



CERTified Mail

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

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Hello Graduates!!

I know! I know! I have been let us say lax in my up keep on regular input on the forum. Well it was not because from lack of effort into the CERT program. CERT is alive and well and we are continuing to move forward. You may have noticed the training opportunities we have offered of late, SAR training in Pine Mountain, Shelter Management, ICS training class, and there is more to come. For March we had the Storm Spotter class which I hope you took the opportunity to get involved with. Some of the other areas we are looking for is training surrounding Traffic Management, First Responder, and more.

We are creating partnerships with other organizations so to feed and learn from each other and even more important work with each other and coordinate effectively when the time comes. Those partners I am mentioning are American Red Cross, The Gwinnett citizens Corps, MRC, and DNR.

We are creating an atmosphere that is starting to take notice. Through CERT's efforts in the creation and establishment of the Gwinnett County Citizens Corps, we are showing the benefit of what the coordination of resources can do to building a supportive and safer community.

Our team is excited and motivated of what is being accomplished. I will say it is not as fast as we would like. However we are making progress and I will attest, as many of you who have offered their time to volunteer in the past where no progress was made at all, WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS.

Some of the areas we would like to get moving faster is getting the Battalions up and running. Right now Battalion 2 & 3 are established and having meetings. We still are in need of Battalion Coordinators for 1 & 4. We have areas of need in Event Coordination, Zone Captains, Resource Coordinators, and Administration. If you feel you are up for the task in a particular area, please contact me directly.

We will be having our 2nd. Annual Meeting at the end of July (working date is the 25th) where we will provide a State of CERT along with our direction and needs. So please be on the look out for this and check out the website regularly and make sure you put it on your calendar.

That is all for now. Continue to talk about CERT and get people involved.

Thank you,
Tom Mulheron
Program Director



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The Corner Market

Frank O'Brien
Marketing Coordinator

Spring has sprung and BOY the pollen is in the air.

It's time to think about the Festivals that will be held around Gwinnett this Spring, Summer and Fall.

We are planning to have information booths at these Festivals this year ...

Snellville Days	May 5 & 6
Gwinnett Glows	July 4 th
Gwinnett County Fair	Sept 13 thru Sept 23
COPS Festival	Oct
Sugar Hill Fall Festival	October 20

Staffing will be needed for all these festivals.

If you can help out, please contact your Battalion Coordinators or any of the board members.

Our goal is to get the word out to the general public about CERT. If you know of any event that you think CERT should be involved in. Please let us know.

Together we can make it happen.....Remember.....

“Neighbors Helping Neighbors”



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Graduate Training

Bruce Klein
Graduate Training Coordinator &
Webmaster






We are trying to provide new training for Gwinnett CERT on a regular basis but let's not forget why you took the program to begin with. For me it was so I would know what to do in a disaster and how to help my neighbors. On that thought, May is **REVIEW** month... **REVIEW** your course material, **REVIEW** your disaster plans, **REVIEW** your disaster supplies.

So far this year we have held 3 classes for graduates and have plans for more in 2007.

Already Completed ...

-  January - Search and Rescue Course
-  February - Shelter Management Hosted by the Red Cross
-  March - Gwinnett SKYWARN Class

Coming Soon...

-  Search & Rescue Exercise/Simulation (May)
-  Jackson EMC - Identifying hazards
-  Traffic Management
-  First responders Class
-  OSHA Training

Web Korner

Forum spamming - Our forum as been spammed! To control this we have had to tighten up the process for use. Previously, we used a self registration process, from now on there needs to be activation from the webmaster.

Is the website providing you the level of information you need to stay informed?
Please provide your thoughts to webmaster@gwinnettcert.org



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Emergency Water Disinfection

Mike Mester
Assistant Program Director

There are a number of methods to disinfect water in an emergency situation:

- Boiling
- Distillation
- Chemical Treatment
- Mechanical Filtration
- Purifiers

Water contaminants can be broken down into three categories: Biological, Organic Compounds and Inorganic Compounds.

Let's take a look at some of the "nasty" stuff which can be residing in untreated water. They are not visible to the naked eye and are measured in microns which is 1 millionth of a meter, or .0000394 of an inch. We can see down to approximately 50 microns (a period at the end of a sentence is roughly 500 microns).

Protozoans: are hard-shelled, single-cell parasites, including the well-known Giardia lamblia (5 to 15 microns) and the resilient, lesser-known Cryptosporidium parvum (2 to 5 microns). The vast majority of U.S. rivers and lakes contain one or both of these parasites.

