather Service
2009 Hurricane Workshop—
GRB Convention Center
Sat, May 30—10:00a-2:00p**

Choose from several exciting roles and time slots to participate in this year's Hurricane Workshop. Families and kids of all ages will participate in the interactive booths, talk to their local Emergency Management Coordinator, and simulate a large scale evacuation.

Volunteers will even have an opportunity to learn how to operate the same tools Emergency Responders use to process and track evacuees and patients!

Please wear CERT vest and badge.

Contact:

Marni Rosen, City of Houston
marni.rosen@cityofhouston.net

Misty Gunn, Harris County
misty.gunn@oem.hctx.net

Fort Bend County CERT Alumni Take 3rd Place in Harris County CERT Rodeo



Harris County Citizen Corps hosted its third annual Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Rodeo Round Up on Saturday, February 7th, at the Harris County Fire and Sheriff's Training Academy in Humble, Texas. "While the Rodeo isn't about winning or losing, our alumni showed off their skills and community pride by finishing at or near the top in many of the ranked categories," notes Shauna Evans, Volunteer Programs Manager and CERT Coordinator for Fort Bend County.

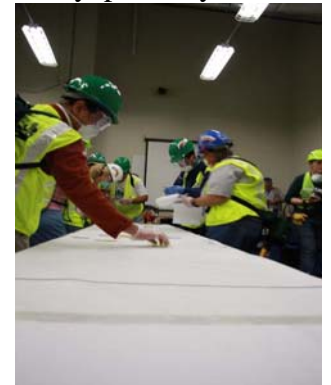
Participating CERT Teams were timed and graded on 9 skill stations; Triage, Medical Treatment, Gang Plank Team Building, Tower Search & Rescue, Fire Suppression, Patient Transport, Ground Search & Rescue, Cribbing, and Size Up. The competition provides a fun, yet intense opportunity for alumni to put their skill to the test against other regional teams. "I was extremely impressed by the teamwork, communication, and coordination of our CERT Alumni" commented Jeff Braun, FBC Emergency Management Coordinator. CERT Team participants represented 59 teams from around the Houston / Galveston area region.

These same skills were put to the test during the response and recovery efforts following Hurricane Ike, as CERT volunteers from around the County came out in force to assist neighbors and friends, assess damage and begin clean up efforts.

After completing an extensive eight-week course taught by first-responders, CERT members become an essential part of building stronger, safer, and better prepared communities by practicing and maintaining the emergency preparedness skills they were taught.

**FBC CERT Alumni Team Participants:
Diana Levine, Roel Pecson, David Goodrum,
Kathryn Coughlin, and Tom Coughlin**

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Improving Lives. Improving Texas.

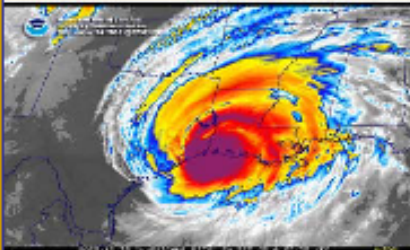
2009 FORT BEND COUNTY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP

Hosted by: Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management and
Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Sponsors: Fort Bend County LEPC and City of Stafford

Featuring: Gene Norman, KHOU Meteorologist

Register online at www.fbcoem.org



When:

May 1, 2009

8:00 am-9:00 am: Registration/
Exhibits

9:00 am-3:00 pm: Workshop

Where:

Stafford Centre

10505 Cash Road

Stafford, TX 77477

For more information contact
Fort Bend County Office of Emer-
gency Management at 281-342-
6185 or Texas AgriLife Extension
Service at 281-342-3034



Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. If you have special needs in order to participate in this program, please contact Texas AgriLife Extension Service of Fort Bend County at 281-342-3034.

Please join us for our
Annual Emergency Preparedness Workshop.

Presentations from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. include:

- **Mark Mathiesen, Impact Weather**
How to Prepare for Hurricane Season, Past Hurricanes,
2009 Hurricane Season
- **Dawna Michalke, TX Animal Health Commission**
Animal Issues in Disasters
- **Scott Wiegat, Fort Bend County Road & Bridge**
What to Do With Debris Materials
- **Steven Greenley, Center Point Energy**
Action Before, During and After storms
- **Captain Patrick Mulligan, Texas Department of Public Safety**
How the Region is Preparing for Hurricane Season
- **Ronald Drachenberg, Fort Bend County LEPC**
What is the Local Emergency Planning Committee

Presentations from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. include:

- **Gene Norman, KHOU**
Hurricane Weather and the News
- **Jack Evins, Texas Board of Insurance**
Information You Need to Know
- **Barbara McGinity, Better Business Bureau Ed. Foundation**
Hurricane Disaster Scams
- **Vincent Mannino, Texas AgriLife Extension Service**
Tree Pruning before Hurricane Season

Fort Bend County CERT Program Goals and Objectives for 2009

This year the CERT program will take on a new look as we develop a new recruiting and retention strategy.

RECRUITING: We are currently looking for interest groups to join the ranks of our alumni association.



Do you know someone that is involved in a church group, Homeowners Association, PTA, club or the like? Encourage them to talk to their group about the benefits of completing a CERT program and encourage them to become a team leader for their group!

RETENTION: Interested groups and alumni will begin receiving regular communications from the CERT Program Director offering volunteer opportunities in and around our community, as well as training and continuing education programs. We have partnered with our local MRC (Medical Reserve Corp) program and the Red Cross to keep you engaged and your skills sharp! Check out our volunteer and training opportunities and sign up TODAY!



