

CERT MONTHLY

The newsletter of the Hays County
Community Emergency Response Team



WWW.HAYSCOUNTYCERT.COM



August 2025



Hays County Campus CERT members at the Texas State University football season opener.

Get Ready for the Prep Fair!

The countdown is on for the annual Hays County Preparedness Fair! This event, which takes place September 13 at La Verde Park in Kyle, is slated to be bigger, better and even more fun. Thanks to the City of Kyle for its partnership this year.

As always, the goal of the fair is to help Hays County residents learn about being prepared in case of an emergency or disaster. Why is this important? Because Hays County CERT aims to build a more resilient community.

CERT is a key player in the manning of the event – and that means ALL HANDS ON DECK! There will be three shifts and volunteers can work a portion of a shift if needed. If you can work a four-hour shift, it would help us cover all of the activities and happenings that day. We deeply appreciate your participation!

Don't forget about the TOP DAWG Chili Cookoff during the fair! CERT has a team, which will be lead by our Mercy Chefs liaison Scott Tidwell. Can you help him? We have a food team!

And be sure to tell your friends, neighbors and co-workers about the chili cookoff – it's open to the public! See full rules and register on the haysinformed.com website.

Please send Kim H. ideas for stories and photos from events and trainings. Your help means so much – thanks in advance!

Like and Follow our public-facing FB page!

<https://www.facebook.com/hayscocert/>

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CERT Monthly Meetings

Hays County CERT holds a monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of each month. Check the calendar (and emails) for info!

Message from the Program Manager

It's just about time for the [Hays County Emergency Preparedness Fair](#)! What does that mean for CERT? Think of it as the big performance after training and practicing all year. We are ready!!

The Hays County Preparedness Fair takes place Saturday, Sept. 13, at La Verde Park in Kyle. We are grateful for the wonderful partnership with the City of Kyle and thank them for all their help and work to make this event successful.

Check your emails for additional info and the sign-ups!

Another round of CERT G-317 training begins in September. We're running two classes, one in Wimberley the other in Kyle. Know someone who wants to become a CERT member? Or maybe just wants to take some classes and become more prepared aware?

See Pg 5 in this newsletter and then share the link to our [calendar](#). Let folks know they can drop into the classes they want, or take the full course and get certified.

Hays County CERT is now able to accept monetary donations! Thanks to the Hays County Fire Chief's Association, we can also let the community and business owners know that donations may be tax deductible. Check out our [website](#) for more info and find the link to donate.

We have several events and happenings this fall and we invite you to join us as we continue educating the public and emergency preparedness.

Thanks for being the greatest volunteers around!

Candy

Candy Lonie, CERT Program Manager



CAMPUS CERT

Hey TXST Students...

We're looking for students at Texas State University to become the leadership team for our Campus CERT. Contact Candy Lonie if you're interested! Email her: candy.lonie@hayscountytexas.gov

Volunteer Spotlight

Not many people can say they've been to six of seven continents on planet Earth. But Richard (Rick) Hagy, who was born in Wichita Falls, can, because he's traveled to all but Antarctica.

With a 20-year U.S. Navy career, travel is to be expected.

"I was a comms officer, a weapons officer, and an executive officer during my operational tours in the military," he said. "I was on active duty from 1980 until 2000."

Much of his time was spent on a cruisers and destroyers and a couple of tours in the Pentagon.

"My first duty station was in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii (for six years) and then I transferred to ships home-ported at Mayport Naval Station in Jacksonville, Florida," he said.

After retiring from the Navy, he went to work for General Dynamics where he was a project manager for five years. He was just a ¼ mile away from the Pentagon when a jet plane crashed into it on September 11, 2001.

"I left General Dynamics and went to work for Lockheed Martin," Richard said. "Overall I spent 20 years in the defense industry, all in the Washington, D.C. area."

How did he end up back in Texas?

"All of my brothers and sisters live in Texas and my youngest brother builds homes in this area," he said.

Richard, who went to high school in San Antonio, is the oldest of eight children. Several of his siblings live in the San Antonio/Hondo/Pleasanton area, two are in the Austin metro area, and one is in Wichita Falls.

"I like the pace of life here, in Hays County," he said.

Once in Hays County, he explored volunteer opportunities with the Red Cross (Disaster Action Team), American Legion, VFW and Team Rubicon (an NGO that responds to national disasters - including flooding and wildfires) and CERT.

