



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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FREE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING OFFERED TO WASHTENAW COUNTY RESIDENTS

Application deadline is Friday, February 26 at 5 p.m.

ANN ARBOR, Mich. – Feb. 3, 2010 –In 1985, the Los Angeles Fire Department developed the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept to arm citizens with vital training and information necessary to survive in the hours after a catastrophic disaster. The importance of citizen preparedness in the absence of emergency responders was never more clear than during the aftermath of September 11.

The Ann Arbor Police Department's Office of Emergency Management in conjunction with the Washtenaw County Emergency Management Division is accepting applications for the Washtenaw County CERT training program. Weekly training classes will be held starting March 31 through May 15, 2010.

CERT Program

The CERT Program educates residents about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact Washtenaw County and trains participants in basic disaster response skills. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist neighbors or fellow employees following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

The course is a combination of classroom sessions and hands-on training in scene assessment, fire safety, emergency medical response, team organization, disaster medical operations, and light search and rescue. The course also provides information on topics including local threats, hazards, county and city emergency management initiatives and incident command and terrorism.

Registration Deadline

CERT training is required to become a CERT member. The training course is held every Wednesday from March 31 to May 12, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. The final exercise and graduation will take place on May 15. **Attendance at all classes is required for certificate completion. The application deadline is Friday, Feb. 26 at 5 p.m.**

(More)

How to Apply

Citizens interested in participating in this course, can visit the City of Ann Arbor website at www.a2gov.org for an application or call Crime Prevention Specialist Adele El-Ayoubi, ICPS, with the Ann Arbor Police Department at (734) 794-6933. A background investigation will be conducted on all applicants who will be notified if accepted into the program.

Ann Arbor has 114,000 residents, spans 27.7 square miles, and was named one of the top 25 U.S. cities to live in by CNN/Money Magazine in 2006 as well as the third smartest city in the U.S. by Forbes Magazine. The City's mission statement reads: The city of Ann Arbor is committed to providing excellent municipal services that enhance the quality of life for all through the intelligent use of resources while valuing an open environment that fosters, fair, sensitive and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve.

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