



# CERT – ified

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## Board Members

President: Paul Sturtz, Sr.  
 Vice President: Roger Belles  
 Secretary: Chris Thobois  
 Treasurer: George Thobois  
 Training Officer: Mike Coffey  
 At Large: Darrell Tongate  
 At Large: Gail Reeves  
 EOC Liaison: Judy Durand  
 Captain Fire Corps: Chuck Miles

## Seminole County CERT Association Meetings

The regular Association meeting is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month. Everyone is encouraged to come and participate. We meet in the training room at the EOC building at 7 PM. The Board of Directors meeting is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month (all members are invited to attend). We meet in the training room at EOC building at 7 PM. The EOC building is located at 150 Bush Blvd., Sanford, Florida.

## CERT NEWS

Seminole County CERT Association  
 Paul R. Sturtz, Sr., President

Hello and welcome from the Desk of the President. First I hope that everyone is READY for this season of action. We have already had a couple of storms to get us thinking in the right direction (I hope!).

Second I would like to welcome our newcomer from the April 19<sup>th</sup> Class. You have been introduced to a lot of new ideas and things to think about. Start at home and with your neighbors, see what you need and what they need to get though a hurricane season. Talking to them will be most important action to take; getting them informed and ready will be the best thing for both of you.

Now that the April 19<sup>th</sup> class is over we need to get ready for the next one coming on June 28. This one may have some problems to work though if we have any bad weather. So let's hope for the best (no hurricanes) and lots of fun again.

We have had a busy past couple of months with Call outs and activities to help out in the county. I'm not going to go into details of the above (others should be going over them in there areas). We are looking at a few things to start the next two months out right, activities planned are the RED, HOT AND BOOM and Daytona for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. I would like everyone to check their schedules and call Chuck with their available time to help out, where they can. Both of these activities have been a lot of fun in the past and I hope everyone that can will join us again this year.

Between the above activities and a new Cert Class, we should enjoy the next couple of months.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

## From the Secretary's Desk

Chris Thobois, Secretary

Generators are one of the more expensive and useful, purchases anyone can make in preparation of hurricane season. Although if used improperly generators can cause death. For the average home owner or renter they can be a great way to protect food supplies, keep people just a bit cooler, and run televisions/radios to keep them informed of conditions outside during a hurricane. Some simple safety rules to follow will keep you as well as your family safe and comfortable.

The best way to decide the size of a portable generator is to ask the sales representative. The size will depend on how many electrical appliances you wish to have connected to the system.

The salesperson can also advise you on other equipment needed. Heavy duty extension cords are a must. High quality surge protector power strips are also very helpful. Depending on the power of the generator, more than one gas can will be needed, as well as a safe place to store the gasoline. Make sure you ask the salesperson about maintenance. After the first 50 hours of running, the oil needs to be changed. And don't forget that at least monthly, the generator should be run for a short while to circulate fuel.

Once the generator is brought home, decisions have to be made about where to store it, as well as the best place to run it, without danger to the family. The gas generator emits carbon monoxide fumes, which has killed people far too frequently. The generator needs to be away from windows and doors, and in a dry place off the ground. Electrical shocks can result if the housing of the generator gets wet.

When hooked up with extension cords, make sure that the doorway is sealed from the fumes. Be sure the cords are not going to trip anyone up in the night and that under no circumstances do you hook the generator into the household electrical system. The current can run through your lines, outside to the power lines and cause injury or death to anyone working those lines.

Practice with your family how to set it up and keep it running. All the adults need to know the safety precautions.

Remember to allow time for the housing of the generator to cool before you add fresh fuel. Change the oil as needed. Store it after use in a safe place. Run it monthly. And remember to be considerate of neighbors because of the noise. This might be a good time to help them keep their food cool, too.

There is one other precaution to take, chain your generator, because there are always those who try to take things that don't belong to them.

