

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Team Training
Sept 16
- OFD Trailer
Sept 26
- Traffic Control
Sept 29
- Basic Class
Oct 8-10
- Team Training
Oct 21

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CERT Members Went to Traffic School

The usual thought when you hear of someone having to go to traffic school is that they have received a ticket for some type of driving violation. The traffic school ENCERT members attended was for the control of vehicles in a temporary or emergency situation. The need for this type of training came to surface as a result of assisting at another event where ENCERT members did perform traffic control.

ENCERT members were taught the proper way to direct traffic, proper signage, and how to create safety and work zones. The number one cause of law enforcement officer deaths is being struck by motorists. Expecting the unexpected and never turning your back to traffic were some of the most important skills taught to the ENCERT members.

The program was first introduced to ENCERT by an invitation from the Nebraska Department of Roads. There were extra seats in a class schedule for law enforcement officers, public works, and towing companies. Those who attended this first class knew this was something

that the general membership needed to know. Contact was made with the sanctioning organization and another class was brought back to Omaha. The completion of this second class brings the number of ENCERT flaggers to 44.

One of the comments most often heard from those completing the class was I never knew there were so many requirement's to simply directing traffic. Those in attendance have a greater appreciation for those who protect us and work along the highways.



Advancing Their Skills

Team Leaders have completed many advanced classes to improve their ability to lead and serve during time of community need.

Eastern Nebraska CERT is proud of these members who have become qualified as Team Leaders: Mark Chastain, Gene Brewer, Jeanie Deiml, Keith Deiml, Stacy

Combs-Alberry, Ronda Colby, Tad Leeper, Dawnette Schmidt, Ernie Gubbels, Gary Jensen, Sharon McKay, Todd Trimpe, Colin Smalley, Eric Ashbaugh, Mike Everett, Mike Opocensky, Clayton Gullick, Austin Brake, Clint Dyer, and Jessie Terry.

Go to the ENCERT website to see how you could become an ENCERT Team Leader.

"The talent of success is nothing more than doing what you can do, well."

Henry W. Longfellow

Presidential Volunteer Service Awards

Since late 2008, activities performed by CERT Members have been entered into the Presidential Volunteer Service Awards Program. This is a system which allows managers to post volunteers hours in service to the community. To date over 8000 hours have been logged and several members have received recognition. Those receiving awards for 2009: Stacy Combs—Bronze Award for 244

hours, Mark Chastain—Silver Award for 269 hours, Jeanie Deiml—gold Award for 644 hours, Dawnette Schmidt—Bronze Award for 114 hours, Jennie Hovey—Bronze Award for 140 hours, and Jeremy Lambert—Bronze Award for 133 hours.



Nebraska Governor's Points Of Light Award



The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) provided volunteer support at the Douglas County Health Department's H1N1 mass vaccination clinics. Volunteers from this organization contributed a total of 1,722 service hours in staffing 20 vaccination clinics held from November 5 to December 31, 2009.

At these clinics, more than 41,000 doses of vaccine were administered to community members. The CERT volunteers provided additional manpower which was absolutely essential to the effective and efficient operation of the clinics. Volunteers screened and greeted people; coordinated parking;

provided crowd control, helped reduce stress by talking to people waiting in long lines; assisted with paperwork; kept vaccination stations stocked with supplies; helped parents/guardians with children who were scared or crying; monitored the exit area to answer questions about the vaccine and to watch for adverse reactions, and assisted with the set-up and break down of the clinics.

Their participation enabled Douglas County Health Department to focus on vaccinating as many people as possible, thereby protecting the health of those who live in the Omaha community.

