



# Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS NEWSLETTER

MARCH/ APRIL 2013

Vol. 5 Issue 2

## FORT BEND COUNTY CERT MEMBERS ATTEND REFRESHER COURSE

Fort Bend County CERT members reunited on February 2nd to practice the skills they learned in their original Community Emergency Response Training. Teammates honed their fire suppression, search and rescue, hazardous materials and first aid skills in order to maintain their preparedness and increase their competency.





# FAMILY CERT DAY CAMP

Fort Bend County Family CERT Day Camp is a **FREE** fun, interactive, hands-on 5 day course designed to prepare your family to respond to disasters and emergencies.

**Community Emergency Response Training Includes:**

**First Aid & CPR**

**Fire Suppression**

**Search & Rescue**

**Incident Management**

**Psychological First Aid**

**Active Shooter Awareness**

**Camp 1:**

**July 8 - 12 11:00 - 5:00**

**Camp 2:**

**July 15 - 19 11:00 - 5:00**

**Ages 10 and up are welcome. At least one adult family member for every four children is required to attend.**

**For info contact:**

**281-238-3428 or**

**OEM@co.fort-bend.tx.us or**

**CLICK HERE**

**Vesna Anic-Isic** grew up in a Mediterranean area of Croatia, where she received a Bachelor's degree in Economics, and worked as a journalist. Coming from an artistic family, she never stopped writing; even it was just a blurb reflecting moments in life:



Zagreb, Croatia, 1986: ordinary looking clouds and the first drops of rain in the park... A loud speaker announced a warning: "All visitors, leave the park immediately and take shelter at your homes until further notice.

Ft. Worth, Texas, 1996: ominous looking skies and sirens blasting over the city urging all to take cover.

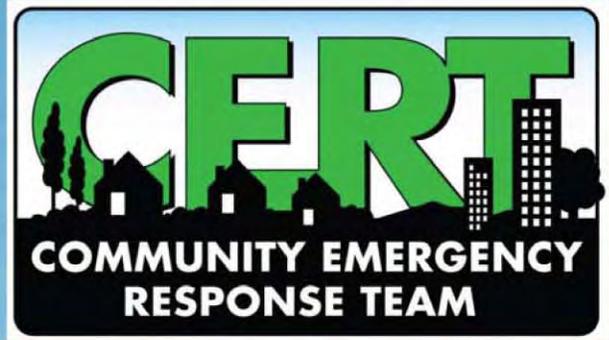
Gulf Coast, Texas, 2005: the largest evacuation in United States' history took place.

Vesna has lived through disasters such as the explosion of nuclear plant Chernobyl, causing radioactive cloud to spread over Europe, and tornadoes in Ft. Worth, Texas, with grapefruit size hail. Just as many of the Fort Bend residents, she was deeply affected by the human suffering caused by hurricane Katrina, and witnessed the largest evacuation in United States in 2005, when estimated 2.5 – 3.7 million people fled prior to Rita's landfall. She learned that a feeling of helplessness is one common thread in all the massive catastrophes. The victims ask - Why did this happen? How am I going to get through? Others, who are not directly affected, ask - How do I help? I have resources, how do I share them? Both have an expectation of aid, an expectation of help.

Vesna realized that the best way to not feel hopeless is to get up and do something. She found many answers during the Calvary Episcopal CERT training. No surprise, since she frequently volunteered there in the past, while her son was a CE School student.

Vesna says "CERT volunteers may develop some "side effects. We are in constant training, always learning and observing. We develop a deeper awareness of our surroundings. We continuously share information regarding safety, fire, and bring practical tips to life. We check our office fire extinguishers and First aid kits. Sometimes we may annoy others, who think that tragedies would never happen to them." She adds "Natural disasters will continue. There will be hurricanes, earthquakes, droughts, tornados and floods. As the time goes by, we forget the fear and the anxiety they bring. The best way not to feel hopeless is to get up and do something, instead of waiting for others to do it. There is no "others". It is just me, you, and a phone call to the FBC OEM. Get involved, and you will find that the smallest act of caring is like a drop of water - it will make ripples throughout the entire pond..."

# Looking for a place to serve?



Community Emergency Response Team training is a FREE hands-on, interactive course that will give you the tools you need to prepare for disaster.

Course content includes:  
Fire Suppression, First Aid & CPR,  
Psychological First Aid, Search &  
Rescue and Incident Command

**APRIL COURSE:**  
April 19-21  
Fri 6 PM-10PM  
SAT & SUN 8am-6pm



**MAY COURSE:**  
May 8-11 Wed-Fri 6pm-10pm  
May 22-24 Wed-Fri 6pm-10pm



For more information:  
OEM@co.fort-bend.tx.us  
or **CLICK HERE**



## Fulshear Ranch Academy CERT

Hosted by the Fulshear Ranch Academy, 24 academy students are receiving the 24-hour Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training offered by the Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management during the months of March and April.

