



Autauga/Prattville CERT Newsletter

... doing the greatest good for the greatest number.

- Lisa Carswell, CERT Chairman
- Jim Harper, Vice Chairman
- Charles Smith, Secretary
- Bonnie Temple, Treasurer
- Everett Flynn, Safety Coordinator
- Janet Brown, Member-at-Large
- Gary Barron, Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator
- Ben Reddoch, Past Chairman

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Elections Held For New Council Officers By: Tracy Savage-Barron, Editor



During our last General Meeting, elections were held for new council officers. Lisa Carswell was appointed new Council Chairman by our outgoing Chairman, Ben Reddoch.

Lisa began her duties as Chairman by calling the meeting to order and residing over the elections. The following persons were voted into office: Jim Parker was voted into the Vice Chairman's position,

Charles Smith became our new Secretary, Bonnie Temple, (former Member-at-Large), was elected into her new position as Treasurer, Everett Flynn remained our Safety Coordinator, Janet Brown was voted in as the new Member-at-Large and Gary Barron retained his position as Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator. The newly elected officers will each hold a 2 year termed position on the Council.

We would like to take a moment and thank the following

former officers for their dedication to the CERT Council and our Autauga/Prattville CERT and MRC teams. Outgoing Chairman, Ben Reddoch, which will remain on as Past Chairman and help transition the council into their new duties, Allen Cotton, former Co-Chair, Roy LaPorte former Secretary, and Rita Nichols former Treasurer.

Thank you all for your continued support, dedication and hard work during your terms on our CERT Council.

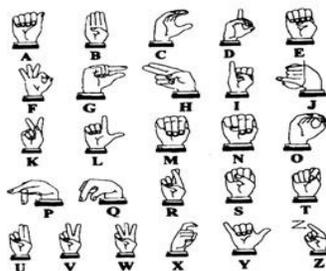
Do You Know These Signs In Case Of An Emergency? By: Tracy Savage-Barron

Do you recognize these signs?



You should, these are signs we come across everyday.

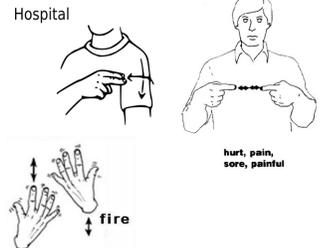
But, what about these signs:



Knowing just a little basic sign language can help a hearing impaired person in any type of situation, especially in an emergency or disaster. In the event an interpreter is not available, and even if you don't know the sign for a particular word, by using the ASL (American Sign Language) alphabet, you can spell out any word(s) needed. Most hearing impaired

persons can hear with the aid of a hearing device and in some cases can read lips, so it's always best to remember to face the person in distress, speak normal, but slow and distinct.

As you know, the best time to prepare for an emergency is before it happens. Communication systems must be put in place in advance before an emergency happens to make sure the deaf and hard of hearing are made aware and know how to respond. This is where organizations, such as CERT and MRC, can assist in helping to teach our communities these vital emergency/disaster preparedness plans. Here are a few examples of some emergency words in sign language:



In this day and age of digital communication, most people have cell phones, text alerts, computers, televisions equipped with Closed Caption (CC) and most hearing impaired persons have TTY (TeleType) apps or accessibility on their phones, which aid in informing them of any emergency situations.

As volunteers in our community, training ourselves to become better equipped and serve in times of disasters can be quite beneficial if the need ever arises. So, please take a moment to learn the basic ASL alphabet in order to communicate with the hearing impaired.



ACTC Students Complete Teen CERT Pilot Program

(Article written by Don Fletcher, Prattville Progress; April 22, 2014)



Students who attend Autauga County Technology Center do so primarily to learn skills related to a particular career or job. About four dozen of them also recently learned the skills required in the event of an emergency situation.

The tech-center teens — from Prattville High, Marbury High and Billingsley School — finished in March a 20-hour series of classes that included not only the basics of search and rescue, but also related topics such as damage assessment and stress psychology. The group made it through successfully to gain pre-certification as members of Teen CERT.

The program, an offshoot of the Autauga County Emergency Management Agency's Community Emergency Response Team, is designed to prepare young people for action in the event a situation arose in which the teens could provide some degree of help to themselves, their families and their schools.

