



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

## H1N1 Flu Preparations

By now no doubt many of you are aware of the new influenza virus—H1N1—spreading quickly around the world. This virus was first seen in the United States in late April 2009, and has already caused an estimated 1 million cases in America. So many people have been sick with H1N1, in fact, that several weeks ago the Missouri Department of Health and Human Services laboratory stopped sub-typing all Type A influenza samples to determine if they were the H1N1 strain.

The symptoms of H1N1 are similar to the symptoms of seasonal flu—cough, fever of 100°F or more, chills, body aches, headache, runny or stuffy nose, and tiredness. Some people have also reported vomiting and diarrhea with the H1N1 flu. These are not usually symptoms of seasonal flu.

The very best method of protection against any type of influenza is being vaccinated. A vaccine for H1N1 has been developed and approved by the Food and Drug Administration. The federal government expects to begin shipping this vaccine to states, who will forward it on to local public health departments for distribution sometime in late October.

The Webster County Health Unit has requested help from CERT as they distribute both seasonal and H1N1 flu shots to residents of Webster County. CERT volunteers will be asked to help fill roles in a POD (point of dispensing site) located in the county. During the

next CERT quarterly meeting on October 26th we will receive training that will allow us to assist the health unit at their vaccination clinics.

In addition to helping at seasonal flu and H1N1 vaccination clinics, CERT members are asked to help share accurate messages about H1N1 and seasonal flu. Residents of Webster County are encouraged to join a state-wide grassroots effort to protect our families and our communities as we "Fight the Flu." To learn more about this campaign and H1N1, log on to [www.fightthefluMO.com](http://www.fightthefluMO.com). You can also find information on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube. Links can be found on the website. CERT members can be wonderful advocates encouraging people to go to the website for credible information, or contact the Webster County Health Unit for detailed information.

To date, H1N1 has been fairly mild, but it is the nature of influenza viruses to constantly change. With that in mind, it is vital that each of us take precautions today to protect our families and our communities. Get vaccinated, wash your hands, and stay home if you have flu-like symptoms. ■



## Quarterly Update . . .

The July CERT quarterly meeting was held at the R.O.C.C. in Seymour on July 27, 2009.

The meeting started with a "Jeopardy-style" game pitting CERT teams against each other in an effort to answer trivia questions. It was a good opportunity to review basic training principles.

Jaci challenged each team to reach out to fellow teammates to encourage participation in meetings, trainings and activities.

Jaci mentioned that new CERT programs are being established in McDonald, Newton and Cedar Counties. Polk County has had a program for several years, but is in the process of hiring a CERT Trainer to manage their program.

Equipment that has either recently been added to the trailer or is currently on order includes the following:

- Projector
- Flares (for fire suppression class)
- 20-gallon propane tank
- 2 backboards
- 10 backboard straps
- Triage tarps and stakes
- 5 foot foldable table
- Dolly
- 5 10-pound fire extinguishers
- 8-gallon Tupperware totes
- Canvas camp chairs
- Large ice chest
- Large rubber trash can
- Parking cones
- Storage containers
- Flashlights
- 12 portable radios

A current inventory list will be kept in the trailer. Anyone tasked with distributing items

from the trailer will be responsible for tracking outgoing or incoming items on the inventory form.

A ham radio operator training will be held in October. See training section for details. An update on H1N1 was provided. The group also provided updates on participation in the Rogersville June 27th event and the Marshfield 4th of July events.

Billy Breitenstein brought the ID badge machine and made new badges for all those in attendance. Badges previously issued are no longer valid and should be replaced immediately. Please contact Jaci for details on how to get your new badge.

Jaci provided details on the upcoming CERT Annual Celebration. It will include trainings on chainsaw safety, brush fire safety and emergency moves. It will also include awards for the most participation hours, the most training hours, a spirit award and a special recognition for the team that has the highest percentage in attendance at the celebration. Lunch will be provided for \$5.00. The event will be held at the R.O.C.C. in Seymour.

Jaci is also working to plan a CERT Kids Celebration in the spring or summer of 2010. Kids 9—15 will learn basic CERT principles like basic first aid and search and rescue. They will also receive instruction on fire safety, car safety, what to do if lost in the woods, and more. Kids will have a chance to put on moulage and participate as “victims” in a full scale drill for CERT members. Anyone interested in helping with the planning should contact Jaci.

Jaci asked for volunteers to serve on a recruiting workgroup and volunteers to serve on a sponsorship workgroup.

The group finished the meeting by brainstorming ideas for bolstering the CADET program.

The next quarterly meeting will be held October 26, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the Webster County Health Unit, on Washington Street east of the square in Marshfield. ■



## Coming Trainings and Opps

### **Basic CERT Course**

*Oct 13th—Nov 24th, 6:30 pm—9:30 pm*  
*9-1-1 Center, Marshfield*

This basic level CERT course teaches emergency preparedness, basic first aid, small fire suppression and search and rescue. Earn CERT level 1 by completing this course and passing a background check. \$10 fee.

### **Ham Operator Technician Class and Testing**

*Oct 17th, 8:00 am—5:00 pm*  
*Webster County Health Unit, Marshfield*

Take this 8-hour class to learn the basics of to operate a ham radio and take the technician license exam (basic level). \$15.00 fee.

### **CERT Quarterly Meeting**

*Oct 26, 7:00 pm*  
*Webster County Health Unit, Marshfield*

Learn how you can help the Health Unit in a vaccination clinic for seasonal flu or H1N1 flu. Crowd control training will also be offered.

**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.

## Animal Response Team

The Springfield-Greene County CERT Animal Rescue Team is now seeking CERT members from around southwest Missouri interested in helping rescue, transport and care for household pets before, during and after a disaster.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old, love animals, have completed Basic CERT training and fulfill Animal Rescue Team training requirements.

If you are interested in applying for the team, contact the Webster County CERT trainer for details. ■

Congratulations to our First Annual CERT Celebration Winners!

Outstanding Participation Award (most participation hours) - **Lisa McCarthy**

Outstanding Training Award (most training hours completed) - **Breezy Rogers**

Spirit Award (exemplifying the spirit of CERT) - **David Jones**

Highest Meeting Participation (for team with highest percentage in attendance) - **Team 6** (Marshfield East/Niangua)



Webster County CERT

A program of the Webster County Citizen Corps Council

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