Simulations and hands-on drills, including live fire suppression provide the core curriculum of the program. The course, which is attended twice a week by participants includes: Fire Extinguishment, Light Search and Rescue, Incident Command and First Aid.

The new Fulshear Ranch Academy CERT team will test their skills as they perform search, rescue, triage and treatment during a mock explosion and simulated building collapse. They will be providing both mass casualty skills and patient extrication. They team will establish an incident command post and utilize the Incident Command System to respond during the exercise.

Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management facilitates a CERT course at The Fulshear Ranch Academy periodically throughout the year through the Fort Bend County Community Preparedness and Disaster Resilience Programs. The March/April 2013 CERT program is Fulshear Ranch Academy's largest CERT class to date.



**Save the Date!**

**EVERYONE  
WELCOME!**

**NO  
CHARGE!**

# Fort Bend County Emergency Preparedness Workshop

**Rosenberg Civic & Recreation Center  
3825 Highway 36 South  
Rosenberg, TX 77471**



**DATE**

**Friday  
May 17th, 2013**

**RSVP**



**TIME**

**8:30am  
1:30pm**

Copy/Paste into your browser  
or  
click to register:

[http://www.fbcoem.org/go/survey/1528/12915/  
Emergency-Preparedness-Workshop-2013](http://www.fbcoem.org/go/survey/1528/12915/Emergency-Preparedness-Workshop-2013)

# IS THERE LIFE AFTER CERT?



Fort Bend County CERT members have many options after they complete their basic Community Emergency Response Training. In addition to the local prepared-

ness they may contribute to their individual communities and neighborhoods, FBC CERT members are encouraged to serve in several different areas within Fort Bend County as part of the Disaster Reserve Corps. Fort Bend County provides educational opportunities to CERT members interested in volunteering on specialized preparedness teams. Part of the national Citizen Corps Program, Fort Bend County Disaster Reserve Corps offers the following service opportunities to its CERT members:

**IST - Incident Support Team**

**EMROG - Emergency Management**

**Radio Operators Group**

**CST - Citizen Support Team**

**EST - Exercise Support Team**

**MRC - Medical Reserve Corps**

**VOST - Virtual Operation Support Team**

**IMT - Incident Management Team**

**VMT - Volunteer Management Team**



For more information about these and other volunteer opportunities, please contact 281-238-3428 or email:

**[oem@co.fort-bend.tx.us](mailto:oem@co.fort-bend.tx.us)**



# CoCoRaHS

The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) is a non-profit, community-based organization that measures rain, hail and snow across the United States. Volunteers for CoCoRaHS do not need a meteorology degree – just an interest in weather conditions and a desire to learn more about how weather impacts our region.

Volunteers are asked to obtain an official CoCoRaHS rain gage and place it in a strategic location. They take precipitation measurements each day at approximately the same time – or as often as possible – and record those measurements on the CoCoRaHS website, ([www.cocorahs.org](http://www.cocorahs.org)). Fort Bend County currently has 27 CoCoRaHS volunteers.

Many agencies rely on precipitation data collected by CoCoRaHS during and after rainfall and flood events to determine where the most rain has fallen and where the potential for flooding is greatest. CoCoRaHS's volunteer precipitation reports help to fill in the gaps between official rainfall data collection sites in our region. In addition to CoCoRaHS, FBCOEM is exploring the interest level of our Fort Bend County residents in the development of a team of volunteers who would specifically serve as Fort Bend County weather observers.



If you are interested in serving our community as a weather observer, you may contact: 281-238-3428 or email: [OEM@co.fort-bend.tx.us](mailto:OEM@co.fort-bend.tx.us)

To join, go to the CoCoRaHS website ([www.cocorahs.org](http://www.cocorahs.org)) and click on the "Join CoCoRaHS" emblem in the upper right corner of the homepage.





Did you know that less than 10% of the population has a family emergency plan? Despite vast resources invested into community and family preparedness since 911 even less who have a plan practice the plan on a regular basis. Eddy Andrews an Emergency Manager with the First 24 Hrs Foundation has proposed the 303 Plan.

The 303 Plan is designed to prompt you into bringing your family together and taking a look at your safety in the home. The first "303 Plan Day" was in early 2011 with the goal of using 30 minutes, every 3 months to practice your emergency plan with your family and or business. By preparing both organizations and families to be prepared in the initial 24 hours of a crisis the objective is to provide increased resilience to manmade or natural disasters. In addition it reduces the reliability on local, state and federal resources by encouraging communities to be self sufficient and to build on the success and sustainability like minded programs.

*The 303 Plan addresses important questions like:*

- *What would you do in case of a disaster?*
- *Where would you take your family?*
- *Where could you go that was safe from fires, hurricanes, or earthquakes?*
- *How could you get there?*
- *What would you take with you?*

In order to support this program, the Fort Bend County Community Preparedness Newsletter is challenging families and businesses to embrace the 303 plan and let us know how it working. We will begin a feature highlighting those families, businesses, and organizations that model best behaviors. If you believe your family or agency has a 303 plan best practice, let us know. We would love to feature you here. **[CLICK HERE](#)**

## Continuing Education and Opportunities for Fort Bend County Disaster Reserves & Volunteers

The Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management will host a series of trainings and lectures aimed to increase awareness and broaden capabilities for all interested CERT volunteers. ALL events are free of charge to participants and will be held at the Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management at 307 Fort Street Richmond, TX.

