

HAMPTON VA

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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New CERT classes, ‘inquiry’ meetings planned

May 16, 2016 - With a new CERT class scheduled to start next month, Hampton’s Emergency Management Office is asking former, current and future members of the Community Emergency Response Team to help improve the program.

CERT is a nationwide effort - sponsored by FEMA - to teach local citizens basic disaster response skills, including fire safety, light search and rescue and disaster medical operations.

Emergency Management, which hosts 3-4 CERT classes each year, hopes to improve the program by holding three “brainstorming” sessions this month for everyone interested. The plan is to collect information and ideas on how to sustain the CERT program and coordinate team activities across the city. These inquiry sessions will be held:

- Tuesday May 17th, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m., at Fire Station 1, 306 W Pembroke Ave.
- Wednesday May 25th, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m., at North Hampton Fire Station 6, 1221 Todds Lane
- Thursday May 26th, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m., at Buckroe Fire Station 4, 2414 East Pembroke Ave.

The sessions will be coordinated by Waldroup Sommer & Associates, a Hampton company that specializes in emergency preparedness, training and exercises. After the sessions are over, a survey will be sent to all CERT graduates to determine their interest in continuing the CERT program.

CERT activities schedule for later this year include Hampton Safety Day, family picnics with a focus on CERT team demonstrations, and bi-monthly meetings for CERT team development.

The next CERT classes begin June 2 from 6-9 p.m. Classes will continue every Tuesday and Thursday, with a final practice on Saturday, June 25. For more information contact Sara Ruch at emoffice@hampton.gov or call 727-1208.

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