## From the Treasurer

George Thobois, Treasurer

# Chain Saw Safety: No Tricks

AE-1025, January 1992

George Maher, Ag Safety Specialist

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## Prepare Yourself

A safe way to prepare yourself for operating a chain saw is to read the operator's manual and obtain training from someone who is experienced with chain saws. It is very important to become familiar with the recommended safe operational procedures before attempting to work with a chain saw. You could learn the safety information from experience alone but that may have a very high price -- mishap and injury -- and probably isn't worth it.

Be sure that you are in top physical and mental condition when operating dangerous machinery. Medications, alcohol, and similar influencing factors can cause you to be a hazard to yourself and others when working with chain saws. Your chances of injury become much less when you are alert, well-rested, and healthy.

Equip yourself with protective clothing and equipment. Safety goggles, hearing protection, steel-toed shoes, hard hat, gloves, and close-fitting clothing are all advisable when chain saw work is to be done. Chaps are available that are chain saw resistant. They are designed to protect the left side of your leg, where most chain saw injuries occur.

## Saw Selection

There are three sizes of chain saws to choose from based upon the type of work. Lightweight saws have an 8 to 12 inch guide bar and are best for light work, cutting small branches, and felling very small trees (6 to 10 inch diameter at the cut). Midweight saws are equipped with a 14 to 20 inch guide bar and are excellent for frequent log cutting and felling of small trees (12 to 18 inch diameter at the cut). Heavy weight chain saws have a guide bar more than 20 inches long and are for

professional use, not the average consumer. So, consider the type of work you have to do and select the saw accordingly.

## **Prepare The Saw**

Preventive maintenance always pays off with chain saws. Properly sharpened teeth will cut quickly, smoothly and more safely. Check the chain tension and lubrication system for proper function.

A clean air filter, good sparkplug, and effective muffler will make for a better running engine, making your work easier and safer. Follow the manufacturer's advice in the operator's manual when making adjustments to the chain or engine.

Be sure to wear gloves or cover the chain with a heavy rag when sharpening the saw teeth. The newly sharpened teeth will easily inflict injury. File or grind according to instructions for best performance.

Proper chain tension helps to ensure long chain life and safer cutting. A chain that is too loose will tend to derail and whip about dangerously. On the other hand, a chain which is too tight will bind and wear prematurely. All chains stretch with use and frequently need checking and readjusting. Good lubrication helps to prolong chain life and maintain tension adjustment. Check the oil often and refill according to instructions. Be sure to use the correct bar oil.

## **Starting and Operating Techniques**

Always use both hands when starting a chain saw, one to hold the saw and the other to pull the starter rope. Some chain saws can also be held down with a foot while starting. Check the owner's manual for additional starting information. Grip the top handle of the saw firmly and pull the starter rope quickly. It is not a safe practice to start a chain saw while holding it in mid-air with one hand. Always start it on the ground on a stable surface.

Always use both hands to control the chain saw. Cutting a tree or limb while you have only one hand controlling the saw is very dangerous. Never force a chain saw through a cut, if it is properly sharpened and adjusted it will cut, almost by itself. Keep in mind that the hardness of the wood will have a major effect on how quickly it cuts.

## **Felling The Tree**

There are many things to do and consider before starting to fell a tree. Examine the tree; which way does it lean and how is it weighted? This has a lot to do with the direction it will fall. Is that area clear of people, power and utility lines, or anything that would be hit? Clear the area of people, vehicles, branches and debris.

If an electric power line is in the vicinity of the tree, don't attempt to work on the tree unless you are absolutely certain that it will not interfere with the electric line. If the tree must be removed and you suspect there will be a problem, call the power supplier, they have the expertise to do it safely.

Will the wind have an effect on how and where the tree will fall? What about other trees? A very dangerous hazard is made when the cut tree entangles with another and does not fall completely. Determine the direction of fall carefully as well as an escape route. Don't wait until the tree is falling to decide which way you should move to avoid being hit.

