

CERT

CORNER



CERT Assists the American Red Cross Blood Drive

CERT was requested by the American Red Cross to help with the blood drive hosted by Whitfield County Government. On September 19th Jay Ryan and Sandy Clayborne helped with registration verification and Sherry Pressley helped donors get their t-shirts and post-donation snack. Thank you who helped make it work as well as donated!

Upcoming Events

- October 4th- National Night Out at Burr Park
- October 6th- Moulage Training at the EOC
- October 8th- Home Depot Kids Safety Day at Home Depot
- October 22nd- Search and Rescue Exercise at Rocky Face Ridge Park
- November 3rd- CPR Training at the EOC
- November 5th- Veterans Road Race at Edwards Park
- December 8th- CERT Christmas Party and End of Year Recap

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On Sunday, September 4th Chattooga County, Georgia was hit with catastrophic flooding. Both residences and businesses were affected by this event across the county. Before our EMA office could be requested to help we already had CERT Volunteers asking how they could help. Later in the week that phone call came- our CERT program was requested to come in to help with traffic management at the feeding sites. Within an hour or so we had 5 volunteers ready to come throughout the weekend.

Then in true CERT fashion folks went above and beyond. One member was able to borrow traffic cones to help with the route through the site parking lots. Another was able to solicit a donation of deodorizer and disinfectant to be taken over for the resident's homes that had water in them. Thank you to Sandy Clayborne, Jim McDonald, Jay Ryan, and David Senters for your time!

Also, thank you to The Recreation Group for donating the cleaner and Accurate Mechanical and Piping Company for the borrowed truck to deliver it in.

We couldn't be more proud of this team!!

Neighbors Helping Neighbors



Top Row: CERT members assist Whitfield EMA at a Chattooga County feeding site.

Bottom Row: Two pallets of disinfectant are loaded and ready to go to Chattooga County.

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Community Organizations Band Together



Members of the Whitfield County COAD have their first meeting at the Salvation Army.

Earlier this year there was a call to action in the community for organizations that might be helpful in a disaster to get together before a disaster strikes. In June we had the first meeting to start a COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disasters) for Whitfield County. We were fortunate to have representatives from the government, nonprofits, industry, churches, and schools all show interest in this new project.

Several of the attendees volunteered to form an Executive Committee that would elect the first officers, develop goals from the suggestions made in the June meeting, and develop the bylaws.

The first business meeting was held at the Salvation Army building on September 26th with a tour following. We were excited to see CERT well represented by members!



October Training

This next training session will be a little different and a little gruesome and spooky in the most fun of ways! Christina Byrd will be teaching some of her basic moulage (fake wound) techniques- just in time for Halloween!

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In August Sandy Clayborne traveled to the National CERT Association's (NCA) Annual Conference with Christina Byrd from EMA. Every year CERT leaders and members from around the world come together through the NCA to train together, network, and most importantly learn from each other. There were people there from indigenous tribes, most states, and even Malaysia!

The keynote speaker was Deanne Criswell, FEMA Administrator. She seemed very impassioned about the CERT program and alluded to great things to come.

While there they participated in classes about interacting with the deaf and access and functional needs communities, donated goods management, CERT in active shooter scenarios, and more.

Thank you to GEMA for allowing us to include this event in our grant! It's something we hope to get to continue in future years.

CERT Goes to Galveston



Top left: Sandy and Christina Pose in front of the NCA backdrop.

Top right and bottom: Several speakers from throughout Texas came to speak at the conference.

Bottom Left: FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell presents her keynote address.

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Gordon County HAZMAT Exercise



CERT member Jay Ryan is decontaminated by a firefighter in a HAZMAT exercise.

On September 6th Gordon County EMA, Gordon County Fire, Calhoun Fire, and others were invited by a company in Calhoun to participate in a hazardous materials exercise (hazmat). As part of that exercise, they needed volunteers to have moulage applied (fake wounds seen on his head in photos) and go through the decontamination process.

CERT volunteer Jay Ryan was ready and willing to dedicate his time to a good cause. We couldn't have exercises without patients to work with. Thank you Jay for your time!