

C.E.R.T. CORNER

Volume 1, Issue 1

June 1, 2011

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WELCOME TO THE FIRST CERT CORNER PUBLICATION

Welcome to the first Florissant Emergency Management Commissioner's C.E.R.T. CORNER.

This newsletter has been created in an effort to keep our C.E.R.T. Team members informed of training from the surrounding area and provide an on-going way to distribute preparedness information through articles or publications.

Our goal is to have our C.E.R.T. Team members as informed as possible and to keep them up to date on current training trends in emergency preparedness.

An individual's commitment to emergency preparedness has a direct effect on their family, neighborhood and first responders.

We know all too well just

how devastating an event can be, whether it involves a man-made or natural disaster.

A person only has to look at the devastation of the recent tornado in Joplin, MO. The first responders were overwhelmed and adding to their dilemma was their local hospital taking a direct hit by the tornado.

Just a few weeks ago the effects from a tornado were felt even closer to home as Bridgeton, Ferguson, Berkeley and other North County municipalities fell victim to the rage of the destruction an event of this type can cause.

These unfortunate events should serve as a reminder for all citizens to be prepared for a disaster that could happen at any time

and any place.

By being prepared and C.E.R.T. trained you can ease the load placed on first responders as they begin to assess and respond to the event. C.E.R.T. members are trained to take care of themselves and families first then attend to the needs of their neighbors.

We must be vigilant in our efforts to promote emergency preparedness at home, at work and in the community.

Thank you for participating in the C.E.R.T. program and we hope you will continue to play an active role in being prepared for any type of emergency that may strike.

Sincerely,

Sgt. Kevin Boschert

Shelter Operations Training Session Set

The Florissant Emergency Management Commissioner's are pleased to announce a "Shelter Operations" training session.

The **free of charge** session will cover the four basic areas needed to operate a shelter.

- Shelter set-up
- Staffing requirements

- Arrival/Registration of clients
- Closing procedures for a shelter

Florissant C.E.R.T. Team members have been an integral part of shelter operations during past events when the need arose to open shelters during

ice storms and cooling shelters during summer power outages.

DATE: June 18, 2011

PLACE: Park Baptist Church
825 Graham Rd
Florissant, MO 63031

TIME: 8:00 AM—12:00 PM

(Registration Form on page 2)

Florissant Community Emergency Response Team

REGISTRATION FORM: Sheltering Training

June 18, 2011 8:00AM-12:00 PM

Park Baptist Church

825 Graham Rd

Florissant, MO 63031-7021

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____

Home Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Primary Phone #: (____) _____ Alternate Phone: (____) _____

Email address: _____

Expertise/Occupation: _____

C.E.R.T. Group Affiliation: _____

Whom should we contact in case of an emergency?

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____ Telephone: (____) _____

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Offers “Ready in 3” Program

Here are some basic emergency preparedness tips provided by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services under a program called “READY IN 3.”

Emergencies can strike anytime. A tornado, a flood or even a terrorist attack can change lives. Missouri families, communities, businesses and schools need to take steps today to prepare for an emergency. Preparing today can save lives!

Ready in 3 can help!

Endorsed by the American Red Cross, the State Emergency Management Agency and Missouri's Office of Homeland Security, Ready in 3 focuses on three steps you can take to prepare for many kinds of emergencies.

1. Create a Plan

Your family might not be together when emergency happens. That's why it is important to have a plan in place. Sit down and talk to your family about how you will reach each other in different situations.

Make sure everyone in the family can get to a safe place and find each other in the event of an emergency. For instance, it is a great idea to designate two family meeting places, one in the neighborhood and one farther away. Consider contacting the same friend or family member by telephone or e-mail. Think about making an out-of-town family member or friend the contact. It might be easier to make a long-distance telephone call instead

of a local call during an emergency. It could be easier for an out-of-town person to connect separated family members.

You should plan for two situations – staying home or leaving. Deciding whether it is best to stay or go depends on the type of emergency. Officials may tell you what you need to do. In some cases, limited communication and information may require you to decide what is best for you and your family.

Know where to go if you have to leave. Sometimes it may not be safe to stay in your home. Plan where your family can meet. Know where you will go and how you will get there if you have to leave your home.

2. Prepare a Kit

During an emergency, you may not be able to get food or water for days or weeks, and your electricity may not be working. The following items should be part of your emergency kit and kept in a container that can be easily carried if you need to leave home:

- Water - families should set aside one gallon of water per person per day, to last three days.
- Canned or dried food - families should set aside a three-day supply of food per person. The food should be nonperishable items that don't need to be cooked, such as tuna and crackers. Remember to include a manual can opener. If there's an infant in the

house, include formula and baby food.

- Battery-powered radio
- Flashlight
- Extra batteries for the radio and flashlight
- List of prescription medications
- For power outages, consider adding a corded telephone to your emergency kit if you are using only cordless telephones in your home currently.
- Learn how to use text messaging on your cell phone, most text messages will be sent even when you do not have cellular signal to make a call.

Your Car

Keep a small, portable emergency supply kit in your car at all times. You should include a gallon of water, several cans of food, a manual can opener, blankets, sleeping bags, money, and first-aid supplies.

At Work

Keep your own supply of fresh water and canned food, a flashlight, and battery-powered radio at your desk or in your locker. Everyone should consider keeping a change of clothes, and a pair of strong, practical shoes or boots at work.

For Your Pets

Make sure your pets have identification tags and up-to-date vaccinations. If you must leave home, bring your pet with you, if

(cont. on page 4)

St. Louis County Upgrading Early Warning Siren System

Although no one may be quite prepared for the level of destruction that recently struck the people of Joplin, MO., there's no doubt that we in North St. Louis County were fortunate our brush with a tornado didn't claim a single life. In fact, damage in Florissant was minimal and for the most part confined to down tree limbs and some minor power outages.

