



Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

January / February, 2009

Vol. 1, Issue 1

Volunteer Opportunities

**Houston Intnat'l Gymnastics Competition - George R Brown Convention Center
Fri, Feb 27 - Sun, Mar 1, 2009**

CERT Team Members are needed to assist with pedestrian flow. **Please wear your CERT vest and badge.**

Volunteer Shifts:

Friday, February 27
11:00a-2:30p, 2:30p-6:30p,
6:00p-10:00p

Saturday, February 28
7:00a-11:00a, 10:30a-2:30p,
2:00p-6:00p, 5:30p-9:30p

Sunday, March 1
7:30a-11:30a, 11:00a-3:00p,
3:00p-7:30p

Contact **Michelle Rogers**,
Volunteer Coord, at **832-512-8178** or mjfrogers@gmail.com

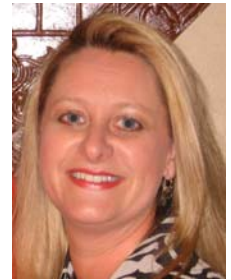
**BVARC Greater Houston HamFest—Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, Richmond, TX
Saturday, March 7, 2009**

CERT Team Members are needed to assist in areas such as: Traffic Control, Communications, Registration, Vendor Check-in, Greeters, Information Officers, Set up and Take down, and Runners. In general, shift times are from 6:30 - 10:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., but may vary. **Please wear CERT vest and badge.**

Contact **Ben Gillis**, Event CERT Coordinator, at bnigillis@swbell.net or 713-907-3897 to RSVP or for information.

Fort Bend County OEM Welcomes New Volunteer Programs Coordinator

Shauna Evans joined the Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management on February 9, 2009 as a Planning Coordinator. She will provide oversight and coordination for the office's volunteer programs, including CERT, CST and EMROG. Shauna has been with the office since March, 2008 working on NIMS compliance issues and other projects to help improve the staffing and organization of the office.

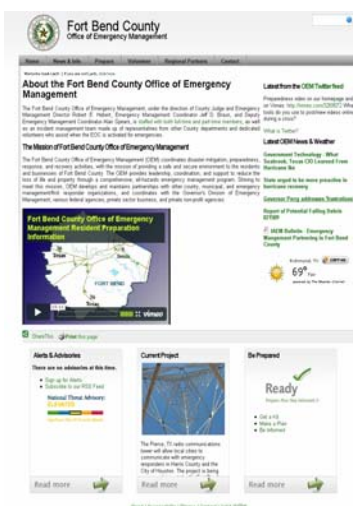


Having worked for the County in prior years, Shauna is well versed in EOC Operations, and has served as Planning Chief during Hurricanes Rita and Ike. She served as a department liaison to the OEM from 2004-2006 and was instrumental in establishing several County policies and procedures regarding employee response to disasters and EOC staffing by County personnel.

"I am excited to be a member of 'Team OEM' and working with our volunteer groups to make Fort Bend County a more educated and better prepared community. We are diligently working to improve our recruitment efforts and increase the level of communication with our alumni," offered Shauna.

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New Website Under Construction

Powered by the Pier System, www.fbcoem.org puts emergency response information at your fingertips.

Fort Bend County citizens and volunteers can get situation awareness, news, and information on all matters related to emergency management and response.

The site will highlight volunteer and training opportunities, while providing online registration for events and classes. **We Go Live on 03/01/09!**

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

Class scheduling is underway! Our first CERT class this year will be in the **City of Meadows Place**.

A victim of the 2008 Hurricane season, the Meadows Place classes were canceled in September of last year as we braced for Eduardo, Gustov and Ike. The classes are hosted by the

City of Meadows Place and Mayor Charles Jessup.

For information on classes, contact Shauna Evans at shauna.evans@co.fort-bend.tx.us. To register, go to <http://volunteerevents.fbcoem.org/>

**Coming soon:
Pecan Grove CERT classes**

City of
Meadows
PLACE
Your Place for Life.

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



SKYWARN™ Volunteers are trained to watch the skies during severe weather then relay reports back to the local Emergency Management Office and/or the Houston-Galveston National Weather Service (NWS) Office. These volunteers provide valuable information to the NWS to improve the warning program which could save lives and prevent property damage in your community.

Monday, April 20, 2009—6:30—9:30 pm
Fort Bend County Annex Building
4520 Reading Road, Rosenberg, TX

For more information contact the FBCOEM at 281-342-6185
To register, go to <http://volunteerevents.fbcoem.org/>



SKYWARN

SKYWARN™
Severe Weather Spotter Training

Monday, April 20, 2009
6:30—9:30 PM

Fort Bend County Annex Building
4520 Reading Road
Rosenberg, TX 77471

SKYWARN™ - is a training program sponsored by the Houston-Galveston National Weather Service Office in conjunction with Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management.

SKYWARN™ Volunteers are trained to watch the skies during severe weather then relay reports back to the local Emergency Management Office and/or the Houston-Galveston National Weather Service (NWS) Office. These volunteers provide valuable information to the NWS to improve the warning program which could save lives and prevent property damage in your community.

