



**Franklin County Commissioners**

David S. Keller  
Robert L. Thomas  
Robert G. Ziobrowski

**DES Director**

David K. Donohue

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Pet Preparedness	2
CERT across the nation	2
Online training Spotlight	3
Flood Defense	3
Contact information	4
Skill Reminder	4
Training Dates	4

# The CERT Scoop

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

JUNE 2015

## Hurricane Season begins June 1st

The 2015 Hurricane season will last from June 1st through November 30th. In preparation, the National Hurricane Preparedness week was May 24th through 30th.

The hazards associated with hurricanes are lengthy, but the National Weather Service has identified the primary hazards as storm surge flooding, inland flooding, destructive winds, tornadoes, high surf, and rip currents. However, storm surges have a history of causing the largest loss of life. Between 1963 and 2012, fifty percent of Atlantic Tropical Cyclone deaths were due to storm surges. *Why are storm surges so dangerous?* It only takes six inches of fast moving water to knock over an adult, and two feet to carry away pickup trucks or SUVs.

Hurricane Sandy was a storm that did extensive damage through flooding. Over 140 people died, the boardwalks of coastal communities were destroyed, a large fire ripped through New York, and millions of people went without power for weeks. One organization estimated the damages would total \$20 billion in property damage and up to \$30 billion in lost business. Using Damage Assessments, New York City estimated the total losses for the City alone to be \$19 billion.

The National Weather Service

and National Hurricane Center have a new product this year to highlight areas most at risk from storm surge flooding. If a hurricane is threatening, these Potential Storm Surge Flooding Maps will show the geographical areas where inundation from storm surge could occur and how high the water could potentially rise.

So, as we know from CERT training, the time to prepare is now. In support of Hurricane Preparedness Week, make some time this weekend to look over your disaster preparedness kit. Have you rotated water, food, prescriptions, and batteries

lately? Do you have a disaster plan and have you talked about it lately? If you had to evacuate, do you have a place in mind? If you are unsure how to approach creating a disaster plan, Ready.gov and Ready PA have excellent resources to assist you.

Other resources include:

- #hurricaneprep on Twitter
- FEMA's smartphone app
- NWS weather alerts which can be received by text message or smart phone notification with the app

[www.ready.gov/hurricanes](http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes)

### HURRICANE WATCH

➤ **Conditions are possible in your area within 48 hours. Know your evacuation route & listen to local officials.**

#HurricanePrep   

[www.ready.gov/hurricanes](http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes)

### HURRICANE WARNING

➤ **Conditions are expected in your area within 36 hours. Follow evacuation orders from local officials if given.**

#HurricanePrep   

# Pet Preparedness Month

## DON'T FORGET ABOUT FIDO

Heading to the grocery store this week? Update your pet's emergency kit by adding extra pet food and water to your grocery list.



#HurricanePrep

Ready

June also happens to be National Pet Preparedness Month. Your disaster plan should include all of your family members, even the furry ones.

Some good tips are to know a safe place to take your pet if you have to evacuate and to prepare a pet emergency preparedness kit. Always make sure your pet has identification on them. For a smaller pet, this could be an ID tag on a collar. For livestock, consider spray painting your name, phone number, or address on the animal. It is also important to have recent photos of your pet in case you do get separated.

The top ten items for a pet emergency preparedness kit are:

1. Food
2. Water (1 gallon per day)
3. Collar or halter and lead
4. Food and water bowls
5. Photos of you with your pet
6. Pet Medications
7. Immunization record
8. Pet carrier
9. First Aid Kit
10. List of pet friendly hotels or shelters

# CERT across the Nation

In March, twelve CERT members from Erie County, PA went to jail to help the Erie County Hazmat Team staff decontamination tents. The prison had lost its water supply and 2400 inmates needed showers and running water. CERT members helped with setup and operation of the

decontamination tents and water heaters. CERT members also tracked all equipment used in the facility. With the CERT completing those tasks, the Hazmat Team members were free to complete more technical tasks.

