



Volunteers During Emergencies

Aug 2, 2022

City Council Work Session



Volunteers in Disasters

- Volunteers, whether affiliated or unaffiliated/spontaneous, have various skills and resources they can offer during a disaster.
- When planned for, volunteers can make an invaluable impact by increasing response capacity through several different roles.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

- The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.



Training Requirements

- A Basic CERT course is required for all members:
 - 4 sessions (20 hour)
 - Disaster Preparedness
 - Fire Suppression
 - First Aid
 - Light Search & Rescue
 - Responder Psychology
 - Disaster Exercise



Starting a CERT Program

- CERT Coordinator (part-time)
- Website and social media
- CERT Basic trainers
- Training calendar
- Uniforms and supplies
- Background checks on volunteers
- Volunteer Management Software



Preliminary Cost Estimate

- PT – CERT Coordinator
 - Cost - \$25,000
- Responsibilities:
 - Training
 - Recruiting
 - Emergency Management

	Cost
Uniform/supplies Kit	\$8,010.40
CERT Basic Manual	\$4,047.20
CERT Instructor Guide	\$224.84
Volunteer Management Software	\$3,468
Background Check	\$1,600
Total	\$17,350.44



Existing Resources – Denton County

Denton County CERT

- Established in 2006
- 475 active members
 - 114 City of Denton address
- Monthly meetings
- CERT Basic – twice a year

Denton County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

- Established in 2004
- 1598 active members
 - 330 City of Denton address
- Medical and non-medical
- Yearly training calendar



Summary

- Volunteers are a force multiplier during disasters or emergencies.
- Volunteers have to be planned for, either spontaneous or affiliated.
- Creating a new program takes time, and requires resources.
- 110 registered CERT programs in Texas
 - 45 are City based
 - 48 are County/Region based
 - 17 are Other (schools/hospital)



Course of Action

- COA 1 - Continue to support Denton County CERT
 - Assist with recruiting volunteers and promotion of CERT
 - Involve CERT and MRC during emergency exercises
 - Request CERT/MRC support during real world events
- COA 2 - Start City of Denton CERT program
 - Funding for CERT Coordinator
 - Funding for supplies to start program
- Staff recommend COA 1



Questions?

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