

CERT MONTHLY

The newsletter of the Hays County
Community Emergency Response Team

WWW.HAYSCOUNTYCERT.COM



April 2024



CERT members Prescilia, Rowe and Tyler at Riverfest in San Marcos

You are Appreciated!

April 21-27 was National Volunteer Appreciation Week. We want to give a shout-out to all our Hays County CERT volunteers who continue not just to show up, but to do excellent work. We are so proud of y'all!

And we are grateful for your time, talents and skills. You are what makes CERT one of the best volunteer organizations in Hays County.

We don't just appreciate you one week a year, though. You bring your A-Game all year long and it's incredible to watch. Your ability to take charge, to think on the fly, work as a team and to find solutions to issues is impressive.

Thank you! Thank you for helping CERT with our mission to make Hays County a more resilient community.

PS - Be sure to check our CERT Facebook page for more pics!

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CERT Members help Homeland

Paul Freeman and his wife, Meigs, helped train bomb-sniffing dogs at ABIA. CERT volunteers are needed periodically for this training.



CERT volunteers in the EOC during the April 8 eclipse; they were handling non-emergency calls (more pics Pg 7)

April Spotlight

This month we're spotlighting Shan Murphy. Thanks, Shan, for your contributions to Hays County CERT!

Read the full spotlight on Pg 3



Message from the Program Manager

Thanks to everyone who joined us at the recent countywide CERT meeting. We talked about all the irons CERT has in the fire this spring and beyond. On the books are training sessions, community events, and our transition to being one unified CERT comprised of multiple special interest groups.

As we move away from the division model, we move toward being more in concert across all areas of Hays County. The groups include everything from Logistics to Operations to Public Information. And many more!

Under this structure, we aim to find the best volunteer opportunities for all our members. Regardless of where you live, CERT will now provide an outlet for showcasing your talents and skills. The best news is no one is limited to just one group!

Contact me to sign up for which group(s) you're most interested in joining.

Thanks again for everything you do for CERT!

Sincerely,
Candy Lonie
CERT Program Manager

Candy Lonie, CERT Program Manager



Riverfest in San Marcos

Attending an event like this is a great opportunity for CERT to share preparedness tips, helping us create more resilient communities!



(Above) CERT members Tyler and Oscar working the CERT table at Riverfest



(Left) Prescilia, TXST Police Sgt. Rod Manzanares, and Tyler at our public info booth.

Volunteer Spotlight

This month's featured volunteer is Shan Murphy.

After moving from East Texas to Austin in 2001 to attend ITT Technical Institute, Shan Murphy stayed. He got a job with AMD and eventually a few other computer companies. He met his now wife at one of those jobs. They live in Buda.

How did Shan learn about CERT? It was a bit circuitous. His oldest son was into aircraft at the San Marcos Commemorative Airforce - that's the group that restores and maintains old war planes.

A member said, "I think you'd like Civil Air Patrol (CAP) better."

Started in WWII; the CAP helped people back home in the aviation industry; they conducted searches and patrols on U.S. coastlines. Today, they do search and rescue as well as aerospace education and cadet training.

Cont'd on Pg 4

Meet Shan



Shan Murphy started volunteering for CERT in 2022.

Fun Fact: Shan used to do extreme sports like mountain biking and wakeboarding. Now he says, "I'm boring."

Shan and his son pulled most of the family into CAP with them. As part of that volunteer organization, they had the opportunity to go through the CERT G-317 course. Shan took the plunge.

"I took the course and realized CERT was a whole organization," he said.

That spurred him to join CERT as a volunteer.

"I liked the classes and the training, and Candy was good at her job," he said. (At the time, Candy was the Kyle/Buda team leader.)

Shan said he enjoys the interaction with the Hays County community that comes with being part of CERT.

Yes, he's still with the Civil Air Patrol. His son that got into CAP is now with the U.S Air Force. Shan is a Systems engineer for a software company. He sometimes travels overseas to do installs.

What has Shan learned from CERT?

"It helps you to be more aware and deal with situations," he said. "During a wildfire a year or so ago, we had go-bags packed and ready."

In terms of sharing his experiences with others and encouraging them to join, he said he sells preparedness.

