



Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

July / August, 2009

Vol. 1, Issue 4

Volunteer Opportunities

Special Olympics Area 22 Volleyball Tournament—

Saturday, November 7th,
7:00a—4:00p
Lake Olympia Middle School

CERT & MRC Volunteers
Needed for the following posi-
tions:

- Parking Lot
- Athlete Assistance
- Medical Support
- Team Escort

**Please wear your Vest and
Volunteer Badge.**

Contact:

Michael Biasini
Fort Bend ISD
michael.biasini@
fortbend.k12.tx.us

FBCOEM Hosts First Quarterly Meeting for Volunteer Alumni

On July 11th, 2009, the Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management held its first quarterly meeting for members of its emergency response volunteer groups, to include, CERT, CST, EMROG, and MRC. Jeff Braun, Emergency Management Coordinator for the Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management presented an overview of the County's response and recovery from Hurricane Ike. Braun specifically addressed the importance of volunteers during such a disaster and commended them on their efforts to aid the County, as well as their neighbors. When talking about OEM's various volunteer programs, Braun noted, "over the past several years, the County has made significant improvements to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), such as the installation of new computers, radio equipments and such; however the addition of the new technology is nothing compared to the commitment and dedication of our growing volunteer groups. Without trained people to answer the phones, assist at the consoles, and working in their communities to educate their neighbors on preparing their families and neighborhoods for emergencies, we would not be able to complete our mission to provide this county the best assistance it deserves when disaster strikes."

Following Braun's presentation, Lach Mullen, Regional Crisis Communication and Public Information Systems Administrator provided an overview and demonstration of the County's newest communications tools; Twitter and Facebook. "We're always looking for ways to get critical information out as quickly as possible, and social media sites like Twitter and Facebook help that quite a bit," explained Mullen.

The July meeting kicked off what will become a quarterly meeting schedule for emergency response volunteer groups in the County. Each meeting will offer an update on Fort Bend County Emergency Management activities and include preparedness or educational activities to maintain and enhance the readiness skills of our volunteers. "We will look for ways to provide opportunities to become certified in other areas of emergency response, such as the Medical Reserve Corps, Citizens Support Group, or participate in training offered by the Red Cross such as Shelter Management, First Aid or CPR," noted Shauna Evans, Volunteer Programs Manager. Information and events can be found online at www.fbcoem.org.

Inside this issue:

<i>FBISD Crossing Guards Learn to Safety Guard. .</i>	2
<i>OEM Staff Spotlight . . .Doug Barnes</i>	3
<i>FBCOEM to implement i-INFO. . .</i>	3
<i>Get the Facts on H1N1</i>	4
<i>Skills, Drills, & Thrills: Training Opportunities</i>	5

FBCOEM Volunteer Alumni Quarterly Meeting Schedule

Saturday, October 3, 2009
8:30am—12:00pm
**Preparing for H1N1
What Volunteers Can Do**
Office of Emergency Mgmt

Saturday, January 16, 2010
8:30am—2:00pm
CERT Rodeo Skills Practice
Richmond Fire Field

Fort Bend ISD Crossing Guards Learn to Safe Guard Our Neighborhoods, As Well As Our Kids



On August 26, 2009, the Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management awarded certificates to nine Fort Bend Independent School District crossing guards who completed an 8-week CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program. CERT training certification requires the completion of a 24-hour curriculum that focuses on the fundamentals of Emergency Preparedness and Disaster activities. Participants receive classroom training, which includes, demonstrations and exercises, such as fire suppression and search and rescue techniques and participate in a full-scale disaster simulation exercise. Class instruction was provided by these local response agencies; Stafford Fire Department, Fort Bend County Emergency Medical Services, and the Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management.

Following the presentation of certificates by Alan Spears, Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for the Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management, graduates put their skills to the test in a mock-disaster exercise. The final ex-



ercise was designed to enhance the skills learned by each volunteer team member in a simulated disaster environment. With the assistance of several FBISD sixth grade students, who portrayed disaster "victims", the team of crossing guards responded to a simulated building collapse with victims trapped inside. Team members practiced their skills in search and rescue, disaster medical and triage, and CERT organization as they worked the scene to locate, extract, and treat victims. "I was very glad see us all in action. I hope that we can prosper from this training and be ready when the time for action comes" commented Nathan Barron, FBISD CERT graduate.