Selected comments from the nominator, Dr. Adi Pour, Douglas County Health Director,

Omaha Triathlon



ENCERT participated in the First Omaha Triathlon held at Glen Cunningham Lake on August 1st. Twenty-three ENCERT members showed up at the Staging Area at 4:30 a.m. to receive their initial briefing and assignment. ENCERT along with Heartland REACT staffed 15 intersections along the 28 mile cycling course. The competition started at 6:00 a.m.

with a 1 mile swim followed by the cycling event where these two Citizen Corps groups provided the majority of the road course safety for the athletes. Mike Everett, ENCERT Team Leader stated, "We learned a lot about managing a non-disaster event from this Triathlon. Number one concern—"No bathrooms, but lots of corn fields?"

They Are Number One in Nebraska



As you know CERT was created in Southern California in the early 1980's. It's purpose was to support the needs of professional responders with trained volunteer assistance in times of need and to make the citizen more overall prepared to survive incidents. CERT is now in every state serving these original goals. Following in the foot-steps of the CERT program is the Teen CERT program. The same curriculum taught in the adult class is being taught in Teen CERT. Primarily presented in the High School, this offering also provides youth with the opportunity to experience the careers of front line responders and the emergency management personnel. The students get the opportunity to visit fire stations, hospitals, 911 centers, and Emergency Operations Centers.

Eastern Nebraska CERT joined together with the faculty during the second semester (March 2010) at Burke High School to kick-off the Teen CERT program. The students were greeted with a charge to study and perform well in this the first ever offering in the state. The person charging the students was Nebraska's Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy. Rick serves as the state's Chairman of Homeland Security.



The Lt. Governor told the students that he expected to see them all in May when he would hand out their Certificates of Completion. He held them to his challenge as he was present on May 15th and passed out their certificates.

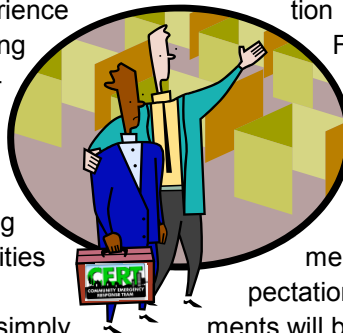
Fifteen students completed the course. There were over 60 family members present at their graduation.

Since that time the students assisted in their first exercise as they helped at the Nebraska High School Annual Track Meet held at their school.

New Members' Meetings

Starting this month all new members are invited to attend a briefing to give them the knowledge to better enhance their ENCERT experience and their ability to access the training they may need to assist the community in times of need. They may chose either to meet before or after a regularly scheduled Team Training session. During this 30 minute meeting the various training/service opportunities will be discussed.

In the early days of ENCERT, it was simply take the Basic class and you will be called if a need arises. Since that time the needs of the community have changed and so has ENCERT. Mem-



bers now have the opportunity to perform Damage Assessment, direct traffic, staff Volunteer Reception Centers (VRC), assist with the Omaha Fire Department's Public Education activities and Douglas County's Health Departments Vaccination Clinics to name a few.

Additionally, the Team Leaders have been busy working on several documents to govern the operations and expectations of the membership. These documents will be shared with the new members at that time. For current members these documents will be shared at the various training opportunities and soon to be online at the ENCERT's website.

Damage Assessment



Following the storms of early June, many ENCERT Damage Assessors went into areas to evaluate the impact of the high winds and flood waters. The assess-

ments were collected for Emergency Management, the Red Cross, and other agencies needing the information.

In some effected areas the water had been present for many days causing widespread damage. In one community the waters rose to within 6 inches of an all-time record. These high waters caused even flooding behind the levies as the water began to percolate up through the ground. Most displaced persons found shelter with family and friends. Support operations for those persons displaced was handled by the Red Cross and Salvation Army.

If you are interested in becoming a Damage Assessor, contact the ENCERT office at 402.680.8705.

What's Been Happening at ENCERT!

