

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SHERIFF EXPANDS ROLE IN BURLINGTON COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Classes for Volunteer Responders to Begin January 5th

Starting next week by offering a series of training classes to citizen volunteers, the Burlington County Sheriff's Department will officially embark on its new and expanding role in the County's Emergency Management operations.

Sheriff Jean Stanfield announced that her department, which recently assumed coordination of the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), will provide a series of eight training classes for volunteers beginning with the first session scheduled for Tuesday, January 5, 2010, from 7 to 9:30 PM at the Human Services Facility on Woodlane Road in Westampton.

"We've always been proud to serve as a member of the County Office of Emergency Management response team," said Stanfield. "We now look forward to working closely with the growing ranks of citizen volunteers, who have taken it upon themselves to provide for their families and neighbors in the event of weather events on homeland security alerts."

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PRESS RELEASE: CERT – 12/30/09 – Add One

Earlier this month, Stanfield participated in the recognition of 250 CERT volunteers and trainers. Previously coordinated by the Office of Emergency Management, the CERT program now has 15 teams with more than 800 trained members.

Stanfield also joined with Freeholder Mary Anne Reinhart, herself a CERT volunteer from Shamong, in honoring Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator Wayne Comegno, who is credited with building the citizen response network over the past two years, through training, exercises, and the development of deployment plans. The Sheriff has now been delegated the responsibility for enlisting and training CERT members.

The next class schedule is as follows:

- Session 1 (Jan. 5) CERT overview and disaster preparedness
- Session 2 (Jan.12) Fire Safety
- Session 3 (Jan.19) Medical Operations (Part 1)
- Session 4 (Jan. 21) Medical Operations (Part 2)
- Session 5 (Jan. 26) Terrorism
- Session 6 (Feb. 2) Disaster Psychology
- Session 7 (Feb. 9) Light Search and Rescue
- Session 8 (Feb.10) Disaster Simulation and graduation

Volunteers must attend all classes. Make up classes will be scheduled, if needed. Students will be issued books on the first day of class to keep. Upon graduation, participants will be issued certificates and CERT response bags.

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PRESS RELEASE: CERT – 12/30/09 – Add Two

The course also will help those interested in becoming members of the County Animal Response Team (CART). These volunteers also participate in inter-agency emergency exercises.

For more information, contact CERT Recruiter John Lazzarotti at 609-744-7435 or email CERT@co.burlington.nj.us

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