Check our [events](#) tab on our website, [www.fbcoem.org](http://www.fbcoem.org) or “fan us” on Facebook, for additional information

DATE	TIME	EVENT
April 19-21	Friday 6PM-10PM SAT & SUN 8 AM-6 PM Attendance On All Days is Required for Certification	CERT April Weekend Option
April 20-April 21	ALL DAY	MS 150 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY
May 8-11  May 22-24	Wed- Fri 6 PM-10 PM Wed- Fri 6 PM-10 PM Attendance On All Days is Required for Certification	CERT May Weeknight Option
May 17	Fri 8:30 AM-1:30 PM	Fort Bend County Emergency Preparedness Workshop
July 8-12	Mon-Fri 11 AM-5PM	CERT Family Day-Camp Weekday Option
July 15-19	Mon-Fri 11 AM-5PM	CERT Family Day-Camp Weekday Option

## **G-230 Principles of Emergency Management**

**SETRAC, the Southeast Texas Regional Advisory Council is pleased to invite members of volunteer organizations active in disasters to attend the course:**

**G-230 Principles of Emergency Management  
June 11 - 13, 2013 from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
at the SETRAC offices at  
1111 North Loop West, Ste 160  
Houston, TX 77008.**

**This course consists of four modules. The first module includes the concepts of emergency management and its integration of systems, basic definitions, identification of hazards and their analyses. The second module outlines the role of the local emergency manager. The third module addresses the coordination of various systems and agreements among various governments. In the fourth module, the participants demonstrate their abilities to work and apply the skills and information gained in the first three modules.**

**Target Audience: Elected officials, local and state emergency management personnel, senior staff of departments charged with emergency responsibilities, members of volunteer groups active in disasters.**

**Only limited spaces available, please register at:  
[www.PreparingTexas.org](http://www.PreparingTexas.org)**



**No one is  
jk or LOL now.**

**On the Road,  
Off the Phone.**

*APRIL*  
NATIONAL  
DISTRACTED  
DRIVING  
AWARENESS  
MONTH



[distracteddriving.nsc.org](http://distracteddriving.nsc.org)



**6 Hurricane Predictions 6 Evacuation Plans 6 Power Restoration**

**HOUSTON / GALVESTON NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**

## **2013 HURRICANE WORKSHOP**

**Saturday, June 1, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

**George R. Brown Convention Center, Hall D**

**Free & open to the public • Registration begins at 9 a.m.**

Hosted by:



Underwritten by:



Supported by:



# **FREE Family Hurricane Preparedness Event**

### **Featuring:**

- Interactive format suitable for the entire family
- The Kids Zone activity center
- Guest appearance by the "Ready Super Hero" team
- FREE giveaways
- Hurricane predictions from National Weather Service experts
- Appearances by local meteorologists from all major TV stations

### **Contributors:**

- Harris County
- Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston
- The John C. Freeman Weather Museum



Learn more and register online at  
[hurricaneworkshop.com](http://hurricaneworkshop.com)



## Contact the Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management

The Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) plans and prepares for emergencies, educates the public about preparedness, coordinates emergency response and recovery, and collects and disseminates emergency information.

**Website:**

<http://www.fbcoem.org/>

**YouTube:**

<http://youtube.com/fbcoem>

**Phone:**

+1 (281) 342-6185

**Twitter:**

<http://twitter.com/fbcoem>

**Blog:**

<http://blog.fbcoem.org/>

**Facebook:**

<http://facebook.com/fbcoem>

**FBC Alert:**

<http://alerts.fbcoem.org/>

Scan this code with your phone to get these links:



**Would you like to know the forecasted maximum sustained winds speed near you or a loved one?**

**Do you need to know the zone evacuation status for your specific area?**

**Would knowing the historical maximum sustained winds help you make decisions for your business, organization or family?**

**FIND OUT NOW!**



**"Houston Hide From The Wind" Website Expanded to Include Fort Bend County**

[Houston Hide from the Wind](http://www.houstonhidefromthewind.org/) website maps data from the National Hurricane Center expected effects of wind during a hurricane. The site allows people to view active hurricane evacuation zones and expected wind speeds by zip code and use this data to compare the expected wind speed to recent hurricane effects.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.houstonhidefromthewind.org/>

*This newsletter is published by the Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management for individuals and groups interested in community preparedness and response.*

*For matters regarding the Fort Bend County Volunteer program, you may contact us at :*

*281-342-6185.*

*Forward comments, article ideas, upcoming events, or photos of Fort Bend residents performing volunteer activities, to :*

[OEM@co.fort-bend.tx.us](mailto:OEM@co.fort-bend.tx.us)

**Fort Bend County**

**Office of Emergency Management**