How did he start working with CERT?

"When pandemic happened, I was searching for ways to help my local community with a volunteer focus that's closer to home," he said.

Continued on Pg. 4



Have a spotlight Suggestion? Email [Kim Hilsenbeck](mailto:Kim.Hilsenbeck@hayscountycert.org), our Public Information Team Lead.



He completed the CERT G-317 class late 2020.

“I started volunteering right around the time when COVID vaccines were being distributed,” he said. (Hays County CERT worked alongside the Hays County Health Department as it administered the COVID-19 vaccine.)

Richard appreciates the CERT structure necessary to enable members to plan and integrate volunteer efforts into their schedules. keeping the calendar updated so things aren't, as he said, “willy nilly.”

What is Richard's current CERT role?

“I respond when I can to fill whatever the need is,” he said. “I'm part of the towing team (trailer), rehab team, and I support Candy as the Safety Officer.”

As a HAM operator (technician class - KI5JAC), Richard likes working with comms and radios.

He and his wife now live in a neighborhood with no fire hydrants. Richard said he is hyper aware of fire danger and believes everyone should be prepared for emergencies and disasters of any kind. Central Texas has seen its fair share of fires, floods and freezing just in the past several years.

What is a memorable time spent with CERT?

The 2021 Snowmagedden. Richard spent a few days in Dripping Springs helping with sheltering operations. The crew provided water to retirement homes. He has also been part of several fire rehab activities over the years.

If he were to give a 60-second elevator pitch about CERT, what would he say?

“It's an organization that educates communities on first responder missions and emergency preparedness activities. It offers CERT members opportunities to support local first responders and educate their communities on emergency preparedness activities. I talk about supporting local fire and flooding preparedness.”

Know someone who might want to help us build a more resilient community? Share our [website](#) and [social media](#) with them!



G-317 and Other Training

- Free
- Useful
- Important

Building a More Resilient Community!

Hays County CERT will run two G-317 courses this fall, one in Wimberley, the other in Kyle. Attend all classes to become certified, or drop into courses in which you have an interest! Be sure to share this info with friends and family.

LOCATION #1

Wimberley Presbyterian Church
Fellowship Hall
965 FM 2325
Wimberley, Texas

Unit 1 - Tuesday, September 30, 2025 – 6:30 to 9:00 pm
Unit 2 - Thursday, October 2, 2025 – 6:30 to 8:00 pm
Unit 3 - Tuesday, October 7, 2025 – 6:30 to 9:00 pm
Unit 4 - Thursday, October 9, 2025 – 6:30 to 8:00 pm
Unit 5 - Tuesday, October 14, 2025 – 6:30 to 8:15 pm
Unit 6 - Thursday, October 16, 2025 – 6:30 to 9:30 pm
Unit 7 - Tuesday, October 21, 2025 – 6:30 to 9:00 pm
Unit 8 - Thursday, October 23, 2025 – 6:30 to 8:00 pm

Saturday, Oct. 25 - Callout Training (8 a.m.- noon) and Exercise (1-5 p.m.) at the Hays County Public Safety Building in San Marcos. This is for both classes and ALL CERT members.

LOCATION #2

Hays Co. ESD#5/Kyle Fire
Station #1
210 W Moore Street
Kyle, Texas

Unit 1 - Monday, September 29, 2025 – 6:30 to 9:00 pm
Unit 2 - Wednesday, October 1, 2025 – 6:30 to 8:00 pm
Unit 3 - Monday, October 6, 2025 – 6:30 to 9:00 pm
Unit 4 - Wednesday, October 8, 2025 – 6:30 to 8:00 pm
Unit 5 - Monday, October 13, 2025 – 6:30 to 8:15 pm
Unit 6 - Wednesday, October 15, 2025 – 6:30 to 9:30 pm
Unit 7 - Monday, October 20, 2025 – 6:30 to 9:00 pm
Unit 8 - Wednesday, October 22, 2025 – 6:30 to 8:00 pm



The poster features the Hays County Office of Emergency Services logo and the CERT Community Emergency Response Team logo. It includes the text 'Learn More about Being Prepared for Emergencies' and 'Our G-317 Classes are Starting Soon!'. Below this, it says 'Drop into Classes or Take the Entire Course'. A list of class topics is provided: Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Medical Operations, Stop the Bleed, CRASE, Disaster Psychology, Fire Safety & Utility Controls, and Light Search and Rescue. There are two circular images showing people in training. At the bottom, it says 'CERT is part of the Hays County Office of Emergency Services' and provides the website 'www.hayscountycert.com'.

