



# Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management

## VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

September / October, 2009

Vol. 1, Issue 5

### *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, FBISD  
michael.biasini@  
fortbend.k12.tx.us

## **Pecan Grove CERT Adds 9 New Alumni to Local Response Team**

On October 20, 2009, the Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management awarded certificates to nine local residents 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, with 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 Jeff Braun, 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 exercise was designed to enhance the skills learned by each volunteer team member in a simulated disaster environment. With the assistance of several neighborhood children who portrayed disaster “victims”, the new graduates 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.

“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 graduates are committed to the safety and security of their respective neighborhoods and 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.”

For more information on the County’s volunteer programs, visit [www.fbcoem.org](http://www.fbcoem.org).

### **Congratulations New CERT Alumni**

**Scott Campbell  
Patrick Harris  
Richard Harrison  
Anita Najar  
Manual Najar, Jr.  
Robert Raybon  
Susan Raybon  
Jack Stewart  
Gordon Stoneburner**

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## Pecan Grove CERT Welcomes New Team Leader, Offers Classes and More to Local Residents

On September 1, 2009, the Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management welcomed a small group of residents into the new Richmond Fire Station to begin CERT training. Veteran CERT member, Michael Chance was on hand to offer his support as the current Pecan Grove CERT Team Leader and resident. Chance has taken an active roll in recruiting local residents to get involved in community activities, attend monthly CERT team meetings, and participate in opportunities to continue or advance their preparedness skills. “As Team Leader, I try to provide a level of ongoing training to keep Team Members and others in our community interested in disaster preparedness. As our team continues to grow, we will work together to plan preparedness drills, assist with community events such as the annual “5 Miles My Way” race, and assist our local Fire, Law Enforcement, or EMS with events and activities, when requested,” offers Chance.

Pecan Grove CERT recently offered a course in terrorist bombing response and SKYWARN, both facilitated by Michael Chance. Due to the large number of individuals interested in the SKYWARN Weather Spotter training, Chance has coordinated a second class, open to all interested residents.

Monthly meetings of the Pecan Grove CERT team occur on the second Wednesday of each month and are open to all CERT trained volunteers and local residents interested in learning about the CERT program. Upcoming events include;

**SKYWARN™**  
**Severe Weather Spotter Training**  
**Wednesday, December 9, 2009, 6:30—9:30 PM**  
**Pecan Grove Fire Department**  
**727 Pitts Rd, Richmond**



The CERT 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](http://www.fbcoem.org).

## 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>





**SKYWARN™**  
**Severe Weather Spotter Training**

**Wednesday, December 9, 2009**  
**6:30—9:30 PM**

**Pecan Grove Fire Department**  
**727 Pitts Rd**  
**Richmond, TX 77406**

**SKYWARN™** is a training program sponsored by the Houston-Galveston National Weather Service Office in conjunction with the Pecan Grove CERT.

**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 or to register, please contact**  
**Michael Chance, Pecan Grove CERT Team Leader at**  
**281-851-7525 or MChanceUSN@aol.com**

The Pecan Grove CERT team is part of the Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management volunteer alumni group. CERT members are trained in emergency response and recovery. For more information on the Fort Bend County CERT program log on to [www.fbcoem.org](http://www.fbcoem.org) or contact the Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management at 281-342-6185.

**SKYWARN TRAINING IS FOR EVERYONE**





# **FORT BEND COUNTY MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS TRAINING DAY**

**Join Us February 6, 2010**  
**At the Fort Bend County Annex**  
**4520 Reading Road, Rosenberg, TX**

## **Our Focus**

**Equip MRC Volunteers With Needed Knowledge and Skills**

## **The Programs**

**(One morning session and one evening session; pick one or two.)**

**8 AM to Noon ♦ Incident Command System 100.a and 700.a**

**9 AM to Noon ♦ American Red Cross Shelter Operations**

**1 PM to 4 PM ♦ Repacking and Inventory Management**

**1 PM to 4 PM ♦ Medical Reserve Corps Orientation**

**(The Orientation Class is also Recertification)**

**NOON TO 1 PM ♦ LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED**

## **Register with at**

**<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s/194960/z01bu>**

**or register via e-mail to**  
**RSVP@homelandpreparedness.org**

**For More Information Contact Glenn Turner @ 281-330-4493**

# Calling ALL CERT Alumni— LET'S RODEO

Dust off those backpacks and get ready to rodeo! Harris County Citizen Corps will host the 4th annual in Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Rodeo Round Up in February, 2010, at the Harris County Fire and Sheriff's Training Academy in Humble, Texas.

The CERT Rodeo provided is an opportunity for CERT Alumni from our region to test their skills and experience in a variety of “mock” disaster setting. This all day event is open to individuals and teams.

The Fort Bend County CERT program has grown over the past year, and we are looking to fill two teams with interested participants. Additionally, the Lamar Consolidated High School Teen CERT program will compete for top honors against other area high schools.

Participating CERT Teams will compete in several areas of emergency response. These timed, mock exercises include; 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. Families are welcome to attend. For more information or to join a competition team, contact your local area Team Leader or Shauna Evans at 281-238-3419.



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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:oem@co.fort-bend.tx.us).*

**Fort Bend County  
Office of Emergency Management**

Jeff Braun, CEM  
Emergency Management Coordinator