Always plan an escape route to a safe location from where you are working. Your path of retreat should be along a line approximately 45 degrees from the direction of fall of the tree. This is most important when cutting (felling) trees. Select a place to set the chain saw; it is never recommended to run with a chain saw in your hand, operating or not. Turn off the chain saw and set it down; it is replaceable -- you are not.

Plan the cuts carefully. Smaller trees (up to a 6 inch diameter) may be cut clear through with one pass. Larger trees may require a series of cuts.

Start with a 45 degree notch on the side that the tree will fall towards. Cut the bottom of the notch first, about one third of the way through the diameter. The second cut is made at a 45 degree angle that will meet the depth of the first cut. The felling cut should be made from the opposite side, about 2 inches higher than the floor of the notch. Do not cut all the way through but leave a hinge that will keep the tree from kicking back and upward as it falls. The hinge will be about 1/8 to 1/6 of the diameter where you are cutting but it may vary depending on when the tree starts to fall.

When the tree starts to fall, it is time to shut off the chain saw, set it down safely (don't throw it), and leave on your planned escape route. Do not return to the site until the tree is down and no longer moving. If the tree should roll, let it; one person cannot stop or control a moving tree.

If a tree happens to be so well balanced that it does not fall after a felling cut has been made, two wedges can be used to start the fall and influence its direction. Always

use two wedges and a sledge that has a face 1/3 larger than the face of the wedge.

Plastic wedges are safer than metal since they will not damage the saw teeth or chain. Always remove the chain saw when wedges are being driven into the cut. Strike the wedge carefully since a careless blow may cause the wedge to pop out of the cut and allow the tree to fall backward, on you.

Never use an axe as the wedge or driver; the head of the axe may shatter and you could be injured by pieces of it. If cutting must be continued, insert the chain saw into the cut very carefully since the conditions are extremely dangerous.

## **Limbing The Tree**

Be sure that the fallen tree is stable and will not move as you work. Examine the situation at every limb to be removed. Be certain that the limb will not bind against the saw. Cut on the opposite side of the tree trunk whenever possible, this keeps the trunk between you and the saw. Never stand on the downhill side when removing limbs. Always keep in mind that the tree trunk may roll as limbs are removed. Watch for limbs that may spring out when they are cut due to the released tension. These limbs can cause injury.

Larger limbs may require more than one cut to be removed safely. Plan the cuts so that there will be no binding. Remember that stored energy can cause a cut to pinch the blade and immobilize your saw. Wedges can be used as previously mentioned. Always plan an escape route when removing large limbs since they may roll when they become free of the tree trunk.

When cutting large limbs and the trunk of the tree into convenient lengths (bucking), be sure the trunk is supported along its entire length and will not roll. Block or wedge the trunk in place, if needed. Cut downward from the top of the trunk (overbuck) about one-third of the diameter and then roll it over to make final cuts.

Wedges can be used to keep the cut open if the log cannot be rolled over. They must be driven with care so they will not come into contact with the chain saw. Even though this should prevent pinching, always be alert to the situation.

If the limb or tree trunk is supported by both ends, cut downward one-third of the way and then finish by cutting upward from the underside to meet the first cut. Be careful to keep the saw out of the dirt, the teeth will throw debris and be dulled, and wear on the chain will be increased.

As limbs become smaller in the cutting process, a saw buck will become handy. It will hold the small logs or limbs at a more comfortable height and prevent them from rolling as they are cut. Some saw bucks can be made collapsible for convenient transporting.

## **Kick Back Safety Tips**

Kickback of a chainsaw is when the teeth on the chain catch on something as they rotate around the tip of the blade. The teeth may have enough force to cause the blade to kick back violently toward you, hence the term "kickback."

The best defense against kickback is to keep the tip guard on the chain saw. However this does limit what you can do with the tool. Some kickback control can be maintained by keeping a firm hold on the saw and using a saw which has a chain-brake or kickback guard.

