



Charleston County News Release

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Lowcountry CERT Emergency Awareness Symposium Open to the Public on Saturday, Feb. 16

The Charleston County Emergency Preparedness Division and the Lowcountry Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) are hosting an emergency awareness symposium on Saturday, Feb. 16, from 12 - 6 p.m. The event, which is free and open to the public, will be held at the North Charleston Coliseum.

The symposium is being held in conjunction with Lowcountry CERT's annual membership meeting. Families are encouraged to participate in the interactive displays and short workshops offered by emergency service agencies from several local municipalities and associations. Local businesses that offer emergency equipment, services and supplies will also be present.

"This is a great opportunity for citizens to learn how to prepare themselves for many different types of emergencies and to meet their local emergency service employees," said Jim Tarter, Charleston County CERT Director.

Anyone who attends will also have an opportunity to learn about the Lowcountry CERT program and sign up for training in order to become a member.

CERT is a nationwide Homeland Security program that trains volunteer citizens to be first responders in their neighborhoods and to assist emergency agencies in the event of man-made or natural disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, fires and terrorist attacks.

There are currently 400 CERT members in the Tri-county area. In the CERT training, citizens learn to:

- Manage utilities and put out small fires
- Treat the three medical killers by opening airways, controlling bleeding and treating for shock
- Provide basic medical aid
- Search for and rescue victims safely
- Organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective
- Collect disaster intelligence to support official first responders

Training in the Tri-county area is provided by the Charleston County Emergency Preparedness Division. Training is free and is available for citizens 18 years and older. Lowcountry CERT is a non-profit organization that raises funds to equip, train and sustain teams in the Tri-county area.

For more information on the Feb. 16 symposium or to learn more about Lowcountry CERT and how to become a member, visit www.lcert.org, call (843) 202-7405 or e-mail Jim Tarter at jtarter@charlestoncounty.org.