EMA Director Ernie Baggett told the "graduates" after a training exercise that included extrication of victims from beneath collapsed structures, the leading of injured people from a dwelling and demonstrations on how to disconnect gas service when a leak is detected. The hands-on training, as well as a significant portion of the classroom work, was conducted by Prattville Fire Department personnel.



"When we first started, and I was standing up in front of you for 30 minutes, boring you to death, I told you this was going to be the most fun part of it, and it is. At the end of the day, every one of you is a better citizen for this county, because of what you now know. I promise you this: It will be something you will carry with you for the rest of your life, and you never know when you're going to need to use it."

ACTC Director Brock Dunn said Jay Thompson, a former county commissioner who now teaches building construction and building science there, proposed the pilot program, which now includes Home Sciences instructor Cynthia McGalliard and her students. It has caught on at the tech school, he added.

"It has elevated into a pretty big thing," Dunn said. "Jay approached me with the idea, and I told him to go for it. A lot of the stuff covered in the Teen CERT class corresponds with what they're trying to do. Mrs. McGalliard is right in there with him. I think this is going to help our community, and that's what we're all about."

Roxanne Royal, who coordinates the EMA's CERT program, said Thompson's proposal sparked a program that had already been considered.

"We're excited," Royal said. "The EMA had been talking about doing a Teen CERT class. Former Commissioner Thompson came to us and asked if we would be interested in him teaching the class. We now have 45-50 team members."

County Commissioner Sid Thompson, also a CERT member, agreed that the training has paid off for her and said it would do the same for them.

"This is a good thing for our county," said Sid Thompson, who said she and husband Billy helped clear their street for emergency vehicles after a winter storm struck the community. "We helped clear Sheila Boulevard so the ambulance and trucks could get through. The training helped me realize that I could help in that way. I think these young people are getting something out of this that will stick with them."

Prattville Mayor Bill Gillespie Jr., also a CERT member, said he has liked what he's seen so far from the Teen CERT program.

"It's still early yet; it's still in its infancy," the mayor said. "But it should be a good program. CERT has been geared more to adults, so when you do have some youth come out... it's going to go a lot further than a lot of people might have imagined."



The Science Behind CERT⁽⁵⁾ By: Ben Reddoch

Why Everyone Should Have A Little Keraunophobia And Brontophobia Deep Inside...

Ah, Spring... birds chirping, flowers blooming, everything greening up and oh yes, thunderstorms. And with those comes the thunder and lightning. Even though the loud stuff can scare you or rattle the windows, it would be the bright half of the team that can be deadly. According to the National Weather Service in 2012, 28 people in the U.S. lost their lives due to lightning; two in Alabama and property damage from lightning averages \$5 - \$6 billion per year in the U.S. All of this for just trying to keep a neutral electrical charge in the atmosphere!



So what is lightning? It is a complicated weather event that has a lot of moving parts that are still being studied to properly understand them. But basically, electrically, nature likes to be neutral. Just as when you rub a balloon on your head to create static electricity, water droplets and ice crystals moving inside of a cloud create an electrical charge. Positive charges move upward and negative charges move down inside the cloud. When there is enough difference – Lightning! That is the force that moves the electrical charges back together to create neutrality. And then it starts all over again. The more powerful a thunderstorm, the more movement in the cloud, and the more lightning flashes you get. The lightning we worry most about is the cloud to ground lightning.

As you are reading this, lightning is striking the Earth one hundred times a second. A lightning bolt moves at 60,000 miles per second and heats the surrounding air to 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit and is usually only about an inch wide and 2 – 3 miles long. That is a powerful punch for a little package! So we have heat and electricity in large volumes; neither being good for a person or property. 71% of people affected by lightning survive but usually with serious and long term side effects. Medical treatment (such as CPR) can be applied immediately as the human body doesn't carry a residual charge. But the best defense is not to be subject to the event. Are you ready?