Always be watchful for blade-pinching situations and plan accordingly. Cut branches at the base of the blade, don't saw with the tip of the blade. Use a high chain speed when reinserting the blade in a cut or removing it from a cut. Keep the saw teeth sharp so they will cut; dull teeth are more likely to cause a kickback. Always cut below shoulder height, otherwise the saw is difficult to control and is too close to your face.

## **Key Safety Tips**

- Always avoid making cuts with the saw between your legs, always cut with the saw to the outside of your legs.
- Don't stand on a log and saw between your feet.
- Always stand to one side of the limb you are to cut, never straddle it.
- Always keep in mind where the chain will go if it breaks, never position yourself or other people in line with the chain.
- Keep the chain out of the dirt, debris will fly, the teeth will be dulled and the chain life shortened considerably.

## **Transport and Storage of the Chain Saw**

The chain saw should be transported in a level position with the gas cap up. Tipping will cause spillage of gasoline, a fire hazard. Do not carry the saw in the passenger area of a vehicle, it is a dangerous thing to have flying around in a vehicle accident. The saw should be transported in a case but if one is not available then keep the bar in a chain guard.

Storage of the chain saw requires draining the fuel system. In a safe, ventilated area, pour the fuel from the fuel tank into an appropriate container. After emptying the tank run the engine at idle until it stops, this removes any gasoline from the carburetor and fuel lines. Remove the chain and store it in a container of oil to prevent rust. Refer to the owner's manual for additional instructions on proper storage preparations. Keep in a dry place and out of the reach of children.

### **From the Training officer**

Michael Coffey, Training Officer

In the midst of Hurricane season, we find ourselves trying to weigh out the facts from the sensationalization of the press. We as CERT members, trained in various types of emergencies, need to step up, as a clamoring and factual voice, whenever we hear things, too far either side of the actual facts.

We hear from the press about how bad it might be. The "might" be so sensationalized that we fear the worst. We hear predictions that far outweigh what the government has predicted. When you hear that it is going to be terrible, and the wind doesn't even blow the leaves off the trees, thereafter we find ourselves not believing those that give us the news. Yes, I understand about airing on the side of safety, but there needs to be confidence in those we hear. It reminds me of the story, *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*. When you hear it time and again, and nothing comes of it; you tend not to believe it when it does come. You become complacent. I am not trying to blame the press, since it is us who allow such things to happen. We allow things through our silence.

This year, we have heard a lot about preparing and some of the stations have been touring to show off various things. This is a good thing! And if these same stations try not to sensationalize the story, and just give us the facts, people will have a lot more confidence in them.

A lack of confidence has caused some people to lose their lives. After hearing about how bad things are going to get and nothing happens, people decide to ride the next one out. The next one becomes their last one because this one was a serious threat.

Once again, as CERT members, we are held to a higher standard than many of those around us when it comes to such things. We know how to access information that will help us determine the true nature of the storm. We have a county that helps us to help others. Thus, we have a duty to be the voice of reason when it comes to seeing that our communities are properly prepared and informed.

I am not saying that we need to try and force people to put up plywood or to not put it up when they hear the news saying a storm is coming. I am saying that we need to offer our help. If you believe that a

hurricane is truly going to be a threat to your community and your neighbor has not done anything to prepare; offer to help them. In doing this, it lets them know that you feel it is a serious threat. But always let the decision be their's.

By letting your neighbors know who you are and what you can do for them; you give them a sense of confidence. Offer to help them prepare for various disasters. Maybe, do it in a fun way, during a cookout at your house; be creative. Don't wait until the day before a storm hits; then put on your CERT vest and helmet, and go door to door telling people to prepare. As you prepare WELL in advance, help them to do the same. Be an asset to your community.