The following is a summary of recent events ENCERT Team Members have participated in:

Salute to Safety Westroads

Mark Chastain, Doug Dahl, Hope Wolf, Ken Stachura, Dawnette Schmidt, Dave Duncan, Mike Everett, Jeanie Deiml, Ernie Gubbels, Ken Moy, Diane Bemis, JoAnne Kahnk, and Jeremy Lambert

Police/Fire Appreciation Day (Qwest)

Gene Brewer, Lewie Kummer, Rich Matthews, and Jennie Hovey

Safety Fair (Kroc Center)

Marge Newton, Mary Kay Anderson, Jeanie Deiml, and David Duncan

Siren Testing

Dawnette Schmidt, Merrily Staats, Heather Kaf-fenberger, Mark Chastain, Duane Brook, Ronda Colby, Dana Hovey, and Jennie Hovey

Wind Storm Damage Assessment

Jennie Hovey, Dana Hovey, Ronda Colby, Mark Chastain, Duane Brooks, Gene Brewer, Dawnette Schmidt, and Merrily Staats

Flood Water Damage Assessment

Gary Jensen, Sharon McKay, Mark Chastain, Mike Everett, Ken Stachura, Tad Leeper, Clint

Dyer, Leigh Ann Bennett, Jeanie Deiml, Clint Dyer, John Newell, Rhonda Carden, Ronda Colby, Linda Obrien, and Mike Wagster

Parade (Florence Day)

Dana Hovey, Rich Matthews, and Bernice Rowlett

Parade (La Vista)

Mike Opocensky, Jennie Hovey, Tanda Moore, and Jeanie Deiml

Flood Response (Waterloo)

Mark Chastain, Mike Opocensky, and Jeanie Deiml

Omaha Triathlon

Gene Brewer, Gene Cash, Mark Chastain, Jeanie Deiml, Mike Everett, Robert Fisher, Ernie Gubbels, Jeff Hildenbrandt, Lewie Kummer, Carole Lislecki, Rich Long, Rich Matthews, Bryan Meisinger, Paul Mignon, Mary Mott, Lynn Robinson, Ken Stachura, and David Wilson

MARE Drill Offutt AFB Clint Dyer, Mark Chastain, Chris Majors, Laura Dyer, Jeanie Deiml, Lewie Kummer, Jessie Terry, Tad Leeper, Marge Newton, and Carole Lislecki

"CERT's help was greatly appreciated during these many events."

Douglas County Officials

Strategic National Stockpile

ENCERT recently received a briefing from the Douglas County Health Department on the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). ENCERT would be used as a support group if mass clinics were ever needed to be deployed. The need for such a deployment would be only for the most serious of health needs in the community. The plan is to be able to provide medical/drug support to an identified population within 48 hours. We would perform similar activities as those we provided during the H1N1 clinics. The biggest difference would be the time frame. ENCERT worked the twenty H1N1 clinics over 45 days while these clinics need to be completed in 2 days. The SNS has a history of being deployed during the World Trade Center bombings, Anthrax attacks, Hurricane Katrina. Additional information is available at: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/stockpile/>



Team Leaders - Hard at Work

Team Leaders have been working on several documents to improve the safety and efficiency of ENCERT operations. These plans and standard operating procedures (SOP) will allow ENCERT to establish common terminology and duties/responsibilities when deployed to an incident. When time is at a premium, there is not the opportunity to provide on the job training. Members need to do their assignment and be safe and productive. Much discussion and thought has gone into these documents and hopefully they will be available to distribute soon.

8000 and Still Counting

Eastern Nebraska CERT Team Members have volunteered more than four working years to the community in public service and disaster response. If these hours are computed with FEMA's reimbursement rate, it has a value of over \$150,000.



Calendar

SEPTEMBER

- Sept 16** Team Training
Special Needs Populations in a Disaster
19:00 @ Red Cross
- Sept 26** Omaha Fire Department, Safety Trailer,
Community Wellness Day, Embassy Suites, La Vista 1300-1600
- Sept 29** Traffic Control Class, (Second Offering)
ARC 1800-2200

