



Milton Township CERT Newsletter

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You can't spell Volunteer without U!

It is just amazing to me, the more I ask of you, the more you all do. Thank you for the tremendous amount of work you've put in. Volunteers like you deserve immense praise. Being a volunteer is a demanding task, so thank you for contributing so much of your time, energy, and efforts to it. You did an excellent job and you all are so appreciated.

The good you do returns to you a hundredfold. Never forget this, and be sure that the universe has wonderful things in store for you. You all have been such a devoted and hardworking volunteer group in furthering our efforts. I can't thank you enough. Thank you so much for your volunteer work. Although you're not in the spotlight, you are the backbone of each and every event. Please know that we could not do this without your hard work. Marty and I are extremely thankful for the time you have given us. You have made an unforgettable difference.

This edition of our newsletter shows several examples of your volunteerism.

Thank you, and enjoy!





Homeless Count Backpacks – Mike Harvey and Trish Billings

We put some backpacks together with socks, hats, gloves, scarfs, deodorant, water bottle, toothpaste, toothbrush and information on where to seek help from homelessness. Some of us from the Leadership Team took a few each to hand out to the homeless in our daily life. #endtohomelessness



Homeless Count – by Mike Harvey

Thank you to each and every one that participated in the 2022 Unsheltered Homeless Count on January 26th, 2022! Our success and safety would not have been possible without your participation, and it is very much appreciated that everyone took the time out of their evening the night of the event, as well as the zoom training meetings the week before!

Before getting into some details, a huge shout out and thank-you to Sheriff Mendrick, Undersheriff Moore, Sgt. Castillo, Cpl. Albright and Cpl. Agema of the DuPage County Sheriff's Office, and Officer Pellegrino of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County! The insights, guidance and oversight of you all enabled our CERT team to deploy safely and efficiently, and it is all our honor to serve our community alongside you. It is truly a blessing for our team to know you have our backs! And of course, thank you as well to Lisa Snipes, DuPage Continuum of Care, for the leadership and coordination of this entire effort!

This last week there was a debrief with DuPage Continuum of Care and the other agencies involved in DuPage County's participation in the 2022 count. In summary, the night of the count:

- ◆ Twelve agencies participated:
 - ◆ 360 Youth Services
 - ◆ Bridge Communities
 - ◆ Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet
 - ◆ DuPage County Continuum of Care
 - ◆ DuPage County Sheriff's Office
 - ◆ DuPage Pads
 - ◆ Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
 - ◆ Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans
 - ◆ Milton Township CERT
 - ◆ People's Resource Center
 - ◆ Prairie State Legal Services
 - ◆ US Department of Veteran Affairs
- ◆ Thirty-one unsheltered people were encountered during the evening:
 - ◆ Eight people were interviewed and 23 were observed-only
- ◆ "Hotspots" were identified in Downers Grove (10 people), West Chicago (7 people) and Villa Park (5 people)
 - ◆ Additional locations were Addison (1), Carol Stream (1), Glen Ellyn (2), Lombard (1), Naperville (1), Westmont (1), Wheaton (1) and Winfield (1)
- ◆ Locations within the community:



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- ◆ Train Station (13), Vehicle (8), Parking Garage (6), Front of Building (2), Police Department (1), and Tent (1)

There was a significant shift in geography and locations of persons encountered experiencing unsheltered homelessness from 2021 to 2022 (examples: decreases in the Carol Stream, increases in West Chicago, decreases in gas stations areas, and increases in train station locations). The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are believed to have impacted locations including traditional 24 hour locations that have reduced open hours, hospitals with restrictions on lobby seating areas, and variations in train station operating hours.



