

Did you know?

You can call
202-7100
in the case of
a disaster for
up to date
emergency info

What can you do as a LCERT Member?

- Join a Community Event
- Plan to Participate in a Training Activity
- Locate your Rally Point
- Join a LCERT Committee
- Promote LCERT in your neighborhood
- Prepare your Family in the Case of a Disaster
- Read the LCERT Newsletter!

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Lowcountry Community Emergency Response Team (LCERT) Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1 Fall 2009



CHARLESTON COUNTY

Welcome to the First Edition of the LCERT Newsletter!

The Communications Committee would like to welcome you to LCERT's newest endeavor. The LCERT NEWSLETTER! After countless hours of brainstorming on further ways in which to reach the LCERT membership, VOILA, the idea of our very own newsletter was born.

What are the goals of the newsletter? Simply put, to keep you informed of the latest LCERT happenings. More specifically, those goals entail informing the membership about:

- Upcoming Training Opportunities
- Upcoming Community Events
- Upcoming LCERT Member Gatherings/Events

- General Emergency Response Information
- General Health & Safety Information, and
- Training Events outside of LCERT



We (the LCERT Communications Committee) welcome any ideas, suggestions, critiques & comments that you may have to make this newsletter something you look forward to reading. Please direct any suggestions to Newsletter@LCERT.org.

The LCERT Newsletter will be a quarterly newsletter (Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter) and will be delivered via electronic mail and/or the USPS. Check your mail boxes in the coming months for Issue 2! Please make sure the LCERT Membership Committee has your correct email and/or mailing address.

Thanks for all that you do for LCERT. Have a great fall and remember to STAY SAFE!

With Regards,

LCERT Communications Committee

A Message from Jim (LCERT Advisor)

To All LCERT Members,
A lot of people say they want to help in times of need.

Few really take the steps to get PREPARED to be useful to:

1. Help individuals and organizations in the community prepare to take care of themselves in the event of a disaster by providing or facilitating education about emergency preparedness.
2. Be willing to help neighbors and the com-

munity in the event of a disaster, after assuring self and family safety.

3. Seek out and take advantage of opportunities to enhance emergency preparedness and disaster skills.
4. Be willing to participate in team activities, community events, drills and training others.
5. Participate in periodic team meetings to organize and maintain activities.



Because you care enough to prepare, you are in the minority,

and that makes you special indeed!!

Thank you for your efforts and commitment to LCERT.

Jim Tarter

Visit us online: www.lcert.org

Upcoming LCERT Community Events



"WEEEE, Just Having Fun!"

Old Navy Safety Fair

Saturday, October 17, 2009; 12pm–4pm

Old Navy, Tanger Outlet Mall (4840 Tanger Outlet Blvd, N. Chas)

FREE—Safety Information to the Public—Need LCERT to staff table

North Charleston Safety Fair

Wednesday, November 4, 2009; 10am–3pm

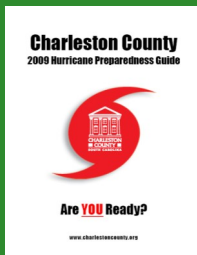
North Charleston City Hall, 3rd Floor Conf. Rm.

Promote safety to City Employees—Need LCERT to staff table

For more information, visit the LCERT website @ www.lcert.org

Do you have LCERT related photos you would like published in the LCERT Newsletter and on LCERT.org?

Send them to Newsletter@LCERT.org



Charleston County Hurricane Preparedness Guide Available from LCERT and CharlestonCounty.org

Upcoming LCERT Training Events

Amateur Radio Technician License Class

Receive entry level FCC Amateur Radio Technician License.

Date: Tuesdays, Oct. 20–Nov. 10, 2009

Time: 6-9 pm

Location: Chas Co. Public Service Bldg, Room 337

For information pertaining to needed materials for the class visit <http://www.lcert.org>

Ready Lowcountry Earthquake Presentation

Are you and your family prepared for an Earthquake? Join Dr. Steve Jaume (CofC) to learn more about how to prepare yourself.

Date: Thurs, Oct. 29, 2009

Time: 6-9 pm

Location: Chas Co. Public Service Bldg, Room 339



Ready Lowcountry ~ Prepare, Plan, Stay

Ready Lowcountry is a tri-county effort to localize the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) National Ready Campaign.

