



## **North Kansas City Community Emergency Response Team (NKC CERT)**

To the Business Community of North Kansas City,

The City of North Kansas City would like to introduce the new Community Emergency Response Team (NKC CERT) to the people and businesses of North Kansas City.

With the beginning of the New Year, North Kansas City will be starting the process of creating, outfitting, recruiting and training citizens to participate in our Community Emergency Response Team. Currently, there are already teams in operation in Platte County, Gladstone, Liberty, and Smithville, Missouri in the Northland. North Kansas City will be the fifth team to come on-line. We are looking for citizens who are patriotic, outgoing, motivated and are interested in serving their community as a volunteer.

In the days and months ahead, we will be distributing additional information as our team takes shape. North Kansas City would like interested volunteers from our residential communities, church community, school community and our business community to participate. This is an opportunity to meet your friends and neighbors, obtain valuable knowledge about disaster preparedness and response and play a valuable role in supporting your hometown.

Community Emergency Response Teams are a segment of what the Federal Government identifies as a National Culture of Preparedness which includes individual readiness and preparedness for at least 96 hours after an incident. Research on preparedness shows that people who believe themselves "prepared" for disasters often aren't as prepared as they think. 40% of survey respondents did not have household plans, 80% had not conducted home evacuation drills, and nearly 60% did not know their communities evacuation routes.

Our nation's emergency managers, firefighters, law enforcement, EMT/Paramedics, and other emergency responders do an incredible job of keeping us safe, but they can't do it alone.

As we initiate this program we would like to offer the opportunity for the business community of North Kansas City to participate in this endeavor. We believe that throughout the year our business community plays an important role in making North Kansas City a great city. There is a legacy of cooperation that has existed over the years between the city and our businesses and we would like to continue with this tradition.

Beginning in September 2010, we would like to extend an invitation to the business community to participate in our CERT training program. During a five month period, from September 2010 to January 2011, we will offer a series of courses. This is a unique opportunity to participate in a program of this nature as we are bringing together the different elements of our community to include not only members of our business community, but also our residential community, faith community and students from North Kansas City High School. This program will be especially unique in that this opportunity does not exist for students anywhere else in the Kansas City metropolitan area. This is a chance for them to obtain a lot of community service hours while at the same time learn some of the basic elements of disaster preparedness, self-reliance and citizenship.

- **ARE You Ready?**

Our training sessions will begin on Saturday September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010 with a presentation of what is known as an *IS-22- Are You Ready Class, An In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness*. This class is FEMA's most comprehensive source on individual, family, and community preparedness .

*Are You Ready?* provides a step-by-step approach to disaster preparedness by walking the reader through how to get informed about local emergency plans, how to identify hazards that affect their local area, and how to develop and maintain an emergency communications plan and disaster supplies kit. Other topics covered include evacuation, emergency public shelters, animals in disaster, and information specific to people with disabilities.

*Are You Ready?* also provides in-depth information on specific hazards including what to do before, during, and after each hazard type. The following hazards are covered: Floods, Tornadoes, Hurricanes, Thunderstorms and Lightning, Winter Storms and Extreme Cold, Extreme Heat, Earthquakes, Volcanoes, Landslide and Debris Flows (Mudslide), Tsunamis, Fires, Wildfires, Hazardous Materials Incidents, Household Chemical Emergencies, Nuclear Power Plant, and Terrorism (including Explosion, Biological, Chemical, Nuclear, and Radiological hazards).

This class is worth **5 Community Service Hours for high school students.**

- **CPR/AED/Tactical First Aid**

The second training session of the year will be scheduled in October 2010. This session will include instruction in CPR/AED/ and Tactical First Aid. This is the second year that we have offered this course and would enjoy teaching another group of NKHS students, faculty, citizens and business people of North Kansas City. At the conclusion of this course, all students will be certified in CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) / AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and competent in tactical first aid.

This course is worth **5 Community Service Hours for high school students.**

- **Community Emergency Response Team training**

The third session will be scheduled to take place over three dates in November 2010. These dates are projected to be Friday November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010 (4 hour session), Saturday

November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 (8 hour session) and will conclude on Saturday November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010 (8 hour session).

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

**This course is worth 20 Community Service Hours for high school students.**

- **Amateur Radio Training**

Amateur radio, often called ham radio, is both a hobby and a service in which participants, called "hams," use various types of radio communications equipment to communicate with other radio amateurs for public services, recreation and self-training.

Amateur radio operators enjoy personal (and often worldwide) wireless communications with each other and are able to support their communities with emergency and disaster communications if necessary, while increasing their personal knowledge of electronics and radio theory. An estimated six million people throughout the world are regularly involved with amateur radio.

The term "amateur" reflects the principle that amateur radio and its skilled operators are committed to helping communities without financial compensation; whereas commercial radio operates for profit.

Amateur radio operators use various modes of transmission to communicate. Voice transmissions are most common, with some, such as frequency modulation (FM) offering high quality audio, and others, such as single sideband (SSB) offering more reliable communications, often over long distance, when signals are marginal and bandwidth is restricted, at the sacrifice of audio quality.

Basically, amateur radio operators play a major role in maintaining communications during times of crisis. Quite often, when all other forms of communication go down, amateur radio is able to continue functioning.

At the conclusion of this class, you will take a test and obtain your amateur radio license.

**This class is worth 16 Community Service Hours for high school students.**

In conclusion, we hope some of you will seize upon this opportunity to obtain some training and a self-reliant mindset that you can carry with you through no matter where you are. Keep in mind that there are a limited number of positions in these classes. You may contact Officer Rob Russell at 412-7937 or Officer James Ham at 412-7905 to get signed up or go to the NKC website at [www.nkc.org](http://www.nkc.org) under Police Department. Look for the CERT link in the safety information and programs section.

Thank you. We look forward to working with you this fall.