### **From the Training officer**

Michael Coffey, Training Officer

We, as CERT members, have taken it upon ourselves to help our families and community by taking the training that helps us to be prepared and be available to help during a disaster or other emergency. Many of you probably have other interests and other opportunities that go along with CERT. I was talking with a man recently that said he was with an airboat club and that he would love to help with search and rescue where airboats are the best means of access. That got me thinking. What did I like to do that could possibly parallel CERT? Then I thought of something, did a little research, and am currently in the process of getting certified to do Search and Rescue with a K-9 unit here in Central Florida. I do not have a search dog; but it is a team effort, and I found out I don't have to have one. I do however have a great love for the outdoors and rural rescue is something that fits my desire to help and desire to be in the woods. This training is more intensive than CERT, yet has several similarities. At the end of training there is a written and practical exam you must pass in order to be certified for use in the field. If anyone is interested in this training, please feel free to contact me at my e-mail address. [Disciple48@cfl.rr.com](mailto:Disciple48@cfl.rr.com) There will be another course offered in the fall and I would love to have some of my CERT friends join me.

Maybe you have knowledge of additional and parallel training that expands our CERT training. If so, I would love to hear about it. Yes, we are a team, and yes we have that in common, but we all have other interests. What else are you involved in? Maybe someone else has the same interest. We are all called to serve, but we can all serve in more than one capacity.

## Removing a Splinter

Before you reach for the tweezers, try these simple methods of removing a splinter:



- Squeeze a drop of white glue over the splinter and let it dry. Peel off the glue and the splinter should come with it.
- Put scotch tape or duct tape over the splinter and pull it off.

If these don't work, then there are always the traditional approaches:

- Wash your hands (but don't get a wooden splinter wet, because it will swell).
- Sterilize tweezers by dipping in rubbing alcohol, then gently pull out the splinter.
- For splinters under the skin, sterilize a sewing needle and gently slit the skin over one end of the splinter. Then use the tweezers to draw it out.
- Clean the wound with soap and water and apply antibiotic ointment and a sterile bandage.

If the situation demands compromise, acknowledge that. Agree to come to terms, not to avoid the issue or take it "underground" to the world of gossip or backstabbing. Make it a goal to create with an action plan-even if it results in change that may be uncomfortable for you.

Discuss it in person, not over the phone or through e-mail. Listen patiently, calmly and respectfully, without interrupting, even when you feel that someone may be pushing your buttons. No sarcasm or personal attacks. Ask questions. Zero in on the issue. Define the differences and try to look for areas of common ground. Understand that it's the two of you versus the problem, not you versus the other person. Sometimes it may make sense to bring in a third party- someone who's competent, whose judgment you respect, and who may be able to make sensible points that you hadn't considered. Remember that you may have a personality conflict with the other person and that you're disagreeing just over an approach. Try to look beyond that.

Keep this in mind: if done right, there is no winner or loser-- only a good solution.

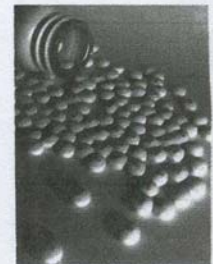
## Medical News

Darrell Tongate, At Large

## Caring for Medications While Traveling

If you are traveling, you'll want to take special care with your medications. Travel expert Anita Dunham-Potter offers these suggestions:

Don't put medications in checked luggage; carry them with you. Not only do you avoid the risk of losing them, you don't have to worry about extreme temperatures in luggage compartments that could damage some medicines.



Keep medications in their original bottles, and bring enough to allow for travel delays.

Carry a list of the medications' generic names. The drugs may have different brand names outside North America.



## Fire Corps (Rehab)

Chuck Miles, Captain

Let your true colors shine through—show how flexible and cooperative you can be!

We can all relate to conflicts involving personal taste. If we don't watch out, ego can color our thinking! Likewise in the workplace. Disagreements are a normal part of business, but often we can keep the peace, maintain good morale and resolve them through give and take.

Here are some tips for minimizing stress when situations aren't exactly black and white.

## Membership

Seminole County CERT Association has three plans: Individual, Family, and Associate. You can pick up an application at the monthly meeting.

