

## Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Presentation

### 2021 Cimarron Country POA Annual Meeting

It is a fact that during an incident, whether it is a local emergency or wide-spread disaster, emergency services personnel may not be able to reach everyone right away. Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT, is a training program that prepares individuals to help themselves, their families, and their neighbors in the event of a disaster.

CERT training also teaches individuals skills to help emergency responders save lives and protect property. CERT members also assist with non-emergency projects that help improve the safety of their community.

CERT training is offered free of charge through the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management. The training course is approximately 20 hours and includes hands-on practice of CERT skills. Classes are held once a week for 8 weeks (2.5 – 3 hours per class). **Because of COVID, classes have been postponed, but will resume as soon as it is safe to do so.**

Training includes topics such as Disaster Preparedness, Fire Safety, Disaster Medical Operations, Light Search and Rescue, CERT Organization, Disaster Psychology, Terrorism and CERT. At the end of the course, a Disaster Simulation tests how well participants have mastered the skills.

Instruction is provided by trained emergency personnel from our community, including: law enforcement, firefighters, and emergency medical services personnel. Classes are held locally and offered to those 18 years or older. A copy of the CERT syllabus is on display here today.

Upon completion of the course, participants receive a training manual and CERT equipment backpack.

The more people who are CERT-trained in a neighborhood or community, the safer all residents will be during a disaster. Currently, 23 Cimarron Country residents have completed CERT training. But, we need more.

Cimarron Country CERT is a member of the East 1488 CERT and we work with residents from other neighborhoods to help residents in the area become more prepared. The East 1488 CERT distributes Emergency Preparedness information and encourages residents take the CERT training course and take the 4 Steps to becoming prepared – Get a Kit; Make a Plan, Stay Informed, Get Involved.

During the COVID pandemic, we have been limited in the types of activities we can safely sponsor. We have helped in call centers and conducted a successful Food Drive for Society of Samaritans delivering approximately 6,000 pounds of food to the relief agency.

The Cimarron Country representatives to the East 1488 CERT Board of Directors are currently Cindy Burks and Bruce Byers. Mike Burks is also a committee member.

An Emergency Response Plan has been created and distributed for Cimarron Country. A copy is on display here today.

If you have questions or would like to register for the next CERT course or receive a copy of the CERT Syllabus, or Cimarron Country Emergency Response Plan, send your request to [cimarroncountrycert@gmail.com](mailto:cimarroncountrycert@gmail.com)