



A LETTER FROM THE CHIEF

Dear CERT Community and Future CERT members,

I proudly introduce to you the first issue of the Division of Homeland Security Local CERT Newsletter for the community of Marion County and Indianapolis. The Community Emergency Response Team Program is FEMA's premier volunteer program for citizens involved in emergency management training. Once again this year we are preparing Marion County and Indianapolis residents with this basic training in disaster survival and rescue skills that will improve their ability and our community's ability to survive until responders or other assistance arrived during a major disaster. Our goal for 2011 will be to provide up to eight trainings open to the public throughout Marion County.

ABOUT CERT TRAINING

If you join a CERT, you will receive basic-level training in the following areas:

- Basic First Aid
- Family Disaster Preparedness
- Disaster Fire Suppression
- Medical Operations
- CERT Operations
- Disaster Mental Health
- Basic Emergency Management
- Disaster Simulation -- Skills Review

Total training is usually about 21 hours, scheduled in 2-4 hour modules, over a period of weeks or months, depending on the scheduling needs of team members. It can also be held in the community where you live.

We're pleased to publish a newsletter that will give us the opportunity to stay in touch with the CERT community and Future CERT members. I want to congratulate and thank each of you for the success of the program to date, and thank you for your ongoing support for CERT.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Coons".

Chief Gary Coons