## New CERT Class

Roger Belles, Vice President

The Seminole County CERT Association supported the Seminole County Staff in the CERT training for the class that graduated on June 7, 2007. The following is the class picture of the graduates. We all wish them the best of luck in the future. We hope that they will visit the Assoc. meeting and decide if they want to join us.



CERT class graduation picture June 7, 2007

## New Members

George Thobois

We have the following new members of the Seminole County CERT Association from the last class: Richard Brown, Donald & Virginia Hartwig, Ronald Costanzo, Guy Wells, and Pauline Rech. They all attended the last association meeting and were trained in the new CPR. A hearty welcome to these new members!!

## Web sites

Gail Reeves, At Large

<http://www.fema.gov>  
<http://firecorps.org> <http://www.floridacert.com>  
<http://www.mysafeflorida.org>  
<http://www.ready.gov>  
<http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov>  
<http://training.fema.gov/>  
<http://floridadisaster.org>  
<http://volunteerfloridadisaster.org>  
<http://www.noaa.org>  
<http://www.citizencorps.gov>  
<http://flash.org>  
<http://nws.noaa.gov>  
[www.wind.ttu.edu](http://www.wind.ttu.edu)

## CERT-ified newsletter

Articles for consideration into the CERT-ified newsletter can be sent by anyone to Roger Belles at [bellesr@bellsouth.net](mailto:bellesr@bellsouth.net) or to Gail Reeves at [kreeves6@cfl.rr.com](mailto:kreeves6@cfl.rr.com). Articles submitted will be submitted to the board for approval in an upcoming newsletter. If you would like to be guaranteed a copy of future newsletters by email, you can request it by sending email to [bellesr@bellsouth.net](mailto:bellesr@bellsouth.net). Some issues only will be distributed by email.

## SCVP News

Roger Belles, Vice President

There are four events in the SCVP volunteer event listing that may be of interest to the Seminole County CERT Association for the coming months. If you are interested in any of them call SCVP at 407-323-4440 x2. If you want a copy of all the SCVP volunteer events you can email me at [bellesr@bellsouth.net](mailto:bellesr@bellsouth.net) and request it.

Sat., July. 14 Join a full scale disaster drill exercising "Points of Distribution" concepts in a disaster. A POD is a point where distribution of disaster supplies are made available to citizens, usually for drive-by pickup. Examples: tarps, water, ice, and MREs. Help in this important Seminole County readiness drill, expediting quick and efficient strategies distribution of emergency relief supplies. 830am-12pm in Sanford at the Public Safety complex.

**C.E.R.T.** (Community Emergency Response Team) Volunteers, in neighborhood teams, are encouraged to take 24 hours of free training offered by Seminole County in order to be citizen first responders in their immediate area, during the 12-18 hour period when official response vehicles might not get through due to debris in the roads. Community Emergency Response Team training occurs in eight consecutive weekly classes, 3 hrs each for eight weeks. New upcoming CERT classes will begin Thursday, June 28, 6pm - 8:30pm and the seven Thursdays thereafter.

Preparedness Education Volunteers. Educational outreach program, distribute disaster readiness brochures, help with community outreach fairs, attend and assist at

speaking engagements for groups. Help network outreach for disaster readiness to special populations such as disabled, elderly, frail, special needs, and language challenged

You have an opportunity to become an Emergency Preparedness Trainer you'll learn the operation and setup of Emergency Weather Radios and then teach groups preparedness and radio setup.

## Projects the last two months

**Service Project** 4/26/07 Support for the CERT class at the EOC. Participant was: Lance.

**Service Project** 4/28/07 Support for the Disability Council Fair at the EOC parking lot. Participants were: Roger, Chris, Chuck, Jay, Darrell, Lance, Louis, Ruth, and Bob.

**Service Project** 5/3/07 Support for the CERT class at the EOC. Participants were: Paul, Chuck, Lance, Darrell, Jay, and Roger.