Ready Lowcountry will help individuals, families, businesses and children in the community prepare for all types of emergencies and to take care of themselves in the event of a disaster by

encouraging everyone to just take these steps: to make it on your own for a period of time can be crucial!

1. *Get a kit of emergency supplies*
2. *Make a plan of what you will do*
3. *Be informed about what might happen*
4. *Get involved in preparing your community*

Having a plan and the tools in place



LCERT Rally Points



Existing Rally Points

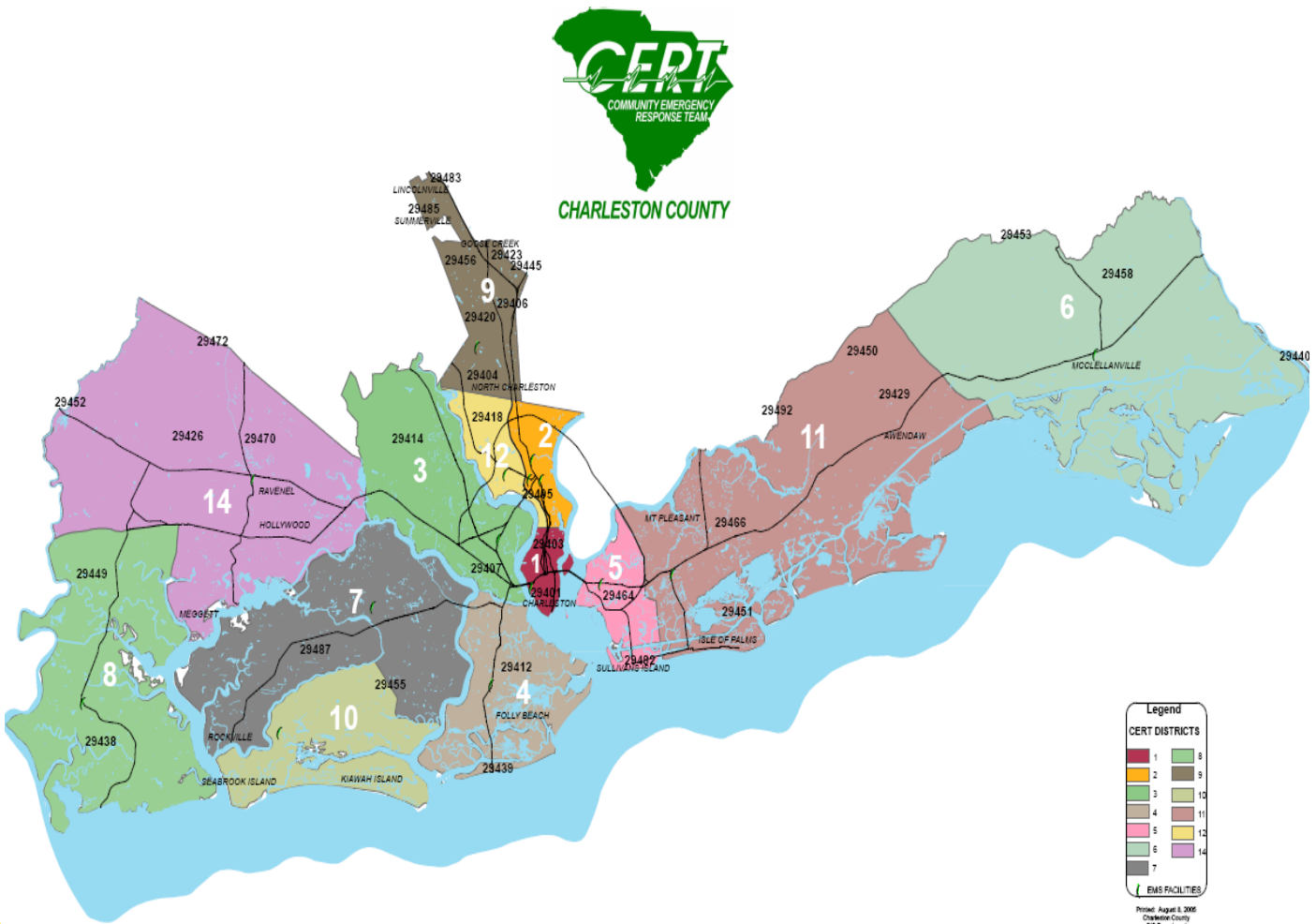
- C3A/C3B
Primary— OLD WalMart P. Cantrell
Alt—Hwy 7 & Hwy 61
- C4A
Primary— St. Johns Fire Station
Maybank Highway
Alt—St. Johns High School
- C5A/C6A
Primary— Mt. Pleasant Town Hall
Alt—Fire Sta. 4 on 6 Mile Rd.
- C7A
Primary— New Jerusalem AME
on Bears Bluff Rd
Alt—9 Mile Fork
- C9C
Primary— Elms of Charleston
Club House
Alt—Elms Traffic Circle
- C9F
Primary— ACE Hardware, Trolley
Rd near Irongate
Alt—Bacons Bridge & Old Trolley
- C10A
Primary— St. Johns Fire Station
Maybank Highway
Alt—St. Johns High School
- C10B
Primary— JI Fire Sta. Seabrook
Alt—James Island Town Hall

