



Charleston County News Release

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How to Stay Safe: Public Invited to Two Free Emergency Preparedness Expos (*Neighbors Helping Neighbors*)

Get emergency info. for you and your family on May 18 and June 1

[Lowcountry Community Emergency Response Team \(Lowcountry CERT\)](#) and Lowe's have partnered to host free preparedness expos to promote a local "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" approach to being prepared for any emergency.

"A key element of community preparedness is citizens knowing how to help themselves and their neighbors before, during and after a disaster," said James Tarter, a specialist with Charleston County's Emergency Management Department who is also the CERT coordinator.

"Local emergency services cannot meet immediate needs following a major disaster, especially if there is no warning as in an earthquake. So we ask people, "If a disaster hits, will you know what to do?"

[Charleston County Government's Emergency Management Department](#) will be participating with other Tri-County Emergency first-responders, volunteer organizations and local businesses to offer valuable survival tips, information and resources on preparing for any disaster during two upcoming events:

- 1) James Island Hurricane Expo 2013 on Saturday, May 18
- 2) Annual Emergency Expo 2013 in North Charleston on Saturday, June 1

Details on each event are below.

James Island Hurricane Expo 2013

- **When:** Saturday, May 18, 2013 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- **Where:** Lowe's on James Island (770 Daniel Ellis Drive, 29412)
- **What is offered:**
 - Lowcountry CERT, Team 4 and Lowe's on James Island are hosting this event in order to encourage citizens to prepare their families, homes and business for all types of emergencies including natural and man-made disasters.
 - The outdoor event is free to the public
 - The event will include:
 - Information for families, business owners and children on how to prepare for any emergency
 - Interactive Ready Kids *area* to demonstrate fire safety and other preventative tips
 - Interactive displays from federal, county and municipal governments, volunteer organizations and local businesses to include rescue boats, fire trucks, etc.
- **Questions? Contact:** Alan Laughlin, Lowcountry CERT Team 4 Liaison, by phone at: (843) 330-4023 or by email at 1Grayghost@comcast.net

Annual Emergency Expo 2013

- **When:** Saturday, June 1, 2013 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- **Where:** Lowe's in North Charleston (7555 Northwoods Boulevard, 29406)
- **What is offered:**

- Lowcountry CERT and Lowe's in North Charleston are partnering for their annual emergency expo
- The outdoor event is free to the public
- The event will include:
 - This Tri-county event is designed to get the word out to neighbors on what is needed to prepare and to protect life and property.
 - **Representatives** from fire, police, the U.S. Coast Guard, the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, volunteer organizations and other Tri-county emergency services providers to demonstrate how they serve the Lowcountry community.
 - **Interactive displays** from over 40 federal, county and municipal governments, volunteer organizations and local businesses to include rescue boats, fire trucks, etc.
 - **FREE Child I.D.s from New York Life's Child I.D. program**
 - The Child IDs include your child's photo, digitally-scanned fingerprints, and emergency contact information and other pertinent information needed by the police in case of an emergency. A Child I.D. card is printed for each parent or guardian free of charge. *Please note that children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.*
 - **11 a.m. – 1 p.m.: Free inspections and installations of car seats**
 - Certified car seat technicians will be available to check car seats for proper installation as well as install new car seats free of charge. The City of North Charleston Fire Department is offering this service in partnership with Safe Kids Trident Area and several area fire departments.
- **Questions? Contact:** Tom Crosby, Lowcountry CERT Board Chairman by phone at (843) 881-6574 or by email at Crosby@aCharlestonHome.com

For more information on emergency preparedness:

- [Lowcountry CERT \(Community Emergency Response Team\)](#) is coordinated by Emergency Management in Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties to encourage ALL Hazards preparedness within our communities.
- [Community Emergency Response Team \(CERT\)](#) is a nationwide program that educates citizens about disaster preparedness and how to help themselves and their neighbors during and immediately after a disaster.

For more emergency information and for news and services on Charleston County Government, the public can:

- Click on the ReadyLowcountry icon on Charleston County's home page at www.charlestoncounty.org
- Follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ChasCountyGov>
- Like us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Charleston-County-Government/474878989220753>
 - *Emergency Management Department:* <http://www.facebook.com/EMDChasCo>
 - *Consolidated 9-1-1 Center's Public Education Program:* <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Charleston-County-Government/474878989220753#!/pages/Charleston-County-Consolidated-9-1-1-Center-Public-Education-Program/186965438015227>
 - *Board of Elections and Voter Registration:* <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Charleston-County-Board-of-Elections-and-Voter-Registration/103895809694986>
- See us on You Tube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/charlestoncountygov>
- Watch County Council meetings online <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/charleston-county-government>



- written by Jennie Flinn -