



## 5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CERT RODEO ROUND UP



(Houston, TX) - Harris County Citizen Corps hosted its fifth annual Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Rodeo Round Up on Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, at the Harris County Fire and Sheriff's Training Academy in Humble, Texas.

"The CERT Rodeo isn't about winning or losing. When another resident in our community is trained, we're better prepared and everyone wins," said Harris County Judge Ed Emmett.

After completing an extensive eight-week course taught by first-responders, CERT members are proficient in emergency preparedness basics that are put to use in their homes, workplace and communities.



*Harris County Judge Ed Emmett visited with participants at this year's rodeo. Pictured with Judge Emmett (from left to right) Francisco Sanchez, Jackie Miller and Mark Sloan.*

“The Harris County Citizen Corps is the best in the nation, leading the way through dedicated volunteers trained to help prevent, prepare for and respond to any disaster in their community,” added Judge Emmett. “Citizen Corps volunteers make our community a safer place to live each and every day.”

The competition gave a hands-on test of participant's skills in basic medical operations, search and rescue, fire suppression, incident command and other aspects of emergency preparedness and response.

"The CERT Rodeo is a one day example of how trained disaster volunteers can help our community overcome daunting challenges when disaster strikes but the reality is that these teams are building a more resilient Harris County throughout the year," said Mark Sloan, Coordinator of Harris County's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.



We would like to thank all of the participating partners, sponsors and response agencies:

Amateur Radio Emergency Services (A.R.E.S.); American Red Cross; Brazoria County; Catholic Charities; Crisis Chaplaincy of Harris County; Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT); City of Houston Emergency Management; City of Houston, Mayor's Office; City of Humble OEM/Fire Marshal's Office; Community Response Task Force; Cy Fair Volunteer Fire Department; Fire Corps; Fort Bend County; Galveston County; Harris County Judge's Office; Harris County Precinct 1; Harris County Precinct 2; Harris County Precinct 3; Harris County Precinct 4; Harris County Precinct 4 Constable; Harris County Citizen Corps; Harris County Fire Marshal's Office; Harris County HAZMAT; Harris County Sheriff's Office; Harris County Sheriff Reserve; Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services / Veterinary Public Health; Harris

County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management; Harris County Dept of Education Teen CERT; Houston Fire Department; Houston Police Department; Houston Citizen's Police Academy; Herman Memorial Life Flight; Interfaith Ministries; Klein Volunteer Fire Department; Medical Reserve Corps; Montgomery County; Salvation Army; Special K-9; United States Coast Guard; United Way; USA On Watch; Volunteer Houston; Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS); Wild Well Control, Inc.

**Sponsors:**

Bill's Ice; Blue Bell Ice Cream Company; City of Humble Office of Emergency Management; Coca-Cola – North America; Centerpoint Energy; Elliott Data Systems; HEB; Lawler's; Salvation Army; Schepps Dairy; Sparkletts; Superior Natural Gas; Sweet Tomatoes; Target; Trigg's Catering; Waste Management; Wild Well Control Inc.

**Thank you!** You made the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Harris County CERT Rodeo a huge success.



CERT Team participants represented 42 teams from the around region and state: Autumn Run, Baytown/Chambers County, BayCERT, Bayfront, Briar Meadow; Brazoria County, Cy Fair, Coles Crossing, Copperfield, Copperfield-Middlegate, Copperfield-Northmead, Cypress Meadow, City of Dallas, Fairfield/Cypress, Fort Bend County, Galveston County, Hearthstone, Jefferson County, LDS Spanish, Lakewood Church, Longwood, NW Deseret, Oakwood Glen, Orange County, Rowlett Explorer Post 1, Sunny Side/South Park, Spring Creek Forest, Seabrook, SeaCERT, Shady Oaks, Shady River, Shore Acres, Stone Creek, Sugar Mill, The Colonies, Tomball Fire Department, Village of Bear Creek, Village at Lake Pointe, Westcreek, Woodland Trails, and Yaupon Ranch.



*ARES provided communication for the entire event.*



The 2011 CERT rodeo events included ten stations:

**Station 1 - Triage:**

This was a tabletop exercise. Teams had five minutes to triage 25 patients whose injuries were listed on cards. Each team had to sort the cards: Immediate, Delayed, or Dead. Then the teams had five additional minutes to reevaluate and triage again after the cards were turned over.



**Station 2 - Medical Treatment:**

Six patients were marked with injuries. Teams performed a head-to-toe assessment, evaluated as Immediate, Delayed or Dead and had to treat the injuries with available materials and document.



**Station 3 - Gang Plank Team Building:**

A team of four covered a 20-foot distance on two 8-foot wooden planks with rope handles. At the turn around, four different team members returned to the start/finish line.



#### **Station 4 - Tower Search & Rescue:**

This was a timed event. Teams had 15 minutes to complete the task. Numbered tennis balls were hidden on floors one through three of the burn building. Two Person teams searched and retrieved the tennis balls.



#### **Station 5 - Fire Suppression:**

Teams approached and suppressed four small fires utilizing the P.A.S.S. method.



#### **Station 6 - Patient Transport:**

Teams had 15 minutes to assess three victims, evaluate and transport. Each victim was to be approached and triaged. One victim was to be transported to a staging area before the next victim could be transported. Applications included backboard, chair and blanket carry skills.



### Station 7 – Evidence Identification:

Teams had 15 minutes to search the field and cross the finish line. A single line search was done across the designated search area looking for evidence.



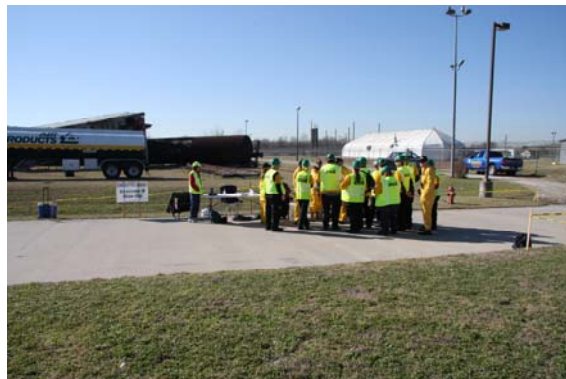
### Station 8 - Cribbing:

Teams had 15 minutes to complete this task. A victim will be trapped under the concrete block. The team needed to use proper cribbing techniques to extract the trapped victim.



### Station 9 – Size Up

Teams had 15 minutes to complete a controlled perimeter size-up of a train accident. Each team had to gather facts, assess damage, consider probabilities, assess their situation, establish priorities, and complete documentation in order to report back to Incident Command.



## Station 10 –Hazardous Material Identification

Teams had 10 minutes to identify hazardous material placards within a controlled perimeter (Cold Zone) area. Each team had to gather facts, consider probabilities, assess their situation, establish priorities, and complete documentation in order to report back to Incident Command.



### Incident Command:

Teams selected an Incident Commander (IC) for the entire event. The IC was responsible for organizing the team for each event, communication, documentation and reporting all event scores at completion of each event.



Harris County Citizen Corps is committed to creating opportunities for people to volunteer to help our community prepare for and respond to emergencies. The primary goal is to have all residents participate in making neighborhoods safer by providing them the tools and training needed for preventing and handling threats of terrorism, crime and disasters of all kinds.

To learn more please go to [www.harriscountycitizen corps.com](http://www.harriscountycitizen corps.com).