District News

East Cooper CERT just expanded as a result of a new CERT member who recently graduated and lives in Daniel Island. East Cooper CERT plans to expand it's ties with various political and civil entities tied to the new area (City of Charleston & Berkeley County). Hopefully, additional DI residents will be coming through the CERT program in the near future to increase membership in the area as DI is pretty isolated.

David Dawson
East Cooper Team Leader
LCERT Treasurer

LCERT Districts Map (www.lcert.org/memberspage.htm#DISTRICTS)



Contact Your District Liaisons or Team Leader to find out the latest for your area including:

- Meetings
- Rally Points
- And Other Pertinent Information

Next Issue: Meet Your Team Leaders

Committee Chairs,

Don't Forget to Update the Communications Committee with



Sometimes its Not!

Wash kids' hands and your own frequently, especially after:

- Changing Diapers or Wiping
- Touching pets or garbage
- Before and after handling food

Teach kids to always wash their hands before eating, too!

Meet Your LCERT District Liaisons

- District 1—C.J. Johnson—tazmed@comcast.net—991.3928
- District 2—Ellie Bishop—navyintrigue@msn.com—926.3592
- District 3—C.J. Johnson—tazmed@comcast.net—991.3928
- District 4—Alan Laughlin—1grayghost@comcast.net—330.4023
- District 5—Tom Crosby—crosby@acharlestonhome.com—345.1060
- District 6—Tom Crosby—crosby@acharlestonhome.com—345.1060
- District 7—Stephen Haynsworth—stephen.haynsworth@us.bosch.com—568.4498
- District 8—Steven Harrison—bcharrisonspfd@aol.com—200-6585
- District 9—Russ Bernard—russbernard@yahoo.com—708.8005
- District 9—How About You? District 9 Liaison Needed
- District 10—John Thompson—jthompson@sipoa.org—768.0061
- District 11—Tom Crosby—tcrosby@acharlestonhome.com—345.1060
- District 12—Ellie Bishop—navyintrigue@msn.com—926.3592
- District 14—Steven Harrison—bcharrisonspfd@aol.com—200-6585

Don't Forget!

District Liaisons/Team Leaders Meeting: Oct. 28, 6-8pm, Rm. 339 (EOC)

Committee Reports

Continuing Education

Recently organized and completed the Weapons of Mass Destruction Awareness Training Class.

Organized the HAM Radio Class (see page 2 of the Newsletter).

Ultimate goal: provide free training where possible

Communications

Met and discussed the creation of the LCERT Newsletter. Formulated an outline for the Newsletter, gathered information, and published the Fall LCERT Newsletter.

Disaster

Have met 5 times and had 1 practice drill. Drill was a success in revealing several shortcomings. The committee plans to have a second drill in the coming months.

Swine Flu Update (From the CDC www.cdc.gov)

Take everyday actions to stay healthy.

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Stay home if you get sick. CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others.

Q) Will the seasonal flu vaccine also protect against the 2009 H1N1 flu?

A) The seasonal flu vaccine is not expected to protect against the 2009 H1N1 flu.

Q) Will 2 doses of the vaccine be required?

A) The USDA has approved the use of one dose for people over 10



How many questions can you answer correctly?

