



CERTainly Prepared

The Official Newsletter of the Naperville CERT Organization

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NCERT Onboard with Naper Notify

Naperville has launched its much talked about emergency notification system which will be marketed as “Naper Notify”. This public notification system is designed to contact residents 24/7 when emergencies arise that threaten health, safety and property. The system is also capable of sending out information of a less urgent nature between the hours of 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. These community notification categories include information about brush and leaf collection, utility outages, traffic alerts, road closures, neighborhood road and utility work, and special events.



NCERT members present at the public launch of Naper Notify included Roberta Ostis, Heather Baum, Sharon Rundo, Giselle Harquail as well as Rick Brock and Anders Gilchrist not photographed.

Naper Notify is available to anyone. If you live, work, shop, travel through, or just care about Naperville, you can sign up. You must provide at least one form of contact in the format you prefer (text, email, or phone). The city will not release this private information to others.

This notification system is completely voluntary and participants must opt-in. For that reason, there will be an aggressive public marketing campaign to inform citizens and get them signed up. Naperville CERT members can get involved in this area. We have the opportunity to be ambassadors for Naper Notify. We will be provided informational training and tablets to use at community events to register the public. Ambassadors can choose when and where they are available to work from a long list of community events.

Please answer the call to register yourself and become an Ambassador for the program. Our encounters with the public will give us the opportunity to spread the message of emergency preparedness and talk about the CERT program. To register yourself, visit www.napernotify.com. To become an ambassador to register others, contact Rick Brock soon at Rick.Brock@NaperCERT.org or (630) 205-2780.

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A Sad Note



CERT member, Larry Pope, was lost to us last fall after a battle with cancer. Larry moved to Naperville in 1985 following an earlier career in law enforcement in Ohio. He was a very active member of NEMA’s Search and Rescue Team. Larry shared his time and enthusiasm for SAR with us as a speaker at the CERT Annual meeting last April.

Our sympathies are extended to Larry’s family and the emergency management volunteers in Naperville who worked so closely with him. His service and dedication will be missed.

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2013 Prairie State Challenge

Congratulations to the Naperville Prairie State Challenge Team who finished in 9th place at the 2013 challenge last September.

The Prairie State challenge is a state-wide competition of CERT organizations. During the day long competition, teams rotate through eight different stations to demonstrate skills learned in the Basic CERT Class. Each station has a point system applied by judges observing team members in action.



2013 Prairie State Challenge Team

The categories of the 2013 competition were Staging, Search, Cribbing & Transport, Triage & Treatment, Team Building, Size-Up, CERT Jeopardy, and Terrorism.

Naperville CERT was represented by team members (pictured above left to right) Jack Frohn, Laura Frohn, Tahiti Weaver, Walter Maceika, Anders Gilchrist, Charles MacDonald, Rick Brock, Sharon Rundo, Denise Pucel, Heather Baum and George Gibson.

To prepare for the challenge, team members met weekly to review CERT skills and material. These team members are recognized and thanked for the time commitment they gave to the Prairie State Challenge. Their skills are now sharper. Anyone whom they may help in a future emergency, will benefit from their effort.

The Naperville CERT organization hopes to continue to build on our previous success by having both experienced and new members volunteer for the team challenge in 2014.



Save the Dates

- February 19th Basic CERT Class Begins. Two CERT classes have been scheduled for this winter and spring. If you found the material worthwhile, encourage a family member, friend, or neighbor to attend. You might be the one they help in an emergency. Registration form and hold harmless agreement can be found on the website, www.NaperCERT.org.
- March 15th DuPage County Advanced Severe Weather Seminar. This annual seminar has a new location this year –The Todd M. Beamer Center at Wheaton College. There is a \$35 registration fee. Visit www.dupageco.org/weatherseminar/ for details and sign up.
- April 12th The 2nd Annual Will County CERT Symposium will be held in Wilmington, Illinois. This all day event serves as an excellent CERT refresher training course. Watch for details coming via email to all Active CERT members.
- April 16th Spring Basic CERT Class Begins

Lessons Learned from Past Disasters

Angie's List (October 2013) interviewed their members who had lived through the natural disasters in the headlines of 2012 and 2013. Survivors of superstorm Sandy, the wildfires of Colorado Springs, and the EF-5 tornado in Oklahoma City, shared the lessons they learned from the traumatic event of losing a home.



