

CERT MONTHLY

NOVEMBER 2023 | ISSUE 18

NEWSLETTER OF THE
HAYS COUNTY COMMUNITY
EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

PEAS IN A POD (EXERCISE)

The month began with celebrating veterans. Veterans Day was on Saturday, Nov. 11 and HCCERT assisted in the Kyle Veterans Day Parade. There was also a CERT presence at Wimberley Market Days and Medical Explorers supported the Texas State University football games. Some training opportunities this month included Trailer Hauling & Safety Course, Traffic & Crowd Management and TSA Bomb Detection Training at Austin Bergstrom Airport. The focus shifted mid-month to the Point of Dispensing Exercise. CERT members from across the county came to the tabletop exercise on Nov. 13 and then the real (not real) deal on 20, held at Texas State University. See all the pictures from the POD exercise in the following pages!



Happy Veterans Day!

Thank you to all active and retired service members!



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This is the monthly newsletter of Hays County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), which is under the auspices of the Hays County Office of Emergency Services.



www.hayscountycert.com



Message from the CERT Program Manager!



Candy Lonie

What happened to our slow season?? HCCERT members across the county have continued to be out and about supporting their communities this month. I'm so proud of this very special volunteer organization and the members who continuously show up in a professional manner with complete devotion to the cause. Your hard work and dedication have not gone unnoticed; your contributions are truly appreciated.

That said, Hays County Office of Emergency Services, the HC Fire Chiefs Association, and others would like to take the time to recognize our outstanding members for another successful year of planning, preparation, mitigation, and response. I hope you all will join us for our 2023 Annual Awards Banquet on Wednesday, December 6th. I am SO excited about this year's event and the opportunity to personally say thank you and recognize so many volunteers who showed up and showed out in a multitude of ways across our county.

This is a great time for those of you who recently graduated from a G-317 class to meet your fellow members and get a better understanding for what we do throughout the year. We will have special guests, a special presentation, dinner, an award ceremony, and a door prize! to celebrate this holiday season and the accomplishments of another great year together.

As I sit and reflect on this past year and each one of you, I realize the vital importance of this organization and the impact it has on those around us. I would love to hear from some of you regarding "what does HCCERT mean to you"? If you have time, send me an email or text. I'd love to share a few of them at our dinner on the 6th and in next month's newsletter. I look forward to seeing you at the Café, and don't forget to RSVP if you haven't already! Come out and celebrate 2023 with new and old friends!!

IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TO A CERT EVENT OR CALL-OUT RECENTLY, WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

Gordon DeWitte serves Hays County community through CERT

Operation Section Chief,
CERT member tells his story

Gordon DeWitte, Hays County CERT member and Operations Section Chief, resides in Dripping Springs. He works with CERT by assisting with dispatch, monitoring computers to help keep things coordinated with those who are on the scene.



With a degree in electrical engineering, DeWitte worked with companies around the nation. He was affected during the 2008 recession when he got laid off and couldn't find more work. DeWitte said in 2009 his wife suggested that he start "looking for things to do" (her words). He began to attend the Hays County Citizens Sheriff's Academy. There he met several volunteers from CERT.

He thought it seemed like fun and a great way to help out the community.

DeWitte began to work in emergency communications with CERT alongside becoming certified to operate ham radio.