Bacteria: are smaller organisms (0.2 to 10 microns), most of them commonly associated with food poisoning: E. coli, salmonella, cholera (common in some developing countries) and others.

Viruses: are the tiniest (0.004 to 0.1 microns) of organisms such as Hepatitis A, Rota virus, Norwalk virus and Polio. (To this point, Hantavirus does not appear to be a waterborne disease).

Chemicals and Toxins: can result from agricultural runoff (pesticides, herbicides) and industrial runoff (metals, mine tailings). Some toxic bacteria can spawn algae in warm, shallow water and turn it green.

Before treating water, let any suspended particles settle to the bottom, or strain them through coffee filters or layers of clean cloth.



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Boiling: is considered 100 percent effective against protozoan cysts, nontoxic bacteria and viruses. The US Environmental Protection Agency recommends bringing water to a rolling boil for a minimum of 1 minute to kill microorganisms. Allow it to cool and to improve the “flat” taste, aerate it by pouring it back and forth from one container to another then let stand for a few hours, or add a pinch of salt for each quart or liter of water boiled. Boiling will not remove sediments, chemicals and metals.

Distillation: will kill all parasites, bacteria, viruses, remove organic and non-organic chemicals, volatile gases (chlorine, etc), heavy metals (most common are copper, lead, iron) and radio active fall out particles. The process is a copy of nature’s primary purification method (the hydrologic cycle) where water evaporates from oceans and lakes, condenses into clouds, and returns as pure H₂O “rain”. Though it is a lengthy process that involves boiling water and collecting the vapor that condenses back to a liquid; it will remove nearly all 3 categories of contaminates.

Chemical Treatment: is simple and inexpensive; exposing water to halogens such as iodine or chlorine will kill most bacteria and viruses, but not all protozoan cysts (cryptosporidia are highly resistant to iodine and chlorine). There are a number of commercially prepared tablets/drops you can purchase. Follow manufacturer instructions closely when using iodine or chlorine.

You can also utilize household bleach or iodine:

- Bleach with a sodium hypochlorite compound of 4%-6% (most bleach is 5.25%), add 8 drops or 1/8 teaspoon to 1 gallon of clean water, mix thoroughly, cover and allow 30 minute contact time.
- Tincture of iodine; add five drops of 2% U.S. to each quart or liter of clean water, mix and allow 30 minute contact time.

Mechanical Filters: have emerged as one of the most popular methods of water treatment. Water is forced through a finely porous internal element. Some units have an activated carbon core designed to remove bad tastes and some organic chemicals, pesticides and herbicides. They will not protect you from viruses (remember, virus are the smallest of the “nasties and can slip through these filters), high chemical concentrations or heavy metal contamination.

Purifiers: remove protozoa and bacteria just as mechanical filter though have an added feature to render viruses inactive using either an additional chemical, electrostatic or ultraviolet (UV-C) light process. The UV-C method which has been long used by municipal water treatment facilities can process 32 ounces of water in 90 seconds. As with a mechanical filter, they will not remove high chemical concentrations or heavy metal contamination.



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So what is the *BEST* method? Each has advantages and disadvantages

- The cheapest and most widely used methods for emergency disinfection are boiling (provided you have a heat/fuel source) and chlorine or iodine treatment. (200 coffee filters \$1, gallon of bleach \$1.50, tincture iodine \$2, treatment tablets/drops \$5-\$10)
- Mechanical filters have a solid foothold; many people are partial to the portability of these filters and pair them up with a chlorine based treatment solution to wipe out any remaining bio-contaminants. (a good 0.2 micron filter will run approx \$80, chlorine based solution \$10)
- Purifiers are gaining favor as technology advances, pre-filtration systems are being added and prices coming down. (depending on the treatment method, \$90 - \$250)
- Distillation by far removes the greatest number of contaminants though is a lengthy process, not very efficient and requires a sustained heat/fuel source.

You can manufacture a distiller with everyday kitchen items “a pot, lid, cup & string”

- Fill the pot half way with water
- Suspend a cup from the handle on the pot's lid so that the cup will hang right-side-up when the lid is upside-down, make sure the cup is not dangling into the water
- Boil the water for 20-30 minutes to yield approx 8oz of water

As in any emergency situation; possessing the knowledge on how to disinfect water in multiple methods will be your greatest tool.



