



# Autauga/Prattville CERT Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 3 September / October 2014

... 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

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## We Are Moving! (Our CERT Account To A New Email Address)



YES! A/P CERT is moving... our email address that is.

We have had ongoing problems with our Yahoo account for some time now, so, with these issues in mind, we have already made the switch to Gmail.

However our Yahoo account will

stay open until after the first of the year (2015) while members learn of the new switch. We have already started using the new Gmail account and will from this point on. Please make a note of this and make the necessary changes in your address book.

The new email address is... [autaugaprattvillecert@gmail.com](mailto:autaugaprattvillecert@gmail.com)

So, from now on if you have any questions, concerns, information you would like to share or

would like to signup/volunteer for any event, please use the Gmail address.



## September ~ National Preparedness Month

By: Gary Barron

As a CERT member you are taught and trained on an ongoing basis to BE READY! September is National Preparedness Month. Are you ready? If so, great... If not, what are you waiting for? Make your kit today. Here are a few steps to make sure you are ready.



In past newsletters we have informed you how to build a disaster kit, as well as, the importance of having a disaster plan. including a meeting point with your family in case you are separated. Being Prepared for any emergency or disaster is something that is essential for you and your family's safety and survival. September is only one month out of twelve that you should "Be Prepared"... Make sure you and your family are ready 12 months out of the year for a disaster or emergency. Be sure to check out and stay

informed to updates on local media sites, radio/TV stations, local EMA agencies and websites such as [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for the latest preparedness information.



### Pssst... Pass The Word!



The Autauga County EMA will host a new CERT class after the holidays. It will start some time toward the middle/end of January. The class will take place on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. As soon as the dates are in place we will pass that information along. We need your help in spreading the word about the class. So, please tell everyone you know about it. To register they need to call Roxanne Royal at The Autauga County EMA 334-361-3758. People have already started calling, so don't wait, CALL NOW!



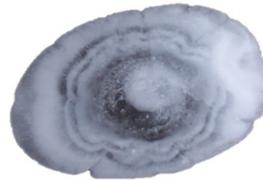
## The Science Behind CERT<sup>(6)</sup> By: Ben Reddoch

### Frozen Onions from the Sky or ... Hail – A Window into the Storm

July 11th, 1990 – Denver, Colorado. A thunderstorm develops northwest of the city and tracks to the southeast. Nearly 120 miles and several minutes later - \$625 million in hail damage. Adjusted to 2013 dollars – \$1.1 billion, making this the most expensive hail storm in United States history.

This storm dropped golf ball to baseball sized hail and reports of damage included severe damage to roofs of thousands of homes and buildings, tens of thousands of cars were damaged, power and telephone service was lost, thousands of trees were defoliated, damage occurred to airplanes, golf courses, signs, windows, and the list goes on and on. Hail storms annually cause on average \$2 billion in damage in the United States.

that fell in 1928 weighed in at 7 pounds! Large hailstones like these can fall at over one hundred miles per hour – so imagine a solid bag of sugar hitting your windshield at a hundred MPH! So how are these monsters made? From the same engine that creates our most dangerous thunder storms.



I remember in school, we were taught that the layered nature of a hailstone, which looks like an onion cut in half, was caused by multiple trips in the updrafts from the bottom of the thunderstorm to the top collecting freezing water before falling down to the bottom and caught again in the updraft. Each trip created another layer of the frozen onion until it became too heavy to be blown upwards and fell to earth. Well, that has changed a bit. The accepted creation of hail stones is now water droplets are blown up into the heights of the thunderstorm and become super-cooled below freezing. When they come into contact with a particle such as a grain of sand it freezes. As the journey of the particle keeps rising, often at speeds up to 110 miles per hour, it comes into contact with areas in the storm that

either contains more super-cooled water droplets or different areas of high humidity. The hailstone collects this water or water vapor and continues to grow. If it collects the water droplets, it creates a clear layer of ice. If it picks up the water vapor in the high humidity areas, it forms an opaque or cloudy layer.

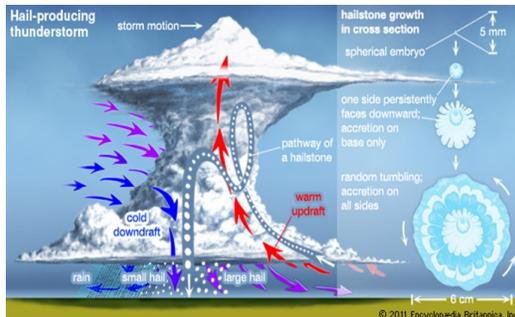
As our hailstone continues to rise up to six miles within the storm, its speed varies and the faster it moves through an area of moisture, the thinner the layer that is created. At some point, the updraft within the storm cannot support the weight of the hail and it falls to earth. These strong updrafts within the storms also cause tornadoes and this is why the two events are connected.

When the space shuttles were built, they were the most complicated single machines ever created by man. I am still amazed how complicated a “machine” nature can make. When you think about all that is going on within a thunderstorm; inflow and outflow winds, rain, cloud formation, lightning, thunder, and the events like tornadoes and hail storms; it is a truly amazing machine. So when a soccer ball sized hailstone from Nebraska hits the ground, it can show meteorologist how strong the internal workings of a thunderstorm actually are.