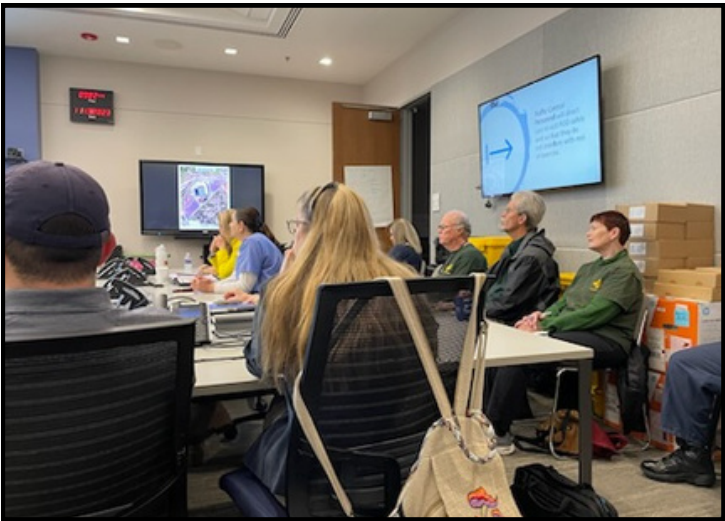
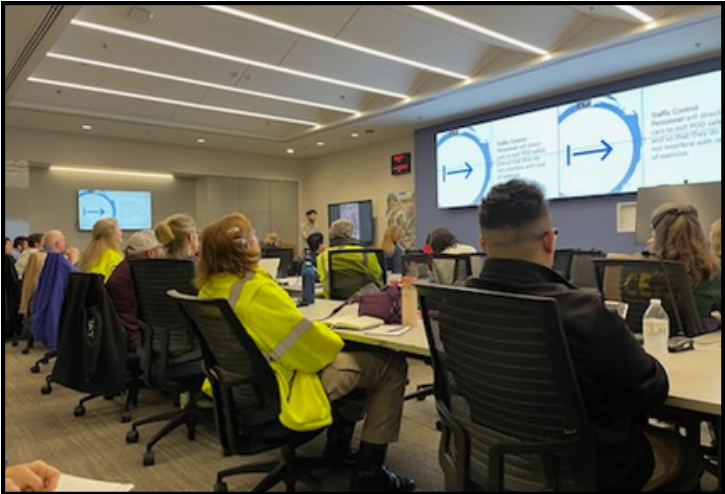
He also began taking CERT courses and FEMA classes.

Ever since then, DeWitte has been an active member of CERT. Due to physical restrictions, he works from home, but continues to provide critical help to those on the scene.


DeWitte said that his best memory with CERT is experiencing the gratitude from firefighters and first responders. Knowing that they appreciate and acknowledge our help feels great, he said.

CERT Members Give Their Time

CERT volunteers and leaders continue to work hard to make Hays County a stronger, more resilient community.







Wimberley Café
Wednesday, December 6

HCCERT

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

6-6:30 PM

Social Mixer with Cash Bar (Wine & Beer)

6:30-7 PM

Dinner Provided by Hays County Fire Chiefs Association

7-7:15 PM

Guest Speaker: Kyle Fire Department Assistant Chief Freddy Rolon

7:15-7:30 PM

Presentation by William Ashby, Transportation Security-
Canine Office of Security Operations/DHS, & K9 Teams

7:30-8:45 PM

Member Recognition & Awards Ceremony

8:45-9 PM

Door Prize Winner Announced & Closing Remarks



Trainings, Meetings, Events & More

Check out the training opportunities and community events coming up this month and into the winter. Visit our website to learn more and register: www.hayscountycert.com/calendar.

December 6

Hays County CERT: Awards Banquet

December 12

City of Kyle Ride with Santa

December 7-9

Sights and Sounds - San Marcos

December 13

City of Kyle Ride with Santa

December 8

Texas State University
Commencement Support

December 14

Hays County CERT: Executive
Committee Meeting
City of Kyle Ride with Santa

December 9

Texas State University
Commencement Support

December 21

Kyle/Buda Division Meeting

December 11

LEPC - Local Emergency Planning
Committee

CERT Stats

as of 11/25/23

Listed as active CERT Members:

Approved Members: 305

Dripping = 56

Buda = 62

Kyle = 42

Kyle/Buda combined = 104

San Marcos = 63

Texas State = 52

Wimberley = 21

At Large = 9

G-317 Course

G-317

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 20

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 27

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 3

Location:

Texas State University
EOC (PEC 139)

1321 Academy Street
San Marcos, TX 78666

[Register for this FREE G-317 course online](#)

Anyone interested in becoming a trainer or assisting with training is welcome to stop by.