OCTOBER

- Oct 3** Omaha Fire Department, Safety Trailer,
National Safety Council, Safety and Wellness
Festival, Embassy Suites, La Vista 1100-1600
- Oct 8-10** CERT Basic Class
at Omaha Fire Department's Station #65
(This is a change of date)
- Oct 9** Omaha Fire Department Safety Trailer,
Henry Doorly Zoo, 0800-1700
- Oct 9** Omaha Fire Department Sprinkler Trailer,
ScoutFest, Mahoney State Park
0900-1600
- Oct 21** Animals in a Disaster Presentation, at the
Nebraska Humane Society, 90th and Fort Streets
- Oct 21** CERT State Council, North Platte, NE



“ Doing the greatest good for the greatest number of people ”

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Special - September Disaster Preparedness Checklist

Preparedness Tip #1

What are the best escape routes from your home? Find at least two ways out of each room.

Preparedness Tip #2

Pick a place to meet after a disaster. Designate two meeting places. Choose one right outside your home and one outside your neighborhood, in the event that it is not safe to stay near or return to your home.

Preparedness Tip #3

Choose an emergency contact person outside your area because it may be easier to call long distance than locally after a disaster.

Preparedness Tip #4

Complete an emergency contact card and make copies for each member of your family to carry with them..

Preparedness Tip #5

Dogs may be man's best friend, but due to health regulations, most emergency shelters cannot house animals. Find out in advance how to care for your pets and working animals when disaster strikes.

Preparedness Tip #6

Every six months review your plan, update numbers, and check supplies to be sure nothing has expired, spoiled, or changed.

Preparedness Tip #7

Check your child's school Website or call the school office to request a copy of the school's emergency plan.

Preparedness Tip #8

Teach your children how and when to call 9-1-1 during a medical emergency

Preparedness Tip #9

Conduct fire drills and practice evacuating your home twice a year.

Preparedness Tip #10

Talk to your neighbors about how you can work together during an emergency.

Preparedness Tip #11

Find out the emergency Preparedness plan for your workplace?

Preparedness Tip #12

You should keep enough supplies in your home to meet the needs of you and your family for at least three days.

Preparedness Tip #13

Preparing for emergencies needn't be expensive if you're thinking ahead and buying small quantities at a time.

Preparedness Tip #14

Take time to check your family's first aid kit, and note any depleted items.

Preparedness Tip #15

Keep at least a three-day supply of water per person. A minimum of one gallon of water per person per day.

Preparedness Tip #16

One of the easiest ways you can prepare for emergencies is to keep some supplies readily available. Every kit is unique and can be tailored to meet the specific needs of your family.

Preparedness Tip #17

Gather sanitation items for your emergency supply kit.

Preparedness Tip #18

Include at least one complete change of clothing and footwear per person in your emergency supply kit.

Preparedness Tip #19

You should also keep a smaller version of your emergency supply kit in your vehicle.

Preparedness Tip #20

Teach children how to dial 9-1-1 in an emergency.

Preparedness Tip #21

Read the information on your city, county and/or state government Web sites and print emergency Preparedness information.

Preparedness Tip #22

When water is of questionable purity, it is easiest to use bottled water for drinking and cooking if it is available. When it's not available, it is important to know how to treat contaminated water.

Preparedness Tip #23

In some emergencies you may be required to turn off your utilities. Know where they are located and how to turn them off.

Preparedness Tip #24

Understand how to during an emergency to "shelter-in-place" or evacuate.

Preparedness Tip #25

A disaster can cause significant financial loss. Take the time now to assess your situation and ask questions.

Preparedness Tip #26

Learn if earthquakes are a risk in your area by contacting your local emergency management office.

Preparedness Tip #27

Floods are among the most frequent and costly natural disasters in terms of human hardship and economic loss. As much as 90 percent of the damage related to all natural disasters is caused by floods and associated debris flow.

Preparedness Tip #28

When there is concern about a potential exposure to a chemical or other airborne hazard, local officials may advise you to "shelter-in-place " and "seal the room." If you are instructed by local officials, create a temporary barrier between you and the contaminated air outside.

*More detailed information is available at :
http://www.dhs.gov/xcitizens/editorial_0711.shtm*