Hays County Office of Emergency Services
CERT
Community Emergency Response Team

Hays County Community Emergency Response Team

Learn More about Being Prepared for Emergencies

Our G-317 Classes are Starting Soon!

Drop into Classes or Take the Entire Course

Some of our Class Topics:

- Disaster Preparedness
- Disaster Medical Operations
- Stop the Bleed
- CRASE
- Disaster Psychology
- Fire Safety & Utility Controls
- Light Search and Rescue

LEARN MORE & SEE THE FULL SCHEDULE

CERT is part of the Hays County Office of Emergency Services

www.hayscountycert.com

Upcoming Events

Campus CERT Meetings

Info coming soon!

CERT General and Command Staff Meeting

September 4, 9-11 a.m.

Wimberley Market Days

September 6, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Weekly Prep Fair Planning Meeting

September 2 and September 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Kyle Fire Department 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

September 11, 6:30-8:30 a.m.

Preparedness Fair Set-up

September 12, 2:30-7:30 p.m.

Hays County Emergency Preparedness Fair

September 13, 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

National CERT Week at Hays County Commissioners Court

September 16, 8:45-11 a.m. - We encourage as many CERT members to attend as possible! Where those yellow CERT shirts.

TXST Footballs Game

September 20, 2-10 p.m.

CERT G-317 Training

Two courses; see Pg. 5 above for dates and locations
Also see Calendar for details and registration info

CERT ICS-300 Course (Three Days)

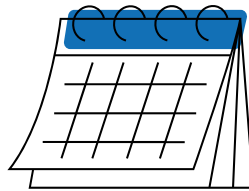
September 24-26; see calendar for times

Callout Training

Saturday, Oct. 25, 8 a.m.- noon
Rehab, Comms and Classroom Instruction

CERT Exercise

Saturday, Oct. 25, 1-5 p.m. at the Hays County Public Safety Building in San Marcos. This is for both G-317 classes and ALL CERT members.



Visit the [CERT calendar](#)
for the sign-up links!

CERT Calendar

- Trainings
- Events
- Meetings

Find more details on
our [CERT calendar](#)!

See You At the Prep Fair!

September 13 -
Hays County Emergency
Preparedness Fair
All Hands On Deck!!

TSA/ABIA K9 Decoy Training Assistance

See our [Calendar Page](#)
for details.

*Thanks for all you do as
CERT members!*

***Please sign up for events
to help CERT support
our community!***

CERT COMMUNITY PARTNERS



**WE APPRECIATE
YOUR SUPPORT!**



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 and local organizations rally to assist CERT, and the Office of Emergency Services, during emergencies and beyond.

Please accept our gratitude!

[Alsco \(Kyle\)](#)

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

[Buda Lions Club](#)

[City of Kyle Parks Department](#)

[Dripping Springs Distilling](#)

[Hays City Store](#)

[Hays County Commissioner Michelle Cohen, Pct. 2](#)

[Hays County Commissioner Debbie Ingalsbe, Pct. 1](#)

[Hays County Fire Chiefs Association](#)

[H-E-Bs in Buda, Kyle, San Marcos, Wimberley](#)

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

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

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

[Martin Taylor](#)

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

[San Marcos Emergency Management](#)

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

[Thundercloud Subs \(San Marcos\)](#)

[Wimberley Cafe & Marco's Italian](#)

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

Join Hays County CERT for the Hays County Emergency Preparedness Fair!

**2025
Preparedness
Fair & TOP
DAWG Chili
Cookoff**



**ARE YOU
PREPARED?**

Join us at the
**Hays County 8th Annual
Emergency
Preparedness Fair**

Saturday
September 13, 2025

Hours
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

La Verde Park
3901 Burnham | Kyle, Texas

What To Expect?

- ✓ Preparedness demos
- ✓ Silent auction
- ✓ Live music
- ✓ Local first responders
- ✓ Chili Cook-off contest

Learn more at
www.hayscountycert.com



In Partnership with:  Benfitting: 

Help CERT at the
Preparedness Fair! And
please ask other volunteers
in Hays County if they
would like to help, too.