Take the Emergency Response Quiz

(answers are provided at the bottom of this page)

1. T/F: As long as a thunderstorm is five miles away, you are pretty safe from lightning strikes?
2. When an earthquake strikes, you should:
 - A) Run outside
 - B) Take cover under heavy piece of furniture
 - C) Lean against an inside wall or stand in an inside doorway
 - D) B and/or C
3. What is the minimum amount of water that you need to store for one adult for 2 weeks?
 - A) 5 gallons
 - B) 10 gallons
 - C) 14 gallons
4. What is the most common disaster that occurs in the US?
 - A) Fire
 - B) Flood
 - C) Earthquake
 - D) Tornado
5. If your car stalls while you're evacuating from a flood, you should:
 - A) Stay inside the car until help arrives
 - B) Leave it
 - C) Call a towing company
 - D) Flag someone down to help you start it
6. When treating frostbite, you should:
 - A) Rub limbs with snow
 - B) Drink hot chocolate to warm up
 - C) Gradually warm the body by wrapping in dry blankets
 - D) Plunge the affected area in HOT water
7. How often should you practice your emergency evacuation plan?
 - A) Once a year
 - B) Every 6 months
 - C) Every three months
 - D) Only during an emergency

Do you have an item that can be used in the LCERT Newsletter Trivia Giveaway?

If so, let us know! Send an email to Newsletter@LCERT.org and we'll include it in the Winter Trivia Contest

LCERT Trivia

Enter for Your Chance to Win!

Win a pair of handy EMT scissors by sending the correct answer to the following trivia question to: Newsletter@LCERT.org or calling George @ 452.4604

Responses with the correct answer will be included in a future drawing for one of three pairs of EMT scissors!

One entry per person. Include your name, mailing address, and phone number in the email response. Good Luck!



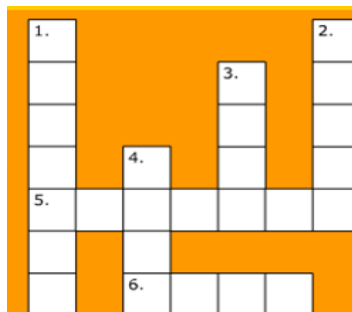
Thanks to Susan Clark for donating the Fall giveaway!

The trivia question for the Fall issue is:

Regarding the cleanup of debris after a hurricane, the acronym C.H.E.A.T. stands for what?

Kids Corner

Crossword puzzle from the US Fire Administration



ACROSS:

5. These make your room or house warm, but kids should stay away from them.
6. You and your family need to practice your fire escape _____.

DOWN:

1. Kids must never play with these!
2. These plug into the wall and kids should never touch them.
3. This is hot, dark, loud, and scary.
4. This is used for light and you should never drape anything over the top of it.



Lowcountry Community Emergency Response Team (LCERT) Newsletter

CHARLESTON COUNTY Fall 2009

Lowcountry CERT
C/O Charleston County EPD
4045 Bridge View Dr., Ste. B332
North Charleston, SC 29405-

Mailing Label

Trident United Way has an Opportunity for You! Disaster opportunity for CERT volunteers

We've all heard it – during and after disaster, people want to help. That's the good news. The "other" news is that if people who want to help are not organized and given guidance, they can add to the devastation of the event, rather than help as intended. In the Points of Light/FEMA publication *Preventing a disaster within the disaster*, they describe the challenge of having to reconcile "the desire to help felt by unaffiliated volunteers with the need of responders to do their jobs unencumbered by the responsibility of managing volunteers." Collaborative planning is critical to avoid creating a "disaster within the disaster."

Coordinating "spontaneous, unaffiliated" volunteers – volunteers

who are not affiliated with or trained by recognized response/recovery organizations – is a component of Emergency Support Function (ESF) 18 for the county Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). One aspect of this component is activating a Volunteer Reception Center (VRC), based on the models created in California and Florida almost a decade ago. The VRC is the clearinghouse for all unaffiliated volunteers to be received, screened, trained and assigned. VRCs are generally activated within 72 hours after the event and continue as long as needed. Key to a successful VRC is a cadre of lead volunteers to staff the center. CERT trained volunteers with this interest are the perfect pool from which to



draw these leaders.

If you would like to learn more about this opportunity to exercise your CERT organizational training and provide an extremely important service to the community, please contact Sally Burnett – 843.566.7185 or 211volunteer@tuw.org – for more information and to sign up for a planning meeting.