Ready.gov suggests prevention from injury using the 30/30 Lightning Safety Rule: Go indoors if, after seeing lightning, you cannot count to 30 before hearing thunder. Stay indoors for 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder. Stay inside a vehicle if not at home and do not touch any metal within the car. Don't use electrical devices inside the home including cell phones. And there is a risk from your plumbing carrying a charge into your home as well. If you are caught outdoors, avoid natural lightning attractors such as metal or trees. You want to be as low as possible but be aware of possible flash flooding in the location you are in.

And there are new types of lightning discharges that are currently being studied by science but none that can harm you. Most of the reports of the phenomenon were dismissed by science until 1989 when photographic evidence was presented. Now much of this has been documented by astronauts aboard the International Space Station with cameras. These

are known as sprites, elves, gnomes, trolls, and blue jets. No, I didn't just finish watching "The Lord of the Rings!" These are events that go up from a thunderstorm cell. Some go as high as 60 miles. Visit <http://www.almanac.com/blog/weather-blog/magic-skies-real-sprites-elves-and-trolls> for more information on these impressive events.

And for those of you that keep staring at the title of this article; Keraunophobia is the fear of lightning and Brontophobia is the fear of thunder.

Happy spring!



THUNDER



When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!

STOP all activities.

Seek shelter in a substantial building or hard-topped vehicle.

Wait 30 minutes after the storm to resume activities.



www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov



30/30 RULE
If the time between the FLASH of LIGHTNING and the SOUND of THUNDER BANG! is LESS THAN 30 SECONDS TAKE SHELTER for 30 MINUTES after the last thunder is heard

DECREASE YOUR EXPOSURE WHEN THUNDER ROARS GO INDOORS

The threat of being struck by lightning increases as a thunderstorm approaches, reaches a peak when the storm is overhead, and then gradually diminishes as the storm moves away.

Even when people seek cover they may not do it soon enough. Don't wait until the storm is overhead and it starts to rain to get to a safe place - this is far too long. Many go outside too soon when the rain let's up or stops instead of applying the 30/30 rule.

SCOUTMASTER.CB.COM

Gofundme REMINDER!!

By: Ben Reddoch



As most of you know, our CERT program lost our federal funding from Homeland Security via Citizen Corps in the summer of 2011. Since that time, the CERT Council has been investigating ways in which to supply material to our program for training and deployment purposes. After an exhaustive review, the Council decided on forming a non-profit organization for fund raising and donations of money and material. This has been a common way of CERT organizations around the country providing what their programs need. There are filing fees for the government and legal fees for the creation of a non-profit, so the next hurdle the Council faced was raising the money for this aspect.

The Council decided on a fairly new concept call "crowd funding." This is an internet based fund raising technique through a web based company. The Council decided to use the service of a highly rated company called GoFundMe.com. Our first step was to raise \$100 through our own contacts via Facebook and email. We have now reached that goal! The Autauga / Prattville CERT fund raising site is now under review for public release which will expose our fund raising to anyone interested on the World Wide Web.

If you would like to see the site, please go to gofundme.com/5rsdfk and visit. Thank you to all that have donated to our cause! Please like and share this information on Facebook. You can find recent postings on our Facebook page, Autauga/Prattville CERT. The more exposure that we get, the better! If you have any questions regarding the non-profit, it's formation, or use, feel free to contact Ben Reddoch at reddochb@charter.net.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service Field Day

By: Christopher Hall



EMERGENCY COORDINATOR: CHRISTOPHER HALL, K4LIA,
K4LIA@HOTMAIL.COM

ASSISTANT EMERGENCY COORDINATOR: JASON SMITH, W4EGR
W4EGR@ATT.NET

THE AUTAUGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE (ARES) WOULD LIKE TO FORMALLY INVITE YOU TO THE 2014 ARRL FIELD DAY

28-29 JUNE 2014

BALLFIELDS NEXT TO DANIEL PRATT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND THE LOUISE M. SMITH DEVELOPMENT CENTER IN PRATTVILLE

SETUP BEGINS AT 11:00AM

OPERATIONS BEGIN AT 1:00PM AND RUN FOR 24 HOURS

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS MORE THAN WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE IN THIS EVENT!

To Be Prepared, Training Is Essential By: Gary Barron

"Before anything else, preparation is the key to success."

