

# Chaplin CERT Information

February 28, 2008 Chris Komuves

## Meeting Schedule

There will be a minimum of four meetings or events each year (usually quarterly in winter, spring, summer and autumn) that members of the Chaplin CERT will be asked to attend. These will usually be scheduled at 6:30 – 7:30pm on the 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. Whenever possible, these meetings will consist of specific exercises (such as touring/evaluating a particular shelter location, or having a practical review of a particular skill or procedure), as well as a general meeting in which members may bring up issues or concerns for discussion, and in which we can plan our future activities and direction.

## Surprise Drill

We may also have an unannounced drill up to once per year. At a minimum, an alert message will be sent out to all members, clearly stating that this is a DRILL, and asking everyone to assemble at a specified assembly point. If possible, a simulation of an emergency will be staged, as an exercise for the team. This helps greatly with understanding what response times to expect from members, testing to make sure the alert system we have in place works, practicing teamwork, and reinforcing training and procedures for emergency responses.

## Membership Requirements

To join the Chaplin/Hampton CERT, you must:

- 1) Have completed CERT training (or, in special cases, taken most of the class, but need to make up CERT classes or otherwise complete the course).
- 2) Live or work in or near Chaplin or Hampton, CT.

To maintain membership, you must:

- 3) Continue to attend a **minimum** of two meetings, drills or other events per year.
- 4) Receive and maintain Red Cross First Aid certification (renew every three years).

## Recommended But Not Required

- 5) Take the following “loyalty oath”, witnessed by an emergency management director or other authorized party, at least once per year.

I, <FULL NAME>, do solemnly affirm that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the state of Connecticut, against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties upon which I am about to enter.

- 6) Receive and maintain Red Cross CPR/AED certification (renew every year).
- 7) Take the FEMA course, “IS-100 Introduction to Incident Command System, I-100”, available at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWEB/is/is100.asp>
- 8) Take the FEMA course, “IS-200 ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents”, available at [http://emilms.fema.gov/is200\\_ICS/index.htm](http://emilms.fema.gov/is200_ICS/index.htm)
- 9) Receive Red Cross Shelter Operations certification (no renewal necessary)

It would of course be desirable for all members to attend as many meetings as you possibly can. We will try to come up with two or more alternate dates for each meeting, and poll the membership for their availability and choose the date that the largest number of members will be available for. There's a careful balance to be made here in not making membership in the Chaplin/Hampton CERT into too onerous of a task, while at the same time making sure that members really are involved and committed to the team.

Members will be requested to provide complete contact information for themselves, which will be disclosed to other members of the team, town officials, and WINCOG officials, but which will not be disclosed publicly. The list of team members will be displayed on the Chaplin Town web site. Also, members are placed on an automated notification system, created and maintained by Chris Komuves, that allows a text message to be simultaneously sent to all members' mobile phones and email accounts from a password protected web application--in the case of an activation of the team, drill, or yearly test of the system. This will generally incur small charges to the members, usually \$0.10 per message, which should only amount to about 40 cents or so per year in additional charges from mobile carriers.

The password-protected URL for sending a text message alert to the entire team is:  
`https://kom.com/cgi-bin/cert/cert-alert`

Any durable equipment, such as two-way radios and backpacks, that may be issued to members, will remain the property of the Chaplin/Hampton CERT, and must be returned to the team by any member who withdraws from membership in the team.

There is a Yahoo! Group set up for use as a listserv and file repository for the group. It is available at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/chaplin-cert/>