We invite first
responders to sign up
for the TOP DAWG
Chili Cookoff!

**PS: Competition is open
to the public as well!**



Hey, First Responders!
Are You The Next Big Dawg??

**HAYS COUNTY TOP DAWG
CHILI COOK-OFF**
September 13, 2025

REGISTER NOW!

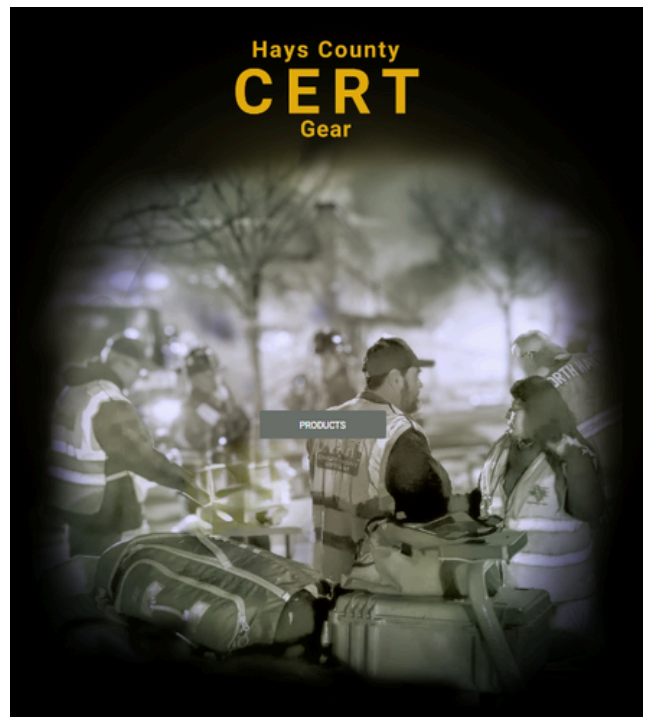
Your Name
Here



WWW.HAYSINFORMED.COM/PREPAREDNESSFAIR

CERT Store

Get all your CERT
gear at our
online store!



Check out the CERT web store!

All the items will be delivered to the Hays County OES building in San Marcos and distributed from there.

Many thanks to Chuck Koenen for all his hard work on this project!

Join Hays County CERT at the Hays County Commissioners Court at 9 a.m. on September 16 - there will be a proclamation about National CERT Week!

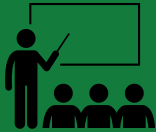


Every Community needs a CERTain Kind of Hero

CERT WEEK

TRAIN • SERVE • CELEBRATE • SEPTEMBER 14 - 20, 2025

CERT Needs



Can you help?

Here at Hays County CERT, we know we have many talented, creative and resourceful volunteers. Each of you helps make this organization even better. Here are some of our current needs - can you help us with one of these areas?

- Photographers for Social Media/Newsletter/Website
- Videographers for Training Classes
- AV techs for Meetings and Trainings
- Communications – Writers and information gatherers (social media, website, newsletter)
- Assistance in Logistics – choose your area: Food Unit, Medical Unit, Supply Unit, Communications Unit, Facilities Unit, Ground Support Unit
- Assistance in Planning – choose your area: Processes and documentation, Event planning and IAP development, Mission documentation
- Training – Classroom Support, Position Task Book tracking, Instructor
- 2025 Awards Planning Committee
- Community Preparedness Outreach (Booths and/or Presentations)
- Administration – choose your area: Volunteer Communications, New Member Enrollment, Reporting and Documentation
- Operations – Rehab, SAR (including evidence and missing person), Traffic Control, Crowd Management, Damage Assessment, Debris Management, Reunification, Sheltering/Mass Care, Family Assistance Center, Family Resource Center, Volunteer Resource Center, Animal Response



Interested in being part of our Food Unit team? This [link](#) provides a basic review of food handling. Though not everything will apply to us, best practices whenever possible is always optimal. If interested, please take the two-hour online course. There is a minimal fee of \$7. Once completed, email a copy of your card to Paul Freeman and Sue Richards.



We are looking for CERT members to become CPR/AED/First Aid Instructors. If interested, please email Paul Freeman and Sue Richards.