Aftermath of Superstorm Sandy

Their recommendations.....

- Get on social media after the emergency. Facebook can be a valuable source of information about where to go for practical needs such as food, tools, donations, and benefits available. It can also identify local support groups and connect people in the community who have been displaced.
- Be Patient about making decisions as to when, where, and what to rebuild. Rebuilding on the original site can be double the work of new construction.
- Take the time to check out a contractor's references before hiring them.
- Be wary of contractors who request large deposits. Unscrupulous contractors will show up, take your money, and never return.
- Stay informed of the latest regulations, ordinances and codes for your area. You have to bring everything up to current code during rebuilding.
- If you live in a flood zone, purchase a policy form the National Flood Insurance Program.
- Insurance claims include providing a home inventory list and trying to recall every possession is a daunting task. Homeowners should take the time to photograph or video every room of their home, including the garage, basement, and inside closets in order to have a visual image of your possessions.
- Periodically re-evaluate your insurance. Keep your coverage updated to your current needs.

Article Reference:

Giordullo, Staci. (2013, October). Finding Normal After the Disaster. Angie's List-Chicago Kane & DuPage Edition, pp. 14-24.

Quote of the Day

“Remember, it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.”

- Howard Ruff



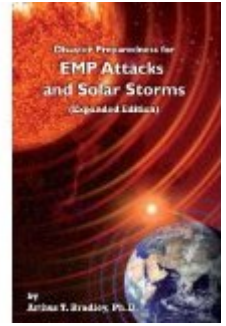
October 2013 CERT Class Graduates

Congratulations to the 13 graduates of the fall 2013 Basic CERT Class and thanks to their trainers. We now have more knowledgeable citizens in our community who are prepared for emergencies.

Book Review

Disaster Preparedness for EMP Attacks and Solar Storms by Arthur T. Bradley, Ph.D.

For those of you who read *One Second After* by William Forstchen, your head has been filled with thoughts of what you would do to survive an EMP attack. *Disaster Preparedness for EMP Attacks and Solar Storms* is a guide to evaluate the possible effects of these disasters and offer practical advice on how to prepare for them.



The author, Arthur T. Bradley, begins by discussing TEOTWAWKI (the end of the world as we know it) scenarios. Even though these events are possible, they are less likely than other natural disasters. Bradley suggests that we should prepare for the more likely events first. Then, if one wants to move forward with TEOTWAWKI preparedness, the remainder of the book is a primer on what to do.

The science behind an EMP is explained. Following that, are discussions of all the areas of everyday life that would be impacted by this event: electrical power, telecommunications, finance, petroleum and natural gas, transportation, food, water, emergency services, space satellites, and government. Some practical actions one can take in each of these areas are offered to mitigate the harshness and potentially survive the aftermath of the EMP.

There is a “how to” explanation for building a Faraday Cage to shield small electronics from the effects of an EMP as well as the use of static bags. Construction of larger Shield Rooms is also discussed.

Bradley concludes the book with a discussion of solar events which do occur with certainty. The sun cycles between periods of being more or less active. These cycles average 11 years in time span. More solar events happen during the more active periods. Problems caused by solar storms include disruption to communications, navigation systems and satellites, radiation poisoning to astronauts, and damage to electrical power grids. They do not have an effect on small electronics.

This book presents information based on science and experimental test results. It may calm your fears somewhat in that the discussions presented indicate a lot of grey areas as to the effects of an EMP. Much electronic destruction depends on the location of the EMP and if vehicles and electronics are on, or in use, at the time of the event. It does offer direction for those that believe we must prepare to a level far beyond the standard emergency supply provisions.



Jack Frohn, Vicki Parrish, Ed Danley and Rick Brock

Public Safety Open House

Thank you is extended to CERT members (pictured left) who talked about CERT and emergency preparedness with boy scouts and other attendees of the Public Safety Open House last fall. Held at the Fire and Police Administration complex on Aurora Avenue, this event is very entertaining. There were live demonstrations of a flashover fire, jaws-of-life car extraction and the landing of the life-flight medical evacuation helicopter. It doesn't get more interesting than that.