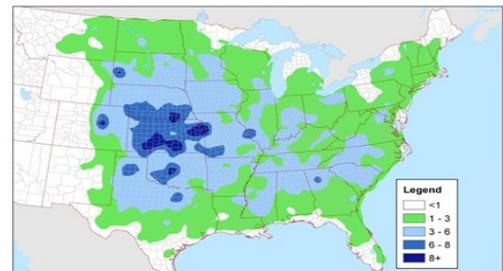
Goal!!!!



The largest hailstone recovered in the United States was in 2003 in Nebraska. It was about seven inches across! The authorities couldn't get an accurate weight because it hit a gutter on the way down and some was lost to melting. But one similar sized hailstone



**Hail Activity in the United States**  
Average Number of Hail Reports per 100 Square Miles  
2003 - 2012 Reports of Hail 1" or Larger





HandsOn RIVER REGION



## Members Attend VRC Training Class

On July 29th several of our members attended a VRC (Volunteer Reception/Registration Center) training class instructed by Timberly Williams and her staff of HandsOn River Region/ 2-1-1 Connects.

The class was held at the Prattville Fire Department Training Facility and focused on the steps necessary for providing organized and efficient means to set up, operate, and manage a Volunteer Reception Center after a disaster.

Part of the exercise included setting up registration stations, assigning VRC duties, simulating a spontaneous, chaotic volunteer scene and an overview of the proper steps of operating a Volunteer Reception Center.

VRC volunteers are necessary to assist first responders by maintaining control and order and tracking volunteers in and around the disaster area. This is essential to better serve the community during times of duress.



## Storm Spotter Training Course Available To All



PRATTVILLE- Autauga County Emergency Management Agency is hosting a SKYWARN Storm Spotter training course taught by the National Weather Service.

The class will be held at Doster Memorial Community Center located at 424 S. Northington St.; Prattville, AL ~ Tuesday, October 28, 2014 @ 6:00 pm. This course is free and open to the public.

Please contact Autauga EMA at **334-361-3758**, if you would like to sign up and reserve your seat for this course.

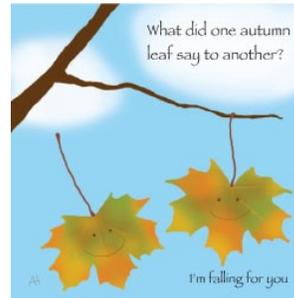
# JUST FOR FUN!

## Fall Harvest

K X H B T C R C G L R T F J S  
 U O C G S E V A E L U P T N Y  
 H I M Y Y A H A P W U J I A D  
 O R T M B J L B P R K K W S S  
 Q C R V U V P C Y P P D M F D  
 I I O M C A W S F M L A V A Q  
 Z I I R C L E H U M F E C L L  
 N X E O N L X P U Y D D S L S  
 H V R T P R E C W Q I N D Q J  
 D N X A T V K C U X C N U E T  
 S B M T N B A I J Q I I M T R  
 S C A R E C R O W W R C E X E  
 C Z F Z D D F M Z R K F W N E  
 R I T T J H Q Y E K R U T S S  
 E A K E X K K L M T A X Y O R

LEAVES  
 FALL  
 ACORNS  
 WIND  
 TREES  
 APPLES  
 PUMPKINS  
 MAPLESYRUP  
 SCARECROW  
 CORN  
 RAKE  
 SQUIRREL  
 HAY  
 TURKEY

(c) WebSpinstress



### DID YOU KNOW?

The original pumpkin pie started out as a hollowed out pumpkin filled with milk, spices, and honey, baked in the hot ashes of an open fire.



### Did You KNOW? #17

**A PUMPKIN**  
 really is a fruit.



DidYouKnow.com



### Autumn Scramble

Can you unscramble the Autumn words below?

1. vhtsear \_\_\_\_\_
2. aveesl \_\_\_\_\_
3. cesowrrac \_\_\_\_\_
4. lowlye \_\_\_\_\_
5. binrefo \_\_\_\_\_
6. prae \_\_\_\_\_
7. aker \_\_\_\_\_
8. racon \_\_\_\_\_
9. isrqeulr \_\_\_\_\_
10. alppe \_\_\_\_\_
11. nagreo \_\_\_\_\_
12. lfal \_\_\_\_\_
13. rde \_\_\_\_\_
14. owbrn \_\_\_\_\_



## AUTAUGA / PRATTVILLE CERT

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apcertnewsletter@gmail.com  
Tracy Savage-Barron, Editor

### We're on the web!

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

Or online at:  
<http://www.citizen corps.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: Autumn covers the months of September, October and November. The pumpkin was first named by people in Greece, who called this orange edible a “pepon,” which means “large melon”! There are two types of trees Deciduous and Evergreens. Deciduous tree leaves change color but Evergreens do not.*



## SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK!



**Daylight Saving Ends**  
**Sunday, Nov. 2 at 2:00am**  
Set your clocks **BACK** one hour  
before going to bed **Saturday night**  
November 1, 2014