Some of the recommendations for the 2023 count (yes, it looks like we will be continuing to conduct odd-year counts, with a possibility of the count shifting to an annual vs biennial event):

- ◆ Planning will begin in August 2022
- ◆ Employ full training on the use of the mobile app
- ◆ Expansion of geographic territories
- ◆ Distribution of flyers in train stations and other public places the week prior to the count
- ◆ Increased engagement with community partners to assist with communication of information county-wide to improve and amplify the efforts of teams in the field
- ◆ Increased engagement with law enforcement in advance of the count to identify high-probability unsheltered locations
- ◆ The mobile application will continue to be enhanced and improved including functionality to highlight respective teams' search areas and likely and known unsheltered locations



Everyone's involvement plays a key part in the count. Our efforts play a significant role in helping communities plan services and programs that address local needs, measure progress in decreasing homelessness, and identify strengths and gaps in our community's homelessness assistance system. The continued collection of data on homelessness and tracking progress will help to inform public education, increase public awareness, and attract resources that will lead towards progress in preventing and ending homelessness.



Again, a huge thank you to everyone for playing a part in the 2022 Unsheltered Homeless Count! I look forward to working with you all again next January.

Sincerely,

Mike Harvey

3 Milton Township CERT



Jeopardy - by Trish Billings

CERT Jeopardy hosted at Milton Township tonight! CERT members were tested on their CERT knowledge in a very fun and creative way. We had two members from the Addison CERT team to join us. This game is online for anyone to use, just ask Trish for the password. Thank you all for coming out on a cold night. Special Thanks to Jeanine Benecke for helping me make the games and assisting!

We hope all who attended, enjoyed!



February Leadership Meeting - Hope Dogs by Trish Billings

We had some visitors at our Leadership meeting this morning from the four-legged kind. Anela, Sweetie, Chia and Leo - Golden Retriever, Black Lab and Great Dane respectively. They are from HOPE. These dogs are asked to respond to disasters all over the United States to give comfort to those who are suffering from a trauma due to disaster. Thank you for coming out to present to us.



Earthquake Awareness – by Dee Lehman

On February 17th, 2022 the Milton Township CERT team held a Zoom training on the New Madrid Seismic Zone and the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone. Participants learned about the three New Madrid Earthquakes of 1811-1812 which ranged from 7.0-7.7 on the Richter Scale. The quakes centered in the New Madrid area in Missouri caused chimneys in Ohio to fall, rang church bells in Boston, Massachusetts and was felt in Washington, D.C. by President Madison. The third earthquake destroyed the town of New Madrid, and created Reel foot Lake in Tennessee. It is #9 on the top list of strongest earthquakes in U.S. history.



Among the training was the “What if it happened today” scenario. FEMA created a scenario of an earthquake hitting the same area with a 7.0 magnitude. Below were a few of the results:

- ◆ Economic losses approach \$300 billion.
- ◆ There is substantial damage to utility infrastructure, particularly in the impacted counties, leaving 2.6 million households without electricity and 1.1 million households without water after the event.
- ◆ Major transportation corridors are interrupted by damage to key infrastructure. Extensive bridge and road damage limits the viable routes for transporting commodities and aiding evacuation efforts.
- ◆ Damage to essential facilities will limit the response capabilities of fire, medical, law enforcement, and emergency management in the 140 counties that are most impacted.
- ◆ Direct damage to over 700,000 buildings will generate significant US&R team requirements.
- ◆ Inland road, rail, air and river travel in the Central U.S. will be severely impacted in the aftermath of the scenario event.
- ◆ Over two million people will require temporary shelters after the event due to extended lack of utility services.
- ◆ Waterways may become blocked with debris, reducing the viability of major shipping channels in the U.S., namely along the Mississippi, Ohio, Missouri, and Arkansas Rivers.



The training ended with how to prepare before, during and after an earthquake.



This year alone we ALL in one way or another have felt the pain of another going through tough times in their lives. Whether it is losing a loved one or finding out friends are struck ill. Just know that there are the arms of comfort from your teammates supporting you from afar, giving you space to recover quickly, and we shall see your smiling faces real soon! Take Care & BE CERT STRONG!

Train the Trainer February 25-26 - by Trish Billings

On February 25-26, 2022, the CERT Association of Illinois through the sponsorship of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) held a CERT Instructor Train-the-Trainer (TtT) class at the Cook County Emergency Operations Center.

