



MEDIA RELEASE

Emergency Management Department

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Community Emergency Response Training for All

Feb. 13, 2015 – Lake County is offering FREE Community Emergency Response Training for the public.

“We’ve had our share of wildfires, windstorms, blizzards, and power outages recently,” said Lake County Emergency Manager, BJ Kohlstedt. “This course will prepare everyone to help their family, neighbors, workplace or community respond to whatever disasters surprise us.”

Lake County has wonderful emergency responders to help us when we call 911. But in a larger disaster, those responders may be overwhelmed or unable to reach everyone right away. In fact, 95% of initial disaster response is done by neighbors – people just like you.

This free and hands-on course covers family disaster preparedness, basic fire suppression, hazardous materials safety, basic medical triage and first aid, light search and rescue, and response organization. Just like fire drills and CPR training, it helps if everyone knows what to do before help can arrive.

The three-day course will take place in Silver Bay on Saturdays and Sundays, March 11, 12 and 25. Contact BJ Kohlstedt at bj.kohlstedt@co.lake.mn.us or 218-226-4444 to register or for more information.

“We’re grateful every day for our emergency responders,” says Kohlstedt, “but we all need to be ready to take care of ourselves and our neighbors when the unexpected happens.”

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Contact: BJ Kohlstedt, Director – Lake County Emergency Management, 218-220-7811 or bj.kohlstedt@co.lake.mn.us.



FREE **Community Emergency Response Training**

When a tornado or wildfire hits, we expect emergency responders to be there to help us out. But with only 1% of our population serving as responders, there aren't enough of them to help everyone when a disaster hits everyone. In fact, 95% of initial disaster response is done by neighbors – people just like you. That's why Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) is so important. Just like CPR and fire drills, it works best if we all practice it.

Lake County is again offering CERT training this winter. The course is 20 hours, for ages 12 and up (<16 accompanied by an adult). Classes are casual and hands-on, and no experience is necessary. Topics include family disaster preparedness, basic fire suppression, hazardous materials safety, basic medical triage and first aid, light search and rescue, and response organization. There is NO COST for this training.

After completion of the course, you can apply to join a County CERT team to help with evacuations, shelters, family assistance centers, event traffic control, coordinating volunteers and donations, or supporting other emergency operations. Or just keep the knowledge for your personal preparedness. Either way, it's a great way to get involved, safeguard your family, and benefit your community.

Lake County CERT course dates:

- **Saturday & Sunday, March 11-2, 9am – 5pm**
 - **AND Saturday, March 25, 9am – 4pm**
- Both at Mary MacDonald Center, Silver Bay, Room 22**

Learn more about CERT at www.citizencorps.gov/cert/.

For questions or to register for the class, contact BJ Kohlstedt,
Lake County Emergency Manager, at bj.kohlstedt@co.lake.mn.us or 218-226-4444.

Trained CERT volunteers make a difference every day in their homes, workplaces and communities. So can you. Join us for this CERT training.