~ Alexander Graham Bell

VOLUNTEER
TRAINING

Register
Today!

Classes
&
Training

Volunteer
Opportunities

TRAINING ~

Have you ever noticed the different ways people respond to that word? Some get excited, others are, well, less excited. Webster's dictionary defines "training" as follows:

train-ing noun

: a process by which someone is taught the skills needed for an art, profession or job

In saying that, people seem to learn in different ways ~ Some prefer reading, others by watching videos, yet others hands on, online and even in a classroom setting. When the CERT council talks about training, we try to keep all these things in mind. Some members like training going on all the time, some once every six months and then there are members that fit somewhere in the middle.

We want to make sure that you understand the following when we send emails, postings on Facebook, etc. about training. When you signed up for CERT you were asked to mark two areas that you thought you would be interested in. These areas were things like traffic control, search & rescue, VRC (Volunteer Registration Center) etc. Then you learned more about those areas and think to yourself , I don't like that and want to try something else. THAT'S FINE!!! We want to ENCOURAGE you to learn other topics/areas of what CERT does. With that, understand that ANY training being offered, you can take that training even if you didn't check it on your CERT info paper. It just might be something you really enjoy. Side note ~ It only makes us stronger as a unit with members that are crossed trained.

Also, we encourage you to go online anytime that you would like and take any of the FEMA/CERT courses that are offered online. To see the different courses offered check you these web-sites: www.fema.gov/commuinity-emergency-response-teams or www.ready.gov/citizen-corpstraining/fema-independent-study-courses. If you take any courses online, please remember to email CERT/MRC a copy of your certificate so you receive credit and we are aware that you did the training.

Here is a list of some training that is currently being offered to CERT/MRC members.

1. **Family Assistance Center training** ~ May 16th, 2014 (emailed on April 28th 2014) Hosted by the Family Assistance Center.
2. **ADPH Mental Health Training** ~ Addressing the Behavioral Health and Clinic Needs of At Risk, Vulnerable and Special Population Groups during a disaster. May 22nd, 2014 (emailed April 20th, 2014)
3. **Volunteer Symposium on Understanding S.M.O.R.T** (State Mortuary Operations Response Team) **Family Assistance Center and their roles & function.** This is hosted by the ADPH (Alabama Department of Public Health) June 17th, 2014 (emailed April 20th, 2014)

The emails included registration procedures, where the training is held, as well as date and time. If you would like this info emailed again to you, please email us at autaugacountycert@yahoo.com

We would also like those interested to take the following online course:

IS 10.a Animals in Disasters: Awareness and Preparedness (below is the link)

<http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/courseOverview.aspx?code=IS-10.a>

We will use this course for those that sign up to join the AP VMRC (Autauga/Prattville Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps) Even if you aren't sure that you want to sign up for VMRC, this is still a good course to take, especially if you are a pet owner.

Remember, being a CERT/MRC/VMRC volunteer, you can choose what times are best for you, as well as how much time you can donate towards your training. It's all up to you.

I hope this information opens you up to the training that is being offered and how we, as a council think of all members when planning any type of classes, exercises or training opportunities.

Lawn Equipment Safety Contributed by: Tracy Savage-Barron



It's that time of year... Springtime... and that usually means taking care of our lawns. For many homeowners, lawn mowing is a weekly chore for almost 9 months out of the year. In addition to planting, weed eating, trimming and pruning... Mowing is one of the most dangerous of these tasks. Many homeowners, and often professionals, do not recognize the extreme dangers associated with this powerful equipment

Across the U.S., lawn mower accidents occur on a daily basis. Almost 80,000 people visit the emergency room annually as a result of lawn mowing accidents, and approximately 95 deaths occur annually due to these accidents.

Lawn mowing can not only cause bodily injury, but property damage as well. Studies have shown that even a small riding lawn mower can have enough projected energy of debris that can equal up to three times the muzzle energy of a .357 Magnum. And of course, spinning mower blades can also cause direct physical damage when a person comes into contact with this part of the machine. Other injuries can include burns, back pain, inhaling of dangerous vapors, equipment failure and fire.

Please make sure to read all instructions and safety precautions for your type of equipment, maintain the equipment properly and wear the proper safety gear before operating your mower and other lawn equipment.