We congratulate the following persons in successful completion of the two-day course.

- ◆ Robert Ackerman, Tinley Park EMA
- ◆ Kimberly Caldwell, Round Lake Beach EMA
- ◆ John Gray, Alsip CERT
- ◆ Michael Harvey, Milton Township CERT
- ◆ Jeffery Louis, Wauconda Police/CERT
- ◆ Michael Montino, Oak Park Dept. Public Health/CERT
- ◆ James Plybon, Cook County Sheriff's Police
- ◆ Anthony Scipione, Niles Police Department
- ◆ Joseph Serb, Chicago OEMC
- ◆ Paul Sheehan, Park Ridge Police
- ◆ David Theising, North Aurora Police
- ◆ Scott Thompson, New Lenox CERT



The Association wishes to thank the following CERT Instructors for their hard work and time teaching this class:

- ◆ Trish Billings, Association President and Milton Township CERT
- ◆ Richard Frizelis, Association Board Member and Chicago CERT
- ◆ Randy James, Association Vice President and South Lake County Regional CERT
- ◆ David Sezonov, Milton Township CERT
- ◆ Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT
- ◆ Greg Durbin, Wauconda CERT

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) TtT is a two-day course for individuals who have attended a local CERT course and would like to become trainers for their local program. This course is also for those communities and organizations that would like to start a CERT program on their own and need a trainer to do so. It does not take the place of attending the 20-hour CERT program course. CERT TtT is designed for the individual who already has knowledge of the CERT curriculum and needs further instructional knowledge and state certification.

The CERT Association of Illinois plans to hold this course numerous times a year to ensure there are a cadre of instructors available and close to communities with interest in having a CERT Program. Details on the program are provided on the Illinois Emergency Management Agency website at (<https://www2.illinois.gov/iema/Pages/default.aspx>).

The next scheduled Train-the-Trainer class is scheduled for June 10-11, 2022, at the Aurora Emergency Operations Center. Please do not hesitate to contact the Association should you have interest in the program and/or if you have questions. We can be reached at il.cert.assoc@gmail.com. Visit our website at <https://certillinois.com>.



March 3 Elburn CERT Class

Under the mentorship from Milton Township staff , Elburn had their first CERT Class in recent years. A starting over if you will. Some of the Milton Township staff traveled out to Elburn to coach, teach, assist in any way they could to bring 16 students out to DuPage County Fairgrounds to combine with the Hunter Cert Class and assist them with the Final Exercise. It turned out to be a great collaboration in team effort. Looking forward to the next Class.



March 3 DuPage County Forest Preserve Callout – by Trish Billings

On March 4th, we received a Callout from the DuPage County Forest Preserve. The call came in around 2:30 p.m. and by 3 p.m. CERT was on the scene. Our job was to relieve the police officers blocking traffic from Smith and Munger road to Army Trail and Munger Road. CERT was there from 3 p.m. to about 8 p.m. with a total of 13 CERT members involved throughout the night.

To everybody who was involved and changed their schedules to help, I can't thank you enough. This was our first callout from the forest preserve and was a direct result of the awesome job we did working the multi-agency training exercised at Blackwell Forest Preserve last year.



The body of a 26-year-old Round Lake man was found Thursday morning in Pratt's Wayne Woods Forest Preserve in west suburban Wayne.



Shamrock Shuffle

On Saturday, March 19th, a couple of our Milton Township CERT Team members, Paul Butler & Jeanine Moore, assisted with the Shamrock Shuffle. Paul and Jeanine assisted with the medical treatment site. Also, one of our own, Rob Sessner, ran in the race. Congratulations to everyone involved!



