

THE CERT ALERT



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FRESNO VOLUNTEERS RESPOND TO HURRICANE KATRINA



CERT volunteers have joined others from the Fresno area to answer the call to service in the regions impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. They have generously given of their time and talents and returned willing to share the lessons learned from their experiences with fellow CERT members. On Wednesday, September 28th, forty volunteers gathered to hear from Kevin McCartney (Astrodome and Reliant Center), Tim Bailes, RN (Gonzalez, Louisiana); and Roz and Fred Clark who had arrived that day from Monroe, Louisiana. While they had vastly different experiences in terms of the location, population and devastation in the communities they served in, all returned with recommendations regarding the importance of training and pre-planning—as individuals and as a community. Sharon Dwoskin, RN served in Kenner; and Teresa Wyble and Jean Gailbraith are currently in the Gulf. **Heartfelt thanks to each of you—and to those who are preparing to follow.**



Are you ready? If disaster strikes close to home, will you: Have a family communication plan including a contact person outside of your area code? An identified evacuation route? A place to meet if you are separated from your family? Fuel in your vehicle? Necessities that you can grab and go? Medicines and medical records for you and your loved ones? Copies of important personal and financial records at hand or in a safe place? A plan for your animals (since most shelters cannot accept pets)? Cash if banks and ATMs are not accessible? Help may not reach you for hours or days—are you prepared?

The Fresno Community Emergency Response Team is accepting registration for the 17th session which will be held from October 10-22. The classes will be held Monday and Tuesday evenings from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. and on two Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Fresno Police and Fire training facilities. For a complete course schedule or to download an application go to: www.certfresno.org call 621-2328 or email CitizenCorps@Fresno.gov.