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From the Battalions ...

Battalion 2 Update

Mark Zoghby
Battalion 2 Coordinator

Battalion 2 has had two meetings so far and we are starting to form our Leadership structure. We now have 3 Zone Captains assigned:

Mona Hand – Zone 6
David Giguere – Zone 8
Jim Newell – Zone 9

We currently have openings for Zone Captains in Zones 3, 12, and 22. You do not need to live in the Zone in order to be a Zone Captain, so if you have any interest please contact me.

We also have 4 Response Coordinators:

Chuck Goetz
Elizabeth Witherspoon
David Giguere
Tod Rovie

Thanks to all of those who have stepped up to volunteer.

May 5th & 6th are the dates for Snellville Days and CERT is planning on having a booth. I need volunteers to man the booth to help promote CERT. Any time you can spend would be appreciated. If you are interested please contact me.

We are working on a project to develop a map of Gwinnett county that will detail Zone locations with specific street boundaries and perhaps eventually show where we have CERT coverage.

Battalion 3 Update

Bill Black
Battalion 3 Coordinator

I am looking for Zone Captains for Stn 10 and Stn 26. We also need some Resource Coordinators.

Watch for emails about upcoming meetings.

Thanks Everybody, Don't forget to enroll in the Member Section of the Website.

Column



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From The Training Table

Dave Adanich
Training Coordinator

CERT CLASS 10






CERT CLASS 10 started on March 06, 2007. The lead instructor was Mike Mester with Frank O'Brien starting the session with a short but very meaningful exercise. The Roger's Court exercise was used to test the student's ability to perform during a simulated emergency situation. At the end of the Roger's Court exercise most students felt lost and some were not sure of the decisions that they made. Frank summed up by telling the students that there are no 100% right or wrong answers to the exercise but having a plan of action is what we are trying to teach each CERT student. Mike Mester began the next part of Session 1 by covering UNIT 6 CERT ORGANIZATION.

Session 2, Disaster Preparedness, was taught by Stan Edwards. Stan has worn many hats in Gwinnett County when it comes to emergency management. He is currently the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the East Metro Health District. From the feedback forms filled out by each student, he was a hit with the class.

Thomas Rutledge taught **Session 3 & 4**, Medical Operations Parts 1 & 2. Tommy brought to the class a wealth of information that he has gained over the years being a firefighter, EMT, instructor at the Fire College, and now PIO for Gwinnett County Fire Services. He had the students literally down on their knees when practicing medical procedures.

The next session is FIRE SAFETY. Thomas Rutledge and Doug Kalmbach will be co-teaching this class at Fire Station #24 on April 10. I encourage everyone to come out and try to beat the computer. Yes that's right! Doug has a new system that computer controls the types of fire (A, B, C) in the fire pan and it also times you as to the amount of time it takes you to put out the fire. The system uses water in the extinguishers instead of the typical dry powder and the burn pan is powered by propane. There is no mess to deal with at the end of the simulation.

We still have 4 Sessions to go and you are welcome to come and cheer CLASS 10 on!

-  4-10 -- Fire Safety
-  4-17 -- Disaster Psychology
-  4-24 -- Terrorism
-  5-1 -- Light Search and Rescue.
-  5-5 -- Final Class Simulation at the GWINNETT FIRE ACADEMY

The time and location is on the web site. REMEMBER the Final Class Simulation at the GWINNETT FIRE ACADEMY. Tom Mulheron will lead the Course Review and Simulation. Please put this date on your calendar May 5, 2007 0800-1200. We need your help!



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The Instructor Guide and the Participant Manual have been revamped starting with Class 10. My wife Judy, has spent many hours reorganizing and updating both of these manuals. I have also decided to use a 3 ring binder to house the participant manual. This will allow each student to add other information to their manual and make it possible to update pages. Both manuals are still in the process of being updated and instructors are encouraged to let me know what needs to be changed, corrected, or added.

CERT Class 11 is proposed to begin 5-15. These sessions are a great way to meet new CERT members and get a great refresher. I can certainly use assistance!

I want to thank all of the CERT members who have attended the sessions for Class 10 and to encourage all members to come out and lend a hand. We have a super group of new students that are eager to learn and help build our CERT program.

If you have any questions regarding training please call or email at the info below.

Dave Adanich
Training Coordinator
770-979-0701
404-312-2249
www.dadanich@gwinnettcert.org