Congratulations New CERT Alumni

Nathan Barron
Tomalea Bench
Miriam Clingensmith
Dawn Ford
Richard Memmer
Nancy Renegar
Anne Sullivan
Kate Sullivan
Mary Sullivan

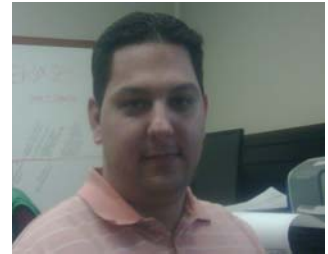
"CERT training teaches preparedness skills that every citizen needs to have and promotes the importance of neighbor helping neighbor, in times of emergency or following a disaster," explains Shauna Evans, Volunteer Programs Manager for the Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management. "These crossing guards demonstrate their commitment to the safety of our neighborhoods each day. They now have the knowledge and skill to provide a greater level of assistance when our first response agencies are overwhelmed and professional response assistance is delayed."

The Community Emergency Response Team program is sponsored by Fort Bend County and facilitated through the Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management. For more information on the County's volunteer programs, visit www.fbcoem.org.



OEM Staff Spotlight. . . Doug Barnes, Planning Coordinator—GIS

The Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management is please to welcome, **Doug Barnes** to Team OEM. Doug will fill a newly created position to provide regional GIS capability to the Houston Galveston area, as well as increase the current GIS functionality within our office. Doug is currently working to map the County's 300+ volunteers, so that we can begin coordinating and growing our neighborhood CERT teams. Additionally, Doug is working closely with the Fort Bend County Health & Human Service Department to assist in mapping H1N1 Flu data. Jeff Braun indicated that he is "thrilled with Doug's ability to graphically represent key information that OEM formerly could only show in a chart or text." Braun, who chairs the Houston Urban Area Securities Initiative's Regional Collaboration Committee, is looking forward to having Doug spending much more of his time on regional database issues and developing new methods for integrating mapping into the Houston area's technology systems used during emergencies.



Doug grew up in the Houston area and attended St. Thomas High School, where he played varsity golf for the St. Thomas golf team. Following in his grandfather's footsteps, Doug pursued a bachelor's degree in geography, minoring in meteorology at Texas Tech University. Anxious to get his feet wet using his knowledge of geographic information systems, he started working for the City of Lubbock as a GIS Analyst while at the same time was considered a GIS Specialist for the South Plains Incident Management Team. Following the birth of his first child in June 2008, he and his family wanted to move back to the Houston area to be closer to family, and continue his love and passion of using GIS in the field of emergency management. Starting in early July he began working at the Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management as a GIS Planning Coordinator where he continues his work today.

FBCOEM To Implement i-INFO To Better Manage Contact Data

Whether preparing for, responding to, or recovering from a disaster, information sharing and collaboration between agencies and support organizations across the region is critical to success. An ever increasing level of regional coordination is now expected by elected officials and their constituents. The Texas Regional Information System (TRIS) uses i-INFO to effectively collect, standardize, manage and share relevant portions of information within the region, with other networks and as needed with state and federal agencies. The Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management is currently implementing the use of i-INFO to share information and availability of resources, personnel, events and news. Additionally, i-INFO allows us to more effectively track volunteers by allowing us to enter contact information, certifications, skills, and personal equipment that could be utilized during an event. Volunteers can log onto i-INFO to enter and maintain their contact and other information, register for upcoming training events, or check out our interactive calendar.

Please log on to enter YOUR information.