"It's about being part of the solution rather than part of the problem," he said. "It also gets you out into the community and you meet people."



Congrats, Rowe Ray!

If you've been in Hays County CERT any length of time, you know who Rowe Ray is and you've probably seen him at CERT events all around the county. Is he a clone of himself? No, but wouldn't that be great if we had more Rowes?

Recently, Rowe received the President's Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award. This is a distinguished honor bestowed on individuals whose service positively impacts communities in every corner of the nation and inspires those around them to take action, too.

And Rowe is definitely inspiring! He has a true servant's heart, and is one of our most dedicated volunteers.

Congratulations, Rowe, this is an incredible accomplishment. But none of us are surprised!! Thank you for your continued service and hard work.



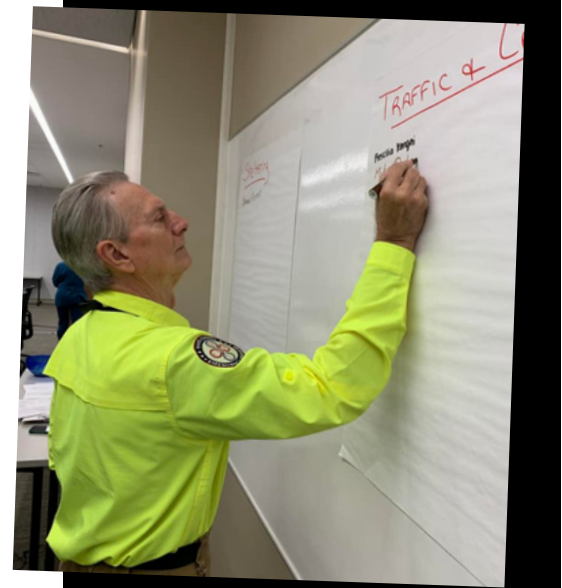
Rowe Ray (R) accepting the Presidents Volunteer Service Award in April 2024. The award was presented to Rowe by Dr. Charles Johnson (L).

Countywide CERT Meeting

At the April countywide CERT meeting, Program Director Candy Lonie reviewed the various training sessions and special events coming up this spring and beyond.

She also explained CERT's move toward having special interest groups. These groups will provide members with a variety of opportunities that meet their needs.

These groups align with the CERT Mission: Provide comprehensive training, support, and coordinated leadership in emergency preparedness and response. Build resilient communities where emergencies are met with confidence, competence, and compassion.



CERT member Mike Rubsam

CERT Special Interest Groups

Candy went through each interest group and offered brief descriptions, which are condensed for this article.

Administration - New Member Enrollment, Volunteer Management, Reporting & Documentation

Command - Public Information, Safety, Liaison

Logistics - Service, Supply

Operations - Reunification, Sheltering, Rehab for first responders

Planning (Branch I - Community Preparedness Outreach Team, Training Team, Technical Specialists; Branch II - Resource Team, Situation, Documentation, Demobilization)



CERT members Rowe Ray and Mike Watson



CERT members at the countywide meeting (that's Evan LaVigne's back)

CERT volunteers aren't limited to just one group - and you can try out new groups as you move along your CERT journey!



CERT Program Director Candy Lonie

CERT Out & About

CERT members give so much of their time and talents all around Hays County. Here are a few examples.

While the eclipse (thankfully) didn't bring chaos or any serious issues, it was an excellent training opportunity for CERT!



CERT members around the county during the April 8 eclipse



CERT members Prescilia Kengni, Mel Barrentine and Rachel Maldonado at the Buda Wiener Dog Races April 27-28; far right is the winning wiener, Elsa.

The National CERT Conference takes place July 23-26 at the Walter E Washington Convention Center in D.C. The [National CERT Association](https://nationalcert.org) is currently exploring the possibility of an optional half-day exercise on July 27.

Registration should open soon. Hotel info will be available at a later date. Participants will be able to choose to take training or attend a breakout presentation during all four days of the conference.

Early Bird conference registration:

\$300 for participants who are paid for their CERT duties
 \$150 for participants who are volunteers (register by May 31, 2024).
 Sign up for the [2024 National CERT Conference email list](#) to stay up to date on the conference news!