All volunteers were screened by the prison staff, but Erie

County CERT members are vetted prior to joining the team, just like here in Franklin County.

Here are some examples of Decontamination Tents



# Online Training Spotlight

The Federal Emergency Management Agency maintains an extensive free online training database through the Emergency Management Institute Independent Study Program. Some of you may recognize this program or some of its courses like IS100, 200, 700, or 800. These courses provide the basis of knowledge for the National Incident Management System and the Incident Command System.

The courses do not end there, but go in depth in many facets of emergency management or emergency response. One course that could be useful to CERT members is IS-5.A An introduction to Hazardous Materials. It is intended to provide a general introduction to Hazardous Materials that can serve as a founda-

tion for more specific studies. IS-5.A

- explains the roles all levels of government play in reducing HazMat risks through Health and Environmental regulations,
- discusses two major HazMat identification systems used here in the United States,
- Identifies possible terrorist targets of opportunity
- Describes basic terms related to HazMat
- Explains how to read and interpret Safety Data Sheets
- Explains how HazMats enter the body and contaminate the environment

- Describes what communities can do to increase emergency preparedness to response to HazMat incidents and finally,
- Identify Steps individuals and communities can take to protect themselves during a HazMat release

To find this course online, search "FEMA IS-5.A". There are online course materials that can be downloaded and then followed up by a test. Upon successful completion, the EMI will e-mail a certificate which you can save or print.



## CERT helps with Flood Defense



In April 2015, CERT members in Hamilton County, Indiana helped distribute sandbags for flood defense. The sandbags had been filled by inmates from a local prison and county citizens came to pick them up from a pre-determined facility. CERT members also distributed printed information on how to use and stack the sandbags in the most useful and defensive method. Is this something Franklin County CERT could do?







## Franklin County CERT

390 New York Ave.  
Chambersburg, PA 17201

Phone: (717) 264-2813

Fax: (717) 267-2813

E-mail: [aapassaro@franklincountypa.gov](mailto:aapassaro@franklincountypa.gov)

Franklin County supports emergency preparedness of its citizens through many means, one is the development and funding of a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). CERTs are made up of volunteers from their communities who have had basic and ongoing training related to emergency preparedness and disaster response and are willing to help themselves and their neighbors in the event of a disaster.

For more information or if you are interested in taking the Basic CERT class, please contact the Operations & Training Officer at Franklin County Department of Emergency Services.



# Training

The next quarterly training will take place on July 1st from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.. Feedback from the CERT questionnaire reported that many members desire a skills refresher.

This training will focus on flood response and a refresher of the disaster medical skills. Things to look forward to in the future: a basic CERT class starting in September, the dates have not been determined yet.

DES is hosting a Traffic Incident Management Class in June, see the website to register.

In May, DES hosted two courses from the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center. Several CERT members attended and learned about tools for Damage Assessments on the first day. On the second day, CERT members learned about Tornadoes and the science that goes into pre-

dicting, monitoring, and preparing for tornadoes.

In support of refreshing skills learned in the basic class, here is a visual way

to review the types of fire extinguishers and fires that you may come across.



Fires Involving freely burning materials. For example wood, paper, textiles and other carbonaceous materials



Fires Involving flammable liquids. For example petrol, and spirits. **Not Alcohol Or Cooking Oil**



Fires involving flammable gasses. For example propane & butane.



Fires involving flammable metals. For example magnesium and lithium.



Fires involving electrical equipment. For example photocopiers, fax machines & computers.



Fires involving cooking oil and fat. For example olive oil, maize oil, lard & butter.

<b>Water</b>	✓					
<b>Foam</b>	✓	✓				
<b>ABC Dry Powder</b>	✓	✓	✓		✓	
<b>Dry Special Powder</b>				✓		
<b>CO2 Gas</b>		✓			✓	
<b>Wet Chemical</b>	✓					✓