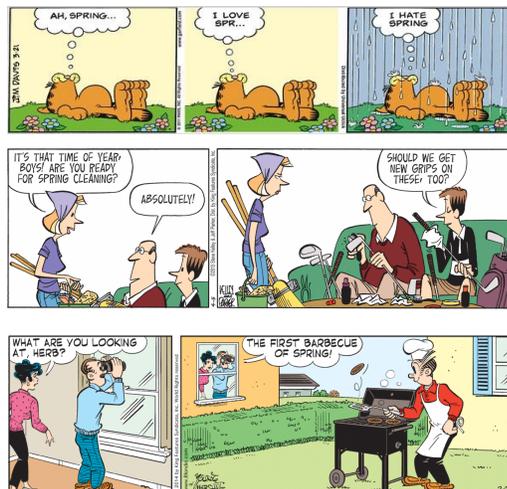


Fire Safety

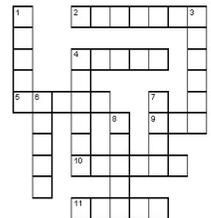
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- | | | |
|-----------------|------------|----------------|
| AIR | EMERGENCY | PREVENTION |
| ALARM | EXIT | RESCUE |
| ASHES | EXTINGUISH | SIREN |
| BURN | FIREMEN | SMOKE |
| CARBON MONOXIDE | FLASHLIGHT | SMOLDER |
| CHIEF | GAS | SPACE HEATER |
| CRAWL | HAZARD | SPARK |
| DALMATIAN | HELP | STAY LOW |
| DARK | IGNITE | STOP DROP ROLL |
| DETECTOR | LADDER | SURVIVE |
| DISASTER | DYNOGEN | WATER |
| DRILL | PREPARE | WINDOW |

JUST FOR FUN!



Spring



Across

- April showers bring May _____.
- In spring, farmers _____ crops.
- The first month of spring.
- Easter _____.
- _____ blossom trees.
- Spring _____; vacation.

Down

- Flowers _____ in spring.
- The season after winter.
- Let's go on a _____.
- A month in spring.
- An animal that wakes up in spring.
- Birds that fly north in spring.

AUTAUGA / PRATTVILLE CERT

826 Gillespie Street
Prattville, Alabama 36067

Phone: 334-361-3758
Email: autaugacountycert@yahoo.com

Gmail for newsletter: apcertnewsletter@gmail.com
Tracy Savage-Barron, Editor



Like us on Facebook at:
<https://www.facebook.com/AutaugaPrattvilleCERT>

Or online at:
<http://www.citizencorps.gov/cc/showCert.do?id=44767>



OBJECTIVE:

The objective of CERT is to assist State, County, and City Emergency Services in any and all emergencies and to assist the general public in such emergencies, as trained.

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of CERT is to educate the citizens of Autauga County to be prepared and to safely care for themselves, families, friends and neighbors in the event of a disaster of any type, until additional emergency help can arrive and establish CERT as an emergency management resource. To continue to provide training, education and support to volunteers in basic disaster response, such as fire fighting and safety, light search and rescue, basic disaster medical skills and to participate in non-emergency projects that promote and improve safety in Autauga County.



Support Your Community

Get Involved!



Factoid Tidbits: The speed of a typical raindrop is 17 miles per hour. The biggest clouds are cumulonimbus, climbing up to 6 miles high and holding up to half a million tons of water. A mere 2 feet of water can float a large vehicle or even a bus. Lightning is approximately 54,000 degrees Fahrenheit. That is six times hotter than the surface of the sun!

We Think It's About Time For A CERT Newsletter ** PRIZE GIVE-A-WAY ** (How About You???)



In this issue of the A/P CERT Newsletter... you could win a One Person Survival Kit. (Pictured Below)

Hidden somewhere throughout the newsletter is a picture of the Autauga/Prattville CERT Logo... 

Be the first person to submit via email to apcertnewsletter@gmail.com the page and location of the logo and WIN!!! Be sure to put "Logo Contest Answer" as the subject of your email.

Good Luck to all our CERT/MRC members!!!