National CERT Conference

Save the Date!



DATES:
 July 23 - 26, 2024*

*Possible Exercise on Saturday, July 27th



LOCATION:
 Walter E. Washington Convention Center

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS:

- ◇ Meet & network with other CERT Leaders from across the US
- ◇ EMI L deliveries of CERT Train-the-Trainer and Program Manager
- ◇ CERT Master Instructor course
- ◇ TEEX Training
- ◇ Additional training courses

WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND:

- ◇ Training Opportunities
- ◇ Professional & Personal Development Opportunities
- ◇ Learn how to make your CERT program more inclusive
- ◇ National CERT Conferences only happen once a year!

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION (REGISTER BY MAY 31, 2024): \$300
 50% discounts will be available to attendees who are volunteers and unpaid for their role in CERT.

SIGN UP TO RECIEVE UPDATES ABOUT THE CONFERENCE:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024NationalCERTConferenceEmailList>



For more information about the 2024 National CERT Conference, visit <https://nationalcert.org>.



Conference Registration will open soon

Hays County CERT Stats

Total Accepted Members = 321	
At Large	8
Buda Division	63
Dripping Springs Members	56
Kyle Members	47
Buda/Kyle Combined	110
San Marcos Members	107
Wimberley Members	21
TXST Division	74
G-317 Field Deployable	187

CERT Calendar

- Trainings
- Events
- Conferences

Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 4, 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Wimberley Market Days, 601 FM2325, Wimberley

Saturday, May 11, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Hays County Health Fair, 101 Thermon Dr., San Marcos

May 17 – May 19, 2024
Kyle Textravaganza*

Saturday, June 1, 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Wimberley Market Days, 601 FM2325, Wimberley

June 3 – June 4, 2024
I Love You Guys – Reunification Training*
Dripping Springs High School, 940 US-290, Dripping Springs

Thursday, June 6, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
SMISD Active Shooter Exercise*
Owen Goodnight Middle School, 1301 Texas Hwy 123, San Marcos

Wednesday, June 19
Juneteenth Kyle and Buda*

Conferences

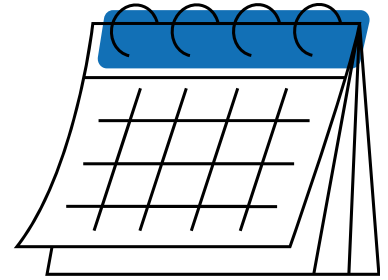
TDEM in Ft Worth – May 28–31; registration is free if register as a Hays County CERT volunteer. Volunteer spaces will fill up fast.
National CERT in Washington D.C. – July 23–26; 50% discount for volunteers

Watch the Calendar and your email for updates:

Future events

July 11 – G-317 Class (four consecutive Thursdays plus Sat., August 3)
Sept. 14 – Hays County OES Emergency Preparedness Fair, “Prep Like a Pro”, Kyle
Wildfire Awareness – TBD

**More information coming soon!*



*Thanks for all you
do as CERT
members!*

Visit the [CERT calendar](#) for all the info and sign-up links

Hays County CERT appreciates every organization and business that so generously helps us. The continued support of the following businesses and organizations is critical to our mission.

We greatly appreciate how business owners rally to assist CERT, during emergencies and beyond.

Please accept our gratitude!

[AMVETS Post 115 \(Kyle\)](#)

[Buda Lions Club](#)

[Cody's \(San Marcos\)](#)

[Hill Country Trophy \(San Marcos\)](#)

[Industry \(San Marcos\)](#)

[Kyle Fire Department/ESD #5](#)

[Mudbugs \(Buda\)](#)

[New World Bakery \(Kyle\)](#)

[Fire Marshal Mark Schultz \(Kyle FD\)](#)

[Root Cellar \(San Marcos\)](#)

[San Marcos Emergency Management](#)

[Tea2go/TeaN'ergy \(Kyle\)](#)

[Wimberley Cafe](#)

CERT COMMUNITY PARTNERS

WE APPRECIATE
YOUR SUPPORT!



Want to be a CERT Community Partner? Email [Candy Lonie](#)