



This newsletter is intended to provide Webster County CERT members with current news and information and is not intended for public distribution.

## Missing Child Training

On March 27th the CERT program partnered with the Webster County Office of Emergency Management and the Webster County ARES program to host a training and full-scale exercise.

The day began with a training by Webster County ARES Coordinator Jim Dobbins on how to read a compass and set an azimuth. CERT members were given a longitude and latitude and plotted on a map the path they would take to arrive at that heading.

Sheriff Royce Cole spoke briefly about the importance of preserving a crime scene when helping search for a missing person.

Nixa firefighter Jon Trent gave an in-depth presentation on the search and rescue process. He discussed different levels of searches, processes and procedures and how CERT might become involved.

Then the group moved outside to put all they had learned into action. With a latitude/longitude heading from the Civil Air Patrol, three CERT teams partnered with an ARES member and set off to try to locate a "missing child."

Teams navigated the terrain at Camp Arrowhead, following their compasses, in an effort to find the child. A Civil Air Patrol aircraft flying overhead guided the crews on the ground, while leaders in the Emergency Operations Center sent instructions via ARES ham operators.

The victim was located about a half mile from the starting point. CERT members stabilized the child, splinted his broken leg and loaded him on a backboard. They then carried him back out of the woods and returned to the Emergency Operations Center.

Several lessons were learned in the course of the training. Staff in the Emergency Operations Center recognized the need for more training in how the National Incident Management System should be utilized by decision-makers. CERT participants shared the need for more compass reading training, and a training on how to read a topographical map. There was confusion identifying CERT ground teams from the air. Color-coded hats would alleviate this confusion.

On the positive side, it was a great experience for all involved. Embedding ARES members with CERT teams enhanced communication, despite the terrain. CERT members worked well together in small teams and stuck with the task even when physical challenges arose.

This summer another compass reading training will be offered on a smaller scale for interested CERT members.

Overall the exercise was a fantastic experience for all who participated, and the agencies involved hope to hold more trainings together. ■

## Quarterly Update . . .

The January CERT quarterly meeting was held in Marshfield with the primary intent of training willing CERT members on how to set up, operate and maintain a generator.

The Health Unit, in partnership with the Webster County Office of Emergency Management has stationed five generators in strategic locations around the county for the purpose of ensuring that Point of Dispensing sites would be operational following a large scale power outage or community-wide disaster.

CERT members who signed up to join the generator team will likely be called to set up these generators, get them running and then provide routine maintenance throughout the response and recovery effort.

CERT members who were not able to attend the training, but still have an interest in serving on the CERT generator team should contact Jaci at 241-8554. ■



Webster CERT members Billy B and Max B double-check their compass readings.

## True Leadership

In the CERT standard operating guidelines, the first CERT member to arrive on scene is the Team Leader. But what does it mean to be a leader? What responsibility comes with that job and what character traits make a good leader?

A leader is a person who motivates others toward a common goal. As a CERT Team Leader, your responsibility is to encourage your CERT team to take the appropriate actions to do the biggest amount of good for the biggest amount of people while maintaining their own safety. But how do you accomplish that? Here are eight suggestions that will make you a better leader.

**Understand the goal.** In order to get people to do what you want them to do, you have to understand what it is you want them to accomplish.

**Tell people what to do, not how to do it.** Give people room to come up with their own solutions. There is more than one way to do things, and do them safely.

**Do your homework.** Learn from the successes and failures of others to increase your chances of true success.

**Lead by example.** Work harder than you expect others to. Be the first one there and the last one done. Don't expect more from others than you are willing to give yourself.

**Demand excellence, but don't expect perfection.** Expect your team to work toward the goal and do as much as they can as well as they can.

**Take care of your team.** Know their strengths and weaknesses, their hopes and fears. Be willing to take criticism for the group, but let the team take any praise.

**Be humble.** No matter what you accomplish, remember someone else has accomplished more. Remind yourself how amazing it is how much can be accomplished when it doesn't matter who gets the credit.

**Show character.** A true leader is honest and dependable. Your team will know they can believe you and have confidence that you'll keep your word. Show flexibility when times demand it, but never compromise your principles.

A team leader is much more than a person in charge. It is a heavy responsibility that puts self last and the team first, that remembers safety is critical, and that lets the team get any praise or credit for a job well done.

Are you ready to be a true leader? ■

### Webster County CERT

A program of the Webster County Citizen Corps Council

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## Coming Trainings and Opps

CERT members are invited to a celebration dinner for volunteers in Webster County. Join the Health Unit at 6:30 pm on Thursday, July 29 at Seymour High School. RSVP to Pam Hicks by calling 859-2532 ext 201.

The Southern Baptist Disaster Response Team will soon be hosting a tent raising training event. Watch for details.

Psychological First Aid is now online ([www.webstercert.org](http://www.webstercert.org))

**INCENTIVES** — Earn CERT Level 2 by completing 15 hours of participation and 16 hours of training. Members who achieve Level 2 will receive a CERT patch and a CERT field guide. ■

## CERT Helps with H1N1 Response

As H1N1 spread quickly across the United States in 2009, local public health departments were asked to take on the momentous task of offering protective vaccinations to people in their community. The Webster County Health Unit has only a staff of 19, so they called out to local school nurses and CERT members to help at vaccination clinics. Here is one CERT member's reflections on the experience.

"From a CERT point of view, the POD clinics for the H1N1 Vaccine, was a great experience for me. It gave me interaction and a sense of what CERT is all about. Working with the Health Unit was fun and I met a bunch of great people from there. I was able to help them with their organization and the implementing of what was needed for the clinics to be a success. Another plus was working with other CERT members. We all worked well together and got a sense of accomplishment as a Team. I thank the Health Unit for this opportunity." - Lisa McCarthy

The next opportunity to help the Health Unit comes May 11th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. The Health Unit will be giving hundreds of vaccinations for tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis at the Marshfield High School. Those who have never helped at a vaccination clinic should arrive at 8:00 am for a brief training. If you are able to help, even for an hour or two, please call Jaci at 241-8554. ■



Missing child Tyler D receives excellent care from Webster County CERT members during the March training exercise.