**Callout** 5/7/07 Yankee Lake Water Treatment Plant Fire. Participants were: Chuck, Chris, Roga, and Jon.



Yankee Lake Water Treatment Fire

**Callout** 5/7/07 Club Esprite apartment fire. Participants were: Chuck, Ruth, and Karen

**Service Project** 5/9/07 Hurricane Drill. Participants were: Chris, Paul, Bob, Ruth, and Karen

**Service Project** 5/10/07 Support for the CERT class at the EOC. Participants were: Chuck, Charlotte, Chris, Paul, Roger, Rick, and Jon.

**Service Project** 5/17/07 Support for the CERT class at the EOC. Participants were: Chuck, Lance, Luis, Jay, Chris, Gail, and Roger

**Callout** 5/22/07 Geneva/Hwy 46 Brushfires fire. Participants were: Chuck, Ruth, Chris, Charlotte, Jay, and Guy.

**Service Project** 5/24/07 Support for the CERT class at the EOC. Participants were: Chuck, Lance, Jay, Chris, Paul, and Roger

**Service Project** 6/5/07 Funeral for Chief Lallathyn. Participants were: Chuck, Chris, Ruth, and Melisa

**Service Project** 6/7/07 Support for the CERT class at the EOC. Participants were: Chuck, Jay, Chris, Gail, and Roger.

**Callout** 6/9/07 Sporting Goods Store, Altamonte Springs, 2 alarm Participants were: Chuck, Charlotte, Chris, Jay, Ruth, and Guy.

**Callout** 6/9/07 Tivoli Apartments Complex, 3 alarm. Participants were: Chuck, Charlotte, Chris, Jay, Ruth, and Guy

**Callout** 6/22/07 Sanford airport crash. Participants were: Chuck, Chris, Wilma, and Roger

**Service Project** 6/28/07 Support for the CERT class at the EOC. Participants will be included in the next issue.

### CERT training

Michael Coffey Training Officer

- July 12<sup>th</sup> Proper use of chainsaws.
- July 19<sup>th</sup> Triage refresher with the new CERT class taught by Jackie Perry.
- August 9<sup>th</sup> Proper use of generators.

### Association Calendar

- July 3 Red, Hot and Boom
- July 12 Assoc. meeting 7pm
- July 14 Fire Corps 9am
- July 20 Board meeting 7pm
- July 28 Fire Corps 7pm
- August 8 Fire Corps 9am
- August 13 Assoc. meeting 7pm
- August 21 Board meeting 7pm
- August 22 Fire Corps 7pm

## Message From the EOC

Judy Durand, Emergency Management Project Specialist

### **Do you have your NOAA Weather Radio yet?**

NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts National Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day. Known as the “voice of the National Weather Service,” NOAA Weather Radio is provided as a public service by the Department of Commerce’s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

For less than the cost of a new pair of shoes, you can own a special weather radio that provides instant access to the same weather reports and emergency information that meteorologists and emergency personnel use – information that can save your life!

Be warned of approaching storms so you can seek shelter before the storm arrives!

NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts warnings and post-event information for all types of hazards – both natural and technological.

### **SECONDS SAVE LIVES!**

Weather radios equipped with a special alarm tone feature can sound an alert and give you immediate information about a life-threatening situation. During an emergency, National Weather Service forecasters will interrupt routine weather radio programming and send out the special tone that activates weather radios in the listening area. The hearing and visually impaired also can get these warnings by connecting weather radios with alarm tones to other kinds of attention-getting devices like strobe lights, pagers, bed-shakers, personal computers, and text printers.

### **The Key to Preparedness....Everyone Should Have a Plan!**

Preparedness begins for everyone with a plan of action. This plan should be kept up to date and practiced frequently! Be sure everyone knows and understands the plan. A Weather Radio is the key that unlocks the plan and puts it into action!

