



CERTified Mail

Gwinnett County, Georgia --- www.gwinnettcert.org

Memo

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TO: Gwinnett County CERT
Gwinnett County Citizens Police Academy Alumni

FROM: Maj. Alan Doss

DATE: June 20, 2007

SUBJECT: Appreciation

On the morning of May 15, 2007, Southside Precinct Commander Maj. J.K. Taylor requested assistance on the search for a missing 14 year old who had last been seen the night before. I got in touch with Tom Mulheron and the activation call went out, with CERT and CPAAA members responding. It was not long at all before you started arriving on-scene and preparing for the 'suburban search' role. Team leaders put teams together without delay and assumed responsibility for searching designated geographic areas around the Bridle Gate subdivision. The areas covered ranged from what might have otherwise been a ho-hum, everyday walk in the neighborhood, to very densely vegetated areas calling for up-and-down hikes. Teams took on multiple assignments and a lot of territory was covered.

As it turned out, the young man you were searching for was discovered safe at his grandfather's home in DeKalb County. He had become disoriented in woods near his own home the night before and ended up sleeping behind buildings in the Highway 78/Bethany Church area. Believing he would be in trouble if he went home, he asked someone for a ride and made it to the grandfather's. The case could easily have gone badly at several points, and we are fortunate that the missing person was alright. It

took a uniform and investigative effort to begin the search and to follow leads that resulted in his being located – a process that takes place to some degree in the police department on a nearly daily basis. The less-than-routine aspect of the call was the overwhelming response by all of you in the middle of a work day.

I want to thank all of you who answered the call when you were needed. In no particular order, those people are: Dorothy Jubon, Mark Zoghby, Kathy White, Dave Adanich, Terry Trammell, Pam McCabe, Joe McGrogan, Dale Barton, Tom Mulheron, James Norris, Vester Scott, Jeff Eastabrooks, Tim Campbell, Blair Jordan, Bruce Klein, Ryan Haney, Ward Phillips, Ann Phillips, Phil Rowland, Ron Harms, Mike Mester, Mike Burgess, Jeff Patrick, Ron Jackelman, John Clark, Brad Pryor, Noel Rivera, Cecil Davis and Renee Punturo. As you read the list of names you might not recognize those of a couple of residents of the subdivision and a friend of a CERT member who also helped.

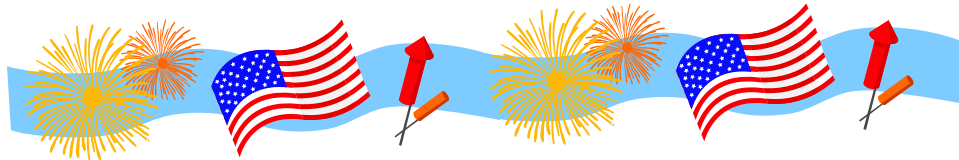
Again, thank you all - for having gone through training, for being interested enough to continue to be involved, and especially for responding to this call when it would have been just as easy not to. You provided a service to your fellow Gwinnett citizens and you certainly raised the level of awareness of the Southside Precinct's officers as to what you have to offer and the organized way in which you operate. I greatly appreciate being associated with all of you.



CERTified Mail

Annual Meeting
July 25 – 7 pm
Gwinnett Justice &
Administration Building
Hope to see you there!!!

Gwinnett Glows Volunteers Needed



We need to recruit for volunteers for Gwinnett Glows. We are working on plans for a table/booth. We will also rotate as volunteers walking the premises for First Aid or what ever is necessary. Email djubon@gwinnettcert.org if you are available to help. Due to the drought, there is a possibility that this event will be cancelled, for more information about the event go to www.gwinnettglows.com.



CERTified Mail

Promotion Anyone?

At the Annual Meeting on July 25 (7 pm at Gwinnett Justice and Administration Building) Level Promotions will be awarded. If you think that you qualify, send an email to djubon@gwinnettcert.org. Please let me know why you think you're qualified by listing accomplishments / qualifications.

As a reminder, here are the SOG requirements listed by level:

Level 2

For individuals that want to be part of Gwinnett County CERT and may have a desire to actively participate in drills, advanced training or community service projects. May or may not be interested in taking on a leadership role. These individuals are willing and able to respond during a time of need to either emergency or community oriented events. Level 2 participants are able to fulfill the position of team leader or Response Coordinator.

Basic requirements:

Includes fulfilling requirements for Level 1. Individual is required to take and pass DHS-FEMA self-study courses IS-100, IS-200 & IS-700. It is also required, but not limited to, that individuals maintain certification in Basic (or higher) First Aid, CPR/AED, Fire Extinguishers, and are able to attend refresher sessions for CERT modules, Traffic Control.

Level 3

Individuals that want to be part of Gwinnett County CERT and have a desire to actively participate in drills, advanced training, community service projects and development of the CERT program. These participants are interested in taking on leadership roles as team leaders, zone captains or battalion coordinators. They are willing and able to respond during a time of need

to either emergency or community oriented events. The individual must be willing and able to assist with the development of drills, training, recruitment, community relations and actively work with the leadership to move the program into the future.

Basic requirements:

Includes fulfilling requirements for Level's 1 and 2. Individuals may also have the desire for additional training, including but not limited to, Advanced First Aid, MRC (inoculations), GCPD search techniques, Self-defense, Hazmat, Psychology, Storm Spotters, Intro to ARES, Light Equipment Utilization, Utilities Management, Compass Navigation (Orienteering), ISAR and CERT Train-the-Trainer (ITT).