**American
Red Cross**



CERT Classes and Recruitment Under Way



City of Meadows Place CERT
March 30 – May 18, 2009
Monday Evenings, 6:30 – 9:30 pm
Meadows Place Community Center



Pecan Grove CERT
May 20– July 8, 2009
Wednesday Evenings,
6:30 – 9:30 pm
Richmond Fire Dept.- Station 3



Silverado / Sugar Land CERT
June 2– July 21, 2009
Tuesday Evenings,
6:30 – 9:30 pm
Silverado Senior Care

Could Social Media Save Your Life?

The rapid evolution of the internet and social media has encouraged the Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management to facilitate numerous websites and online communication tools. Between Twitter, Facebook, Vimeo, Wordpress and the new website, citizens of Fort Bend County have nearly a half-dozen ways to be notified of the next hurricane Ike.

Fort Bend County has joined a host of other agencies in using interactive media to enhance communications, interact with the community and share basic information. This initiative is a simple and effective way of getting critical information out to citizens of the county. To learn more about social media or read the entire news release: <http://www.fbcoem.org/go/doc/1528/263720/>



“As a result of Hurricane Rita, there was gridlock along the evacuation routes. Vehicles extended from our south to north borders, caused by backups in the preceding coastal counties, as people tried to leave.”

- Jeff Braun, OEM

Immediately north of Brazoria and Galveston Counties, and along evacuation routes, Fort Bend County is considered a “pass through county” for individuals fleeing areas susceptible to high water and wind. The 1670 am alert radio system provides evacuees traveling through our county reliable, up to date, travel information.

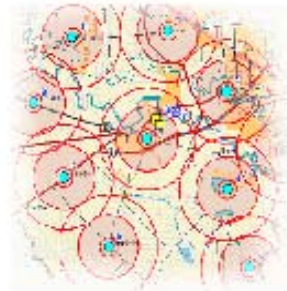
“We immediately activated the AM Alert radio System during Hurricane Ike to help travelers find evacuation routes and receive weather advisories.”

ALERTS — ADVISORIES

TUNE RADIO TO 1670 AM FORT BEND COUNTY

Tune to 1670 AM for news and weather information.

The County's 1670 AM Alert radio system can provide instant information during emergencies, such as **Amber Alerts, school incidents, flash flooding, hazardous material spills, hurricanes and tornadoes, as well as terrorist threats.**



The system, jointly funded by a federal grant and Fort Bend County, has its broadcast tower set up at the county's emergency management office in Richmond and radio frequency repeating equipment installed at 10 locations countywide so that signals can be picked up by AM radios throughout the county. Signs about the AM radio alert system are installed along major roadways throughout the county such as Texas 6 and Texas 36.

When there isn't an emergency, the AM Alert radio system operates 24-hour each day and broadcasts local weather information fed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service.

The 1670 AM Alert system is intended for travelers passing through Fort Bend County, and may not be accessible in your home. Register to receive alerts at your home or workplace at <http://alerts.fbcoem.org/>

Skills, Drills, and Thrills!

FBC Volunteer Alumni Training Opportunities!

MRC Training Opportunities:



For information or to register:
rsvp@homelandpreparedness.org

**IS 200, IS 800, Repackaging,
Shelter Operations**
05/30/09 – 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Fort Bend County HHS Office
4520 Reading Rd., Rosenberg



**Texas Citizen Corps
Conference**
June 30—July 1, 2009
Omni Houston Hotel

*For information, go to
www.texascitizencorps.org*

Red Cross Training Opportunities:



For information or to register:
Caroline Egan, (281) 342-9480
information@ghac.org

Volunteer Orientation
04/22/09 – 9:00 am – 11:00 am
Red Cross – Southwest Office
2610 BF Terry Blvd., Rosenberg

**Disaster Volunteer
Information Meeting**
04/28/09 – 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Red Cross – Southwest Office
2610 BF Terry Blvd., Rosenberg

Volunteer Orientation
05/06/09 – 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Red Cross – Southwest Office
2610 BF Terry Blvd., Rosenberg

Mass Care Overview
05/12/09 – 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Red Cross – Southwest Office
2610 BF Terry Blvd., Rosenberg

Shelter Operations
05/26/09 – 6:30 pm – 10:00 pm
Red Cross – Southwest Office
2610 BF Terry Blvd., Rosenberg

**DO YOU WANT TO
LEARN MORE ABOUT THE
FORT BEND COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT?**

**DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT
TAKES TO WORK IN THE
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER DURING TIMES
OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY?**



HAVE WE GOT A PROGRAM FOR YOU !

**FORT BEND COUNTY
CITIZEN SUPPORT TEAM**



Class information and dates will be posted at
www.fbcoem.org/volunteers/CST

*This newsletter is published by the
Fort Bend County Office of Emer-
gency Management for individuals
and groups interested in community
preparedness and response.*

*For matters regarding the Fort
Bend County Office of Emergency
Management Volunteer Programs,
you may contact Shauna Evans,
Volunteer Programs Manager at
shauna.evans@co.fort-bend.tx.us or
by calling 281-342-6185.*

*Forward comments, article ideas,
upcoming events, or photos to
oem@co.fort-bend.tx.us.*

**Fort Bend County
Office of Emergency Management**

Jeff Braun, CEM
Emergency Management Coordinator