If you can help with any of the above areas, please contact Candy Lonie 512-781-2088, or one of your Section Chiefs/Leaders:

Gordon DeWitte (gordon.dewitte.hccert@gmail.com) – Operations Chief or Rickey Clement Deputy Operations Chief
Mel Barrentine (melvin.barrentine.hccert@gmail.com) – Planning Chief
Paul Freeman (paul.freeman.hccert@gmail.com) or Sue Richards (sue.richards.hccert@gmail.com) – Administration
Noah Dennis (noah.dennis.hccert@gmail.com) – Logistics
Sandi Barber (sandi.barber.hccert@gmail.com) – Community Preparedness Outreach
Kim Hilsenbeck (khilsenbeck71@gmail.com) – Communications, Public Information, Photographers
Rick Hagy (Richard.Hagy.hccert@gmail.com) – Safety Officer

Happy Birthday!



August Birthdays

Evelyn De Luna
Ruby Hernandez
Joseph Fletcher
Daniel Gonzalez
Ivanna Sintes-Klein
Madison Mayo
Tiffany Harris
Donald Carrow
Oluwaseyi Adesoye
Adela Jore
Linda Batey
Bridget La Vigne
Daniel Snyder
Daryl Kanary
Jennifer Muturi
Sophia McGarvey
Aleyra Berrios Santana
Ruth Susheel
Jailene Torres
Peter Kessler
Leah Knutson
Anh Nguyen
Paul Freeman
Cynthia Hobson
John Fraser
Candy Lonie
Patti Barrett

CERT in Pics

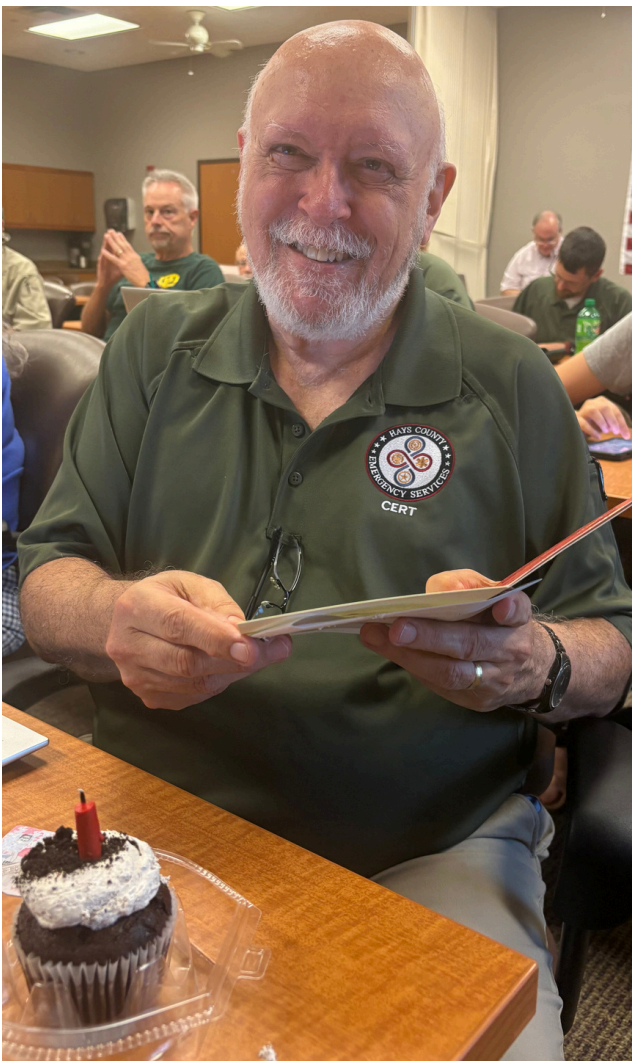


Campus CERT members at the first Texas State University football game of the season

CERT members at the Texas State University move-in weekend; we love Mel's new hat!



Hays County CERT member Jackie Uselton attending the EMI (Emergency Management Institute – FEMA), a part of the National Domestic Emergency Management University (NDEMU) in Emmitsburg, MD. She took the “Exercise Design and Control” class.



CERT in Pics

We wished Paul Freeman (above) a very Happy Birthday at the most recent Prep Fair Planning meeting. If you're curious, he is 49. Again.