Although a certain amount of luck played a significant role, we are blessed in St. Louis County by having one of the most sophisticated warning siren systems in the nation.

Over 200 sirens are located throughout the St. Louis County area.

Many of you may have noticed a newer model of warning siren being installed in the area. Funding for the 7.5 million dollar project to upgrade this system was made possible as a result of the passage of Proposition E911 in 2009. Eighty-eight sirens have already been installed and the upgrade program is expected to be completed by August of 2011.



Many of the current sirens be replaced were installed during the 60's with parts now virtually non-existent.

The new warning sirens are powered by solar panels, a critical source of power in the event a storm has knocked out power in the area.

These new sirens are equipped with louder noise emitting devices and can be targeted for areas in immediate danger. The new system will allow areas under immediate threats to be activated without requiring all of the

sirens in St. Louis County to be sounded at the same time.

The St. Louis County Emergency Management Operations Center has published information on their website regarding the outdoor warning sirens. The remaining information in this article was taken from their website.

What should you do when you hear the warning sirens?

Seek shelter and seek information.

If you are outside immediately proceed to your pre-designated shelter, basement, storm cellar or the lowest level in the building. If there is no basement, go to the center of the interior room on the lowest level (closet, interior hallway) away from corners, windows, doors and outside walls. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. **DO NOT** open windows.

Once inside and safe turn on a television, radio or NOAA weather alert radio to be informed of the storm location, path and the duration of the warning. There is no all-clear signal, once the warning has expired it is safe to leave your shelter location. Be aware, however, that the situation can change so be prepared in case another warning is issued for St. Louis County.

We strongly recommend that every residence, business and school use as weather alert radio with a battery back-up. Weather alert radios automatically activate to warn and inform you whenever a warning is issued for St. Louis County.

If you are in a vehicle. Trailer or mobile home, get out immediately and go to the lowest floor of a sturdy, nearby building or a storm shelter. Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes.

tection from tornadoes.

If you are outside with no building available, lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands. Be aware of potential for flooding. **DO NOT** get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location. **NEVER** try to outrun a tornado in urban or congested areas in a car or truck. Instead, leave the vehicle immediately for safe shelter. Watch out for flying debris. Flying debris from tornados causes most fatalities and injuries.

Whenever severe weather is possible, and you see any of the following signs:

- Dark, often greenish sky
- Large hail
- A large, dark, low flying cloud (particularly if rotating)
- Loud roar, similar to a freight train

Take shelter immediately, do not wait to hear the outdoor warning system.

Siren Testing Information

The county wide siren test is conducted on the first Monday of every month at 11:00 AM, weather permitting.

Siren Activation Procedure

The St. Louis County Police Department will activate the outdoor warning siren system whenever the National Weather Service issues a tornado warning for a St. Louis County or a Missouri County adjacent to St. Louis County and the direction of the storm path poses a threat to St. Louis County.

If the tornado warning sirens are activated (a 3-5 minute steady alert tone), individuals should immediately seek shelter and listen for information.

**Florissant Citizens
Corps Emergency
Management
Commission**

Florissant Police Department
1700 North Highway 67
Florissant, MO 63033

Phone: 314-830-6042

Fax: 314--830-6045

E-mail: kboschert@florissantmo.com



**Florissant Citizens Corps Emergency Management
Commissioners**

Ward 1	VACANT	
Ward 2	Antonia Gist	(314) 724-2207
Ward 3	Janice Ramsey *	(314) 560-0077
Ward 4	Diane Rhode	(314) 838-1627
Ward 5	Carrie Van Alstine	(314) 830-3680
Ward 6	Patrick Brady	(314) 921-3413
Ward 7	Shirley Cantriel	(314) 838-9123
Ward 8	Robert M. Hughes	(314) 580-1830
Ward 9	Rob Shoemaker	(314) 921-9452

* Denotes Director

READY IN 3

(cont. from page 3)

possible. You can plan ahead by creating a supply kit for your pet that includes extra food, water and medications. A carrier and leash will also be important. For cats, remember to include extra litter.

3. Listen for Information

It is important to stay calm in an emergency. Get as much information about the situation as possible. If there is no electricity, make sure to have a battery-powered radio with extra batteries so you can listen for updates and instructions.

City, county, and state officials have developed emergency plans. In the event of an actual emergency, it's important to follow their instructions and advice. They will provide you with the latest information.

**Walter Kaiser Retires as FCCEMC Director,
Janice Ramsey Appointed as Replacement**

Long time Florissant Ward 5 resident and Director of the Florissant Citizens Corps Emergency Management Commission has decided to retire. Mr. Kaiser, or Walt as he is known to his friends, was responsible for the formation of the Commission in 2002. He served as the Director since the program's inception.

Despite retiring from the Commission Walt will still maintain a very busy schedule as he has many affiliations with local and federal groups. Some of those are;

- Boy Scouts of America
- The U.S.O.
- Four Veteran's Organizations
The V.F.W, American Legion,
Korean Veterans and the Viet-
nam Veterans
- A.A.R.P as an instructor for the
Driver Safety Program
- The Federal Emergency Manage-
ment Agency (FEMA) as a Disaster
Generalist—deployed for Katrina in

2004, Hurricane Ike and the Iowa
Floods in 2008

Walt has devoted countless hours to promote the Florissant C.E.R.T. program as a Commissioner and as a certified C.E.R.T. instructor.

Mayor Schneider recently appointed Janice Ramsey as the new Director. Ms. Ramsey has also served on the Commission since it's inception as a representative for Ward 3.

We wish Walt well in his "not so" retirement and look forward to his continued presence during C.E.R.T. classes.