<http://registry.i-info.com/fbcvolunteer>



GET THE FACTS on H1N1 (Swine) Flu

Fast Facts

- Flu symptoms include fever, headache, chills, body aches, tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, and congestion. Coughing, sneezing, or speaking spreads flu.
- Antibiotics like penicillin *will not cure* the flu.
- Over-the-counter medications may relieve symptoms. The National Institute for Allergies & Infectious Diseases recommends acetaminophen. Do NOT give aspirin to a child or teenager who has the flu.
- Drinking plenty of liquids, decongestants, cough suppressants, and use of a humidifier can provide symptomatic relief.
- You *can not* get the H1N1 virus by eating pork or pork products.



Preventing the Spread of H1N1 (Swine) Flu

- Clean commonly used surfaces such as door handles, handrails, eating surfaces, and desks and work spaces frequently with disinfectant. Bleach solutions or commercial disinfectants are appropriate. One cup of bleach per gallon of water kills germs.
- Avoid close contact with people who appear to be ill. Stay home if you are sick.
- Cover your nose/mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing or cough/sneeze into your covered shoulder or elbow area.
- Wash your hands frequently. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth as this can quickly spread germs.

Know the Signs / Seek Emergency Treatment ONLY When Necessary

Symptoms	COLD / ALLERGIES	FLU
Fever	Rare	<i>Usual; high (100°F to 102°F); may be higher, especially in young children; lasts 3 to 4 days</i>
Headache	Rare	<i>Common</i>
General Aches, Pains	Slight	<i>Usual; often severe</i>
Fatigue, Weakness	Sometimes	<i>Usual; can last up to 2 to 3 weeks</i>
Extreme Exhaustion	Never	<i>Usual; at the beginning of the illness</i>
Stuffy Nose, Sneezing	Common	<i>Sometimes</i>
Sore Throat	Common	<i>Sometimes</i>
Chest Discomfort, Cough	Mild to moderate; hacking cough	<i>Common; can become severe</i>
Treatment	Antihistamines, Decongestants, Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory Medicines.	<i>Antiviral medicines may be appropriate; contact your primary care doctor</i>
Prevention	Wash your hands often. Avoid close contact with anyone with a cold.	<i>Antiviral medicines may be appropriate for individuals with increased risk; contact your primary care doctor</i>
Complications	Sinus congestion, middle ear infection, and asthma.	<i>Bronchitis and pneumonia can be life threatening</i>
Emergency Treatment	<p><i>In children warning signs that need urgent medical attention include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast breathing or trouble breathing, Bluish / gray skin color, Not drinking enough fluids, Not waking up or not interacting, Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held, Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough, Fever with a rash <p><i>In adults, warning signs that need urgent medical attention include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen, Sudden dizziness, Confusion, Severe or persistent vomiting 	



For additional information, call the state health hotline at 1-888-777-5320, or look for the latest information on the county website at fbcocm.org or the state health department website at www.dshs.state.tx.us.

Skills, Drills, and Thrills!

FBC Volunteer Alumni Training Opportunities!

IS 100 / 700

September 26, 2009, 9am—12pm
Ft Bend Health & Human Services
4520 Reading Rd.
Rosenberg, TX



Gateway to Care / Medical Reserve Corps is partnering with Lone Star Association of Charitable Clinics (LSACC) and the National Association of Free Clinics (NAFC) on September 26, 2009, for a one-day, free clinic at Reliant Center for uninsured patients in the Harris County Region.

IS 200

October 10, 2009, 9am—12pm
Ft Bend Health & Human Services
4520 Reading Rd.
Rosenberg, TX

We have been asked to send out this opportunity to all our MRC and CERT volunteers as both clinical and non-clinical opportunities will be available. Please consider participating in this worthwhile program.

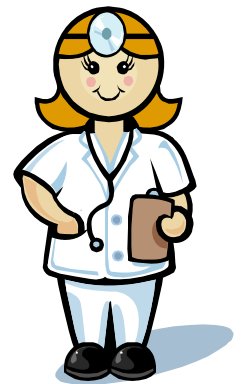
Registration is available at: www.regonline.com/tcare.

For additional information, contact:

tcarevolunteers@freeclinics.us

MRC Orientation

October 22, 2009, 6:30pm
Church of Latter Day Saints
602 Eldridge Road
Sugar Land, TX



**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 Emergency 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