

## Disaster Preparation Classes by Saginaw C.E.R.T.

# Don't wait for help! Be the help!

— Cajun Navy

### Saginaw Community Emergency Response Team



*Doing the most good  
for the most people in  
the shortest amount of  
time.*



Saginaw, TX  
C.E.R.T.

SaginawCERT@gmail.com  
www.saginawcert.org

#### Why Should I take a C.E.R.T. Class?

Webster's Dictionary defines Disaster as "something (such as a flood, tornado, fire, plane crash, etc.) that happens suddenly and causes much suffering or loss to many people". In a disaster **ALL available First Responders will be committed within the first 5 minutes.** That leaves you, your neighbors and co-workers to help yourselves until outside help arrives. C.E.R.T. training will help you deal with unexpected situations and minimize the effect of a disaster.

#### What will I get out of the training?

- You will recognize the early warning signs before a disaster happens
- Know what steps you can take to be prepared
- Identify and reduce potential fire hazards in your home and work-place
- Be able to take care of most First Aid needs (Great for dealing with kids injuries)
- Know how to safely search for family and neighbors in the event of a disaster

### Classes Start This Fall

# Saginaw Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Chuck Inmon

President

CERT Was founded after a major earthquake in Mexico City. Of 1008 Search and Rescue Volunteers, 103 died in rescue attempts. Los Angeles Fire took note and started the CERT program. FEMA saw what LA had done and incorporated it nationwide. Saginaw CERT was founded in 2012 by Christine Key, our President Emeritus. Christine Served as president and CERT Trainer until 2015. In 2017 Saginaw CERT was registered as a 501{c}3 organization.

## **CERT's Officers are...**

Chief Bobby Davenport – CERT Sponsor

Chuck Inmon President

David Reames Vice President

Amber Haltom – Secretary

Jan Young – Treasurer

## **The CERT Board of Directors are...**

Sherry Hilbun – Public Relations and Fundraising

Mike Anderson – Training

Paul Felegy – Director at Large and Firefighter

Rehab

Rick Blankenship – Communications

The basic idea is to use CERT to perform the large number of tasks needed in emergencies. This frees highly trained professional responders for more technical tasks. Much of CERT training concerns the Incident Command System and organization, so CERT members fit easily into larger command structure.

CERT Is activated in an Emergency by the Fire Chiefs when needed. We have an automated call out structure that allows for calling out all members or just those with specific training. A lot of the call out functions are being integrated with Tarrant County Alarm and other city systems to allow for smooth deployment when needed.

CERT Keeps several Cache Items on hand for Emergencies. We have clothing and shoes available for victims of fire or disaster, First Aid supplies, Search and Rescue kits, radios for emergency communications, food and water for first responder rehab and extra coats and jackets for inclement weather.

## **Some of the Tasks that CERT performs include...**

Advanced First Aid

Light Search and Rescue

Victim extrication

Damage assessment

Emergency Radio Communications

Radio Damage Reports

Traffic and Crowd Control

Supporting the Fire Department training exercises

Supporting Community events

On scene Rehab Support for Fire and Police

EOC Support during severe weather events

## **Additionally, we train citizens for...**

- Trauma First Aid
- Disaster Mitigation & Preparedness
- Shelter in Place
  - Putting out small fires
- Toxic and combustibles Storage
- Disaster Psychology
- What to do/not do in the case of terrorism
- Emergency Communications

## Some Facts and Figures...

- Saginaw CERT members provide between 150 to 300 volunteers hours each month
- There are 65 trained CERT Members available for deployment
- To date we have trained over 100 citizens
- There are 32 Very Active CERT Volunteers performing tasks each month
- CERT has supported 22 Public Service events in the last three years
- Saginaw CERT has answered emergency calls on...
  - Rockwall Tornado - Search and Rescue
  - Watauga Urban Search Silver Alert - SAR
  - Watauga Missing Child - SAR
  - Fort Worth Police - Body Search
  - Opal Jennings Crime Scene protection
  - Alan Gallagher Crime Scene Protection
  - Hurricane Harvey - Shelter Security and Operations
  - Longhorn/Hampshire Gas Leak
  - Azle Barn Fire - Rehab
  - Eagle Marina Fire - Rehab
- We routinely support Public Service events in Eagle Mountain, Haslet and at TCC...
  - Taste of Northwest
  - Run the rails
  - Saginaw Show and Tell
  - Eagle Mountain BBQ
  - Haslet Haunted Hayride
  - Back to School Bash
  - Trunk or Treat
- CERT has participated in Emergency exercises for...
  - DFW Plane Crash Simulation - Search and Rescue
  - DFW Active Shooter – Operations and Victims
  - Azle Active Shooter - Victims
  - Lewisville Active Shooter - Victims
  - BigX Training Simulation at TCC – Rehab and Search & Rescue
  - NERO Extrication Exercise – Ardent Mills
  - Numerous Fire Department training events and simulations
  - Denton County Active Shooter – Operations and Victim
  - Hurst Search and Rescue Simulation – Search Operations

We are Sponsored by the Saginaw Fire Department for equipment but are self-funding for operating expenses. We are very thankful to Chief Spears, Chief Davenport and Chief Craver for their great support and guidance.

**CERT Training Meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every Month at Fire Station 1. The meetings start at 7:00 PM and ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND. Next meeting is September 27<sup>th</sup>.**

**The Next CERT Training classes will start in October. We will have a two Saturdays class and an 8-week, one night a week class.**

**There will be a fundraiser at Panda Express in October – Date will be announced**

**Look us up... SaginawCERT on Facebook & [www.saginawcert.org](http://www.saginawcert.org)**