

# Webster County CERT News

Webster County, Missouri



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

## Prepare Yourself Today

CERT responders are invaluable in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. However, you can only be an asset to your community if you are prepared for the disaster yourself. With winter just around the corner, take time this month to get prepared so you'll be ready to respond when CERT is needed.

### Prepare for Winter Weather

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts this winter will bring extreme weather patterns to some parts of the U.S.

Make sure your family is prepared with these steps:

- Be sure you have an adequate supply of food and water if winter weather prevents you from leaving your home for an extended period of time.
- Have a backup source of heat if your electricity goes out.
- Replace the batteries and test your smoke alarms to be sure they are working properly.
- Buy an all-hazards alert radio so you can receive watch and warning information.
- Put together an emergency supplies kit for your home and your vehicle.
- Review your family emergency plan, including where you will go if you have to evacuate, and how you will contact each other.

### Plan for Child Care

If you have dependent children still living at home, be sure you have a plan for their care if your CERT team is activated.

Child Care Aware of Missouri is an agency that helps first responders find full or part-time child care, drop-in care or 24-hour care for their children. The organization seeks to help responders feel confident that their children are being safely cared for when they respond to emergencies.

For more information, call 866-892-3228 or visit [www.mo.childcareaware.org](http://www.mo.childcareaware.org).

### Protect Your Health

The best protection against flu viruses is an annual seasonal flu vaccination. Protect your health and the health of those around you by getting your flu shot this fall.

You can also protect your health by washing your hands frequently with soap and water, and by keeping a distance from people who are sick.

Boost your immune system by lowering your stress level, reducing alcohol and tobacco use, staying active, eating healthy foods and getting plenty of sleep. |

## Earthquake Exercise

In May 2011 Webster County responders will participate in a national level full-scale earthquake exercise.

The five-day event will test the local, regional, statewide and national response to a catastrophic earthquake centered in the Bootheel.

Experts predict southwest Missouri will receive minor damage to some buildings and infrastructure. The primary response for Webster County will likely be to triage and direct incoming survivors, evacuees and worried well. Surrounding counties will likely gather, organize and send resources, including manpower, to the affected area.

Counties who send staff to the Bootheel may need local assistance from Webster CERT members.

CERT may also be utilized within Webster County to do basic damage assessment in the local area,

*continued on page 2*

Photo:  
Students  
in Basic  
CERT  
class do  
a team  
building  
exercise.



## Earthquake Exercise Drills CERT

*continued from page 1*

check the well-being of residents, staff triage centers, and do other tasks as assigned.

This exercise will be an excellent opportunity to test certain facets of the CERT response. Although planning is still underway, a few of the things that will be tested include the following:

Activation protocol,  
Call-down tree,  
Emergency Operations Center coordination,  
Documentation,  
Communication, and  
Regional CERT coordination.

Other areas may be added as planning is finalized.

Watch for more information in the January newsletter and on the CERT website. †

## Christmas CERT Celebration

Please save the date and plan to join your CERT friends at the CERT Annual Celebration on Monday, December 20th at 6:30 pm.

We'll meet at the Webster County Health Unit, located at 233 E Washington in Marshfield, just east of the square.

We'll have a brief business meeting, do a first-aid refresher training using new CERT training equipment, and hand out awards. Please bring your filled out Training and Participation form so hours can be counted up and awards given. Include all hours logged during the 2010 calendar year.

Please also come ready to vote your choice for the CERT Spirit Award. This award is given each year to a person who exemplifies the mission and values of CERT. Last year's winner was David Jones of Marshfield.

The team who has the most members in attendance also wins an award, so encourage your teammates to come.

Please bring a dessert to share and a new winter hat or pair of mittens to donate to the SOS Closet.

Hope to see you there! †

Webster County CERT

A program of the Webster County Citizen Corps Council

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## Training and Participation Opps

Training: Chemical Suicide Awareness  
Nov 10, Marshfield or Nov 17, Seymour

Training: Effective Communications  
Nov 30—Dec 1, St Louis

Training: Threat and Risk Assessment  
Dec 7-8, Battlefield

Participation: Mass Care Exercise (players needed)  
Dec 16, Springfield and Ozark

Participation: Basic CERT class full-scale drill  
Dec 18, Fordland

Training: FEMA launches new independent study classes that support the nine mission areas identified by the National Preparedness Goal. These include "Animals in Disasters: Community Planning" and "Exercising Continuity Plans for Pandemics." Visit [www.http://training.fema.gov/IS](http://training.fema.gov/IS) for a complete list of classes.

Contact Jaci for details on participation opportunities. For training details or to register, visit [www.webstercert.org](http://www.webstercert.org). †

## New Contact Information

Changes have been made to the CERT phone lines. The only active phone number at this time is 417-830-1959. Please call this number for all CERT related business.

Efforts are underway to get a new CERT hotline in place. Details will be provided when this is completed.

The CERT email remains [webstercert@yahoo.com](mailto:webstercert@yahoo.com). Webster CERT is also on Twitter and Facebook. †

Next Basic CERT class starts in January in Rogersville. Sign up today by calling 417-830-1959 or by emailing Jaci at [webstercert@yahoo.com](mailto:webstercert@yahoo.com).

Photo:  
CERT members practice medical triage in a mass casualty simulation.