SKYWARN™ Volunteers will learn:

- Basics of thunderstorm development
 - Fundamentals of storm structure
- Identifying potential severe weather features
 - How to report information
 - Basic severe weather safety

TRAINING IS FREE

For more information please contact
 Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management
 at 281-342-6185 or oem@co.fort-bend.tx.us. To register log-on to
<http://volunteerevents.fbcoem.org/>



SKYWARN TRAINING IS FOR EVERYONE





8th Annual
Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club
GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST



Hosting the
ARRL South Texas Section Convention
Saturday, March 7, 2009 - 8 am - 2 pm
 Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, Rosenberg, Texas

Streamlined General Admission Registration
Special Seller Parking and Easy Access
Special Seller Registration & Packet Pick-Up
On-Line Registration with Table Pre-selection
Free Tailgating with early buyer access

Featured Speaker – To Be Announced

- Over 18,000 sq. feet of indoor exhibit space!
- Plenty of Free Parking!
- Friday evening set-up.

Programs:

- Training seminars
- Information lectures
- APRS & Satellite operation demonstrations
- DXCC checking
- Hands on demos

Raffle:

GRAND PRIZE: YAESU FT-450-AT



HF-8M w/ DSP and Automatic Antenna Tuner
 Other prizes awarded every 10 – 15 minutes!

Displays & Information:

- Emergency Vehicles
- ARRL • ARES • AMSAT
- Live HF Station

License Testing:

Registration starts at 8 am;
 Testing starts at 9 am;
 Photo ID, \$14 & copy of license needed

Camping and Lodging:

Overnight camping sites with full hook-ups.

On-Site Food Available

Breakfast: 7:00 until ?
 Lunch: 10:30 until ?
 On-going snacks, coffee, soft drinks

Directions & Talk-In:

No Houston Traffic.
 Approx. 33 mi SW of downtown Houston.
 From Houston, take US 59 south to Rosenberg (approximately 17 miles past Beltway 8) to Hwy 36. Go South approx. 1 mi to Fairgrounds (on your right).
 Talk-in - 148.940 minus offset, 167.9 tone or 145.470 minus offset, 123.0 tone – Club Call KK5W

Miscellaneous:

Admission: \$5 per person - Includes 1 raffle ticket!
 Children Under 14 Free!

Tables: All tables - \$10 pre-registration (choose tables on-line in advance)
 Electricity available to pre-registrants (no charge). On-site registrant elec. as available.
 Set-up available: Friday 4-8 PM, Saturday 6-8 AM

Tailgate: Free – special area in main venue area. Attendees will have early access to the tailgate area.

Raffle: Tickets - one for \$1 or six for \$5

Hamfest Location – 4200 Highway 36, Rosenberg, TX 77471 - Lat 29 31 07 Long 95 48 49
 Contact: Kirk Kendrick, W5KMK, w5kmk@arrl.net, 281-639-5088

Severe Weather Awareness Week: February 22—28, 2009



AUSTIN – When it comes to severe weather events, the key to successful response—and survival—is preparedness. Every year, the National Weather Service, the Governors' Division of Emergency Management, local officials and emergency managers throughout Texas work together to recognize Severe Weather Awareness Week.

The Governor's Division of Emergency Management urges Texans to prepare for severe storms before they strike. Your family should have an emergency supply kit on hand. Your supplies should be kept in water resistant, easy-to-lift containers that you can move rapidly if necessary.

This supply kit is appropriate for severe weather events as well as other emergencies.



EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

It should include:

- First-aid kit
- Cash (power outages mean banks and ATMs may be unavailable)
- Road maps
- Battery-operated radio and flashlight with extra batteries
- Important documents and records, photo IDs, proof of residence
- Three-day supply of non-perishable food, one gallon of bottled water per person per day, coolers for food and ice storage
- Fire extinguisher
- Blankets, sleeping bags and extra clothing
- Extra medications and prescriptions, hearing aids and other special medical items
- Eyeglasses and sunglasses
- Toilet paper, clean-up supplies, duct tape, tarp, rope
- Can opener, knife, tools, booster cables
- Special supplies needed for babies, older adults or pets

Remember to change perishable supplies and water every six months.



Check out these links:

www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem

www.dot.state.tx.us

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/hazstats.shtml>

<http://www.weather.gov/os/severeweather/index.shtml>

Skills, Drills, and Thrills!

FBC Volunteer Alumni Training Opportunities!

MRC Training Opportunities:



Shelter Operations Training
03/02/09—7:00 pm—9:00 pm
Fort Bend County HHS Office
4520 Reading Rd., Rosenberg

Repackaging & TIMS
03/03/09 – 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm
Fort Bend County HHS Office
4520 Reading Rd., Rosenberg

IS 100 & IS 700
04/11/09 – 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Fort Bend County HHS Office
4520 Reading Rd., Rosenberg

**MRC Training Day—
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

For information or to register:
rsvp@homelandpreparedness.org

Red Cross Training Opportunities:



Shelter Operations
03/17/09 – 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm
Red Cross – Southwest Office
2610 BF Terry Blvd., Rosenberg

Volunteer Orientation
04/22/09 – 9:00 am – 11:00 am
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

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

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

**DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT
TAKE TO WORK IN THE
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER DURING TIME
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 CERT program, you may contact Shauna Evans, Planning Coordinator at shauna.evans@co.fort-bend.tx.us or by calling 281-342-6185.

Forward comments, article ideas, upcoming events, or photos of CERT members performing volunteer activities, to oem@co.fort-bend.tx.us.

**Fort Bend County
Office of Emergency Management**
Jeff Braun, CEM
Emergency Management Coordinator