Reinstating CERT In Bastrop County In 2021

Presented by Deputy Director Christine Files
Bastrop County Office of Emergency Management

So, what is CERT?

- CERT is an acronym for **Community Emergency Response Team**

- CERT is a **nationally recognized** program under the FEMA umbrella

- CERT is **comprised of community volunteers** who have an interest in disaster response and who are willing to invest time in formal training and in responding when needed

- CERT **provides for community self-sufficiency** through the development of multifunction response teams who act as adjunct to the county's emergency services during major disasters

- CERT members can also **assist with non-emergency projects** that help improve the safety of their community

What's the history of CERT in Bastrop County?

- CERT was organized in **Bastrop County in 2006**, sponsored by Bastrop County Office of Emergency Management

- 2006 bylaws reflected **Michael C. Fisher** as Chairman of the Board, **Richard G. Jones**, president; and **Fay H. Jones**, secretary

- The BCCERT Mission Statement: **"Bastrop County CERT is a charitable organization whose mission is to provide support to emergency response and emergency preparedness organizations in Bastrop County; train and organize volunteers to provide support; and otherwise assist to improve safety and emergency preparedness in Bastrop County."**

- Bastrop County CERT program **dissolved in 2014**

- Bastrop County CERT program **reinstated in 2021** with **Preston McGrew**, deputy director; **Teri Dusold**, asst. deputy director; **Phil Dusold** logistics; **Matthew West**, training

What Can CERT do?

- Provide **Support to First Responders** on scene during or after an emergency/disaster including:
    - Fires
    - Floods
    - Man-made disasters
    - Search Operations

- **Educate their communities** on the importance of emergency preparedness

What Can CERT do?

- **Respond after a disaster:**
  - Locate & turn off utilities, if safe
  - Extinguish small fires
  - Treat injuries
  - Conduct light search & rescue
  - Help relieve survivor stress

- **Community Services**
  - Traffic control
  - Distributing smoke alarms
  - Promote community awareness of potential hazards & preparedness measures
  - Supplement staffing at special events, such as community festivals

Is There Training for CERT Members?

"CERT training covers basic skills that are important to know in a disaster when emergency services are compromised. With training an practice, and working as a team, members will be able to protect themselves and maximize their capabilities to help for the greatest number of people after a disaster." **--CERT Basic Trainings / Ready.gov**

- **9 Core CERT training units from FEMA:**
  - Disaster Preparedness
  - CERT Organization
  - Disaster Medical Operations Parts 1 & 2
  - Disaster Psychology
  - Fire Safety & Utility Controls
  - Light Search& Rescue Operations
  - Terrorism & CERT
  - Course Review, Final Exam & Disaster Simulation

What CERT Cannot do?

- **CERTs Do Not:**
- Suppress large fires
- Enter heavily damaged and dangerous structures
- Perform hazardous materials cleanup
- Conduct medical, fire, or search and rescue operations beyond their training
- Activate or deploy unless called for in their procedures

Are you interested in learning more about becoming a CERT member in Bastrop County?

Contact :
Bastrop County Office of Emergency Management

512-581-4022

or

cert@co.bastrop.tx.us