Level 4

Individuals which make up the GC CERT management team (director and all direct reports), Train the Trainer's (ITT's) and are the program coordinators. These are the people that work directly with EMA/DHS and Citizen Corps.

Basic requirements:

Individual needs to fulfill the requirements of Level's 1, 2 & 3, but are also actively involved in program development, departmental relations and community relations.

Please note that since levels 3 and 4 assume leadership responsibilities, final decision for promotion is at the Board's discretion.



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Electrical Hazards Class Summary

On June 13th, Steve Chambers, Job Safety Training Director for Jackson EMC, taught a class on Electrical Hazards. For those of you who weren't able to attend, here's a brief summary of what was discussed.

The most important point of the discussion which can't be repeated too often ... **ALWAYS ASSUME THAT ANY DOWNED POWER LINE IS LIVE.** Mr. Chambers explained that for a variety of reasons power lines can and will cycle on and off. Until the power company arrives, assume the power is on and stay as far away as possible. Other points made by Mr. Chambers:

Never try to fix anything by yourself.

Should someone be trapped in a vehicle under a power line, the safest course of action is to stay put until professionals arrive. The only exception to this is fire. If the vehicle is on fire and professional help is not imminent, have the victim jump from the vehicle keeping his feet together. Bunny-hopping keeps both feet in the same voltage level of step gradient and can prevent electrocution.

When entering a damaged building, safest option is to turn off the main power at the outside entrance, usually near the electrical meter. BUT, watch and listen for an automatic generator to start-up once the power has been turned off. **TURN OFF the GENERATOR.** There should be a breaker near the generator itself. If you can't disable the generator, the building has power and should be treated accordingly.

Beware in commercial and older multi-family dwellings of multiple power disconnect points.

Use your car to block a road; don't use your body to block traffic.

Additional points, made in discussion with knowledgeable CERT members:

Don't look at the sparks, it's like looking at the Sun, or watching welding ... permanent eye damage can occur.

Be careful of flying sparks and flying bits of molten metal from the wires.

Treat metal fences and guard rails as "live". Don't sit on a guard rail, or lean against a metal fence.

Treat any type of ladder as conductive. Be careful not to make contact with power lines.

Who to call in an emergency ...

If your power goes out – Call your power company, they can help you faster than 911. Give the road name, mailbox number and name of customer if you know it.

If someone is injured – Call 911.



CERTified Mail

Lightning Safety Awareness Week

June 24-30, 2007 is the fourth annual National Lightning Safety Awareness Week. Its timing is apropos as we move into the hurricane season, since hurricanes and tropical storms can spawn dangerous thunderstorms and lighting hundreds of miles inland. According to the National Weather Service, lightning kills an average of 66 people per year, slightly more than the number of tornado-related deaths reported annually. But the threat of lightning tends to be underrated because the deaths are isolated and, unlike tornadoes, lightning does not cause widespread damage to property. Here are a few lightning safety tips to be aware of. The National Weather Service provides an in-depth look at a variety of lightning-related topics. Please take a look at them at <<http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/>>, to make sure you, your family and friends will be safe from the potentially deadly effects of lightning.

Watch for developing thunderstorms: They are most likely to develop on spring and summer afternoons, but can occur year-round.

When to seek safe shelter from an approaching thunderstorm: Remember lightning can strike as far as 10 miles from where rain is falling, so if you can hear thunder, you are at risk. Seek safe shelter immediately.

When outdoors, minimize the risk: Outdoor recreational activity should come to a halt at the first sound of thunder. Organized athletic groups should have written plans and policies to emphasize this.

Indoor activities also present threats: When inside, stay off land-line telephones, computers and other electrical equipment that could carry an electrical charge from lightning.

Know how to help a lightning strike victim: Call 9-1-1 immediately and follow instructions. Lightning can cause cardiac arrest and heart irregularities, burns and nerve damage.

Summary: Lightning is dangerous. With common sense, you can greatly increase your safety and the safety of the people around you. If you are outside, at the first clap of thunder, go to a large building or fully enclosed vehicle and wait 30 minutes until after the thunder ends to go back outside

Article passed on to us by Major Alan Doss



CERTified Mail

A Tip to Keep Your Accounts Safe -- Passed on by one of our CERT members:

This lady has changed her habit of how she lists her names on her mobile phone after her handbag was stolen.

Her handbag which contained her mobile, credit card, purse...etc....was stolen. 20 minutes later when she called her hubby, from a pay phone telling him what had happened, hubby says "I've just received your text asking about our Pin number and I've replied a little while ago." When they rushed down to the bank, the bank staff told them all the money was already withdrawn. The pickpocket had actually used the stolen hand phone to text "hubby" in the contact list and got hold of the pin number. Within 20 minutes he had withdrawn all the money from the bank account.

Moral of the lesson: Do not disclose the relationship between you and the people in your contact list. Avoid using names like Home, Honey, Hubby, sweetheart, Dad, Mum, etc..... and very importantly, when sensitive info is being asked thru texts, CONFIRM by calling back. Al so, when you're getting text messages from friends or family to meet them somewhere, be sure to call back to confirm that the message came from them. If you don't reach them, be very careful about going places to meet "family and friends" who text you.

Our thanks to Mary Jane Hiller ... this is great advice.

Changes to CERT

From this next class forward ... all incoming CERT members will need to pass a background check provided by Gwinnett County Office of Homeland Security. CERT members in leadership positions will also be asked to provide the information necessary for the background checks.

*See you at our Annual Meeting
July 25 – 7 pm
– Gwinnett Justice & Administration Building –*