**STAY INFORMED!** When conditions are favorable for severe weather, a **WATCH** is issued. When severe weather is imminent or occurring, a **WARNING** is issued.

These Watches and Warnings are broadcast over local NOAA Weather Radio stations and also are retransmitted by many local radio and television stations.

**If local officials advise you to leave, do so immediately!**

**What to Listen For:**

**WATCH**

**WARNING**

**SEVERE THUNDERSTORM**

Severe thunderstorms are possible in your area.

A severe thunderstorm is imminent or has been indicated by Doppler radar reported by storm spotters.

**TORNADO**

Tornadoes are possible in your area. Remain alert for approaching storms.

A tornado is imminent or has been indicated by Doppler radar or reported by storm spotters. Move to your pre-designated place of safety immediately!

**FLASH FLOOD OR FLOOD**

Flash flooding or flooding is possible in your area.

Flash flooding or flooding is occurring or is imminent. Take necessary precautions immediately!

**HURRICANE**

Hurricane conditions are possible in the specified area of the watch.

Hurricane conditions are expected in specified area of the warning, usually within 24-hours. Complete storm preparations and evacuate if directed by officials.

## Family Disaster Plan...

Families should be prepared for all hazards that affect their area. NOAA's National Weather Service, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the American Red Cross urge each family to develop a family disaster plan.

Where will your family be when disaster strikes? They could be anywhere – at home, at work, at school or in the car. How will you find each other? Will you know if your loved ones are safe? Disasters may force you to evacuate your neighborhood or confine you to your home. What would you do if basic services – water, gas, electricity or telephones – were cut off?

### Follow these basic steps to develop a family disaster plan.

#### I. Gather information about hazards.

Contact your local National Weather Service office, emergency management or civil defense office, and American Red Cross chapter. Find out what type of disasters could occur and how you should respond. Learn your community's warning signals and evacuation plans.

#### II. Meet with your family to create a plan.

Discuss the information you have gathered. Pick two places to meet during or after an emergency: a spot outside your home for an emergency, such as a fire, and a place away from your neighborhood in case you can't return home. Choose an out-of-state friend as your "family check-in contact" for everyone to call if the family gets separated. Discuss what you would do if advised to evacuate.

#### III. Implement your plan.

1. Obtain an NOAA Weather Radio, and program in the SAME (Specific Area Message Encoding); for Seminole County the number is: 012117.
2. Post emergency telephone numbers by phones.
3. Install safety features in your house, such as smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.
4. Inspect your home for potential hazards (such as items that can move, fall, break or catch fire); and correct them.
5. Have your family learn basic safety measures, such as CPR and first aid; how to use a fire extinguisher; and how and when to turn off water, gas and electricity in your home.
6. Teach children how and when to call 911 or your local Emergency Medical Services number.
7. Keep enough supplies in your home to meet your needs for at least three days. Assemble a disaster supplies kit with items you may need in case of an evacuation. Store these supplies in sturdy, water-resistant, easy-to-carry containers, such as backpacks or duffle bags. Keep important family documents in a waterproof container. Keep a smaller disaster supplies kit in the trunk of your car.

#### IV. Practice and maintain your plan.

Ask questions to make sure your family remembers meeting places, phone numbers, and safety rules. Conduct drills. Test your Weather Radio monthly using the local test tone broadcast by the National Weather Service every Wednesday between 11:00am and 1:00pm. Test your Weather Radio and smoke detectors monthly and change the batteries at least once a year. Test and recharge your fire extinguisher(s) according to manufacturer's instructions. Replace stored water and food every six months.

##### A DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT SHOULD INCLUDE:

- A three-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day) and food that won't spoil.
- One change of clothing and footwear per person.
- One blanket or sleeping bag per person.
- A first-aid kit, including prescription medicines.
- Emergency tools, including a battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio and a portable radio, flashlight, and plenty of extra batteries.
- An extra set of car keys and cash.
- Special items for infant, elderly, and disabled family members.