Color Fun Run—Chris Oakes and Dan Piper

Freezing temperatures greeted over 30 Milton Township CERT volunteers early Saturday, April 9, 2022, for the Rotary Club of Wheaton AM/Wheaton Park District annual Fun Run In Color 5K Race. Our CERT Team's primary function for this event was providing race course traffic intersection support and first aid resources for the Park District and Wheaton Police Department to ensure a safe race environment for the nearly 1,000 race participants. During the event, Team Members practiced critical radio communication skills and Incident Command protocols that produced integrated cohesive team results that met every goal of the event. Team 6 Members, Andrew Musielak and Mike Sherman, won the Best Radio Communications Award for excellence in radio traffic with Incident Command. All teams did a great job in their respective assignments and exhibited strong professional demeanors. Special thanks to: Dave Sezonov, the CERT Team's Wheaton PD liaison, for providing a critical communications link, and IC Event Scribe, Debbi Briggs, for her tireless and accurate transcription of the non-stop IC communications.

Chris Oakes - Incident Commander
Dan Piper - Deputy Incident Commander



Hunter CERT Class Graduation - Trish Billings

On Wednesday, April 14th, the Hunter CERT Class was Milton's 60th Class taught. You would think by now nothing would surprise me or catch me off guard. Having to hold a CERT Class final in 50 degrees and 70 mph wind (wind chill was in the 40s) was a first! There were stations we could not have; for instance, a real fire and erecting our CERT blow up tent. However, CERT is known for making decisions on the fly and we decided not to have the fire or blow up our tent. We were able to use two PACE buses in an incorporated disaster simulation and use one as a warming station and the other as IC Command. As usual, the Hunter CERT team joined with the Elburn CERT Class as they formed teams and "responded" to a Bus/Car accident with remarkable might as they performed their duties.



IL CERT Association News Corner

Illinois CERT Association Corner – Information you need to know!

Illinois CERT Association is only been in formation since early 2019. Slowed down a bit by COVID and picked up again as most all meetings are held by Zoom. We have formed an informal board of directors to help things along until there is an election. We are presenting interesting topics on every fourth Tuesday of the month and we also support the Prairie State CERT Challenge as well as the Train the Trainer sessions.

Please join us on April 26th and May 24th, June 21st for our Zoom Training Presentations (fourth Tuesday) – if you are interested I will forward you the zoom link.

The Prairie State Cert Challenge committee is busily working on the details should be out soon.

Train the Trainer session is coming up in June 10 & 11 @ Aurora OEM – if you are interested in becoming a white shirt trainer please let me or David Sezonov know. The next person on the docket to go to TtT is Rob Sessner.

Tools of the Trade—Paul Mueller Jr—Baker Class.

Lessons from the 2021 Texas Winter Storm – Part Two

This is final installment of a two part discussion that centered on the “Texageddon” blackouts and near-collapse of all infrastructure (food, fuel, cell towers, power grid, water systems, emergency services and roads) that taught some very valuable lessons about survival and self-reliance.



Lesson #5 – Have a plan.

Whether you write it down the olde fashioned way with pen and paper or utilize your phone or computer, formalize a plan with your family and go over it with them. And while you're at it, have a plan B. If you've given some real thought to how you would react to different scenarios, you may not be caught so unprepared. Many of the scenarios that need to be considered have similar issues with common answers. The tough part is figuring out how all of the particulars in a given scenario interact and play against each other. For example, you can plan for a winter storm, or a power outage or a plumbing emergency, etc. but how about if two or more of these hit at the same time, as they did in Texas. That is the hard part. But what makes it harder makes it more necessary to think through before the situation happens.

Lesson #6 – **Don't expect anyone to come to your rescue.**

As the saying goes, the two worst things to hear in a time of need are (1) we're from the government, and (2) we're here to help. In a widespread disaster there may be hundreds or thousands of people needing assistance over a wide area. There is no way that a small number of emergency personnel can cover a large scale disaster immediately. First responders will be stretched very thin and may need to attend to their own families first. This is the whole purpose of CERT to begin with. We know and expect this. Be ready and able to take care of yourselves.



Lesson #7 - Safety

In all of our preparations, safety must be the primary concern. Having a generator is great if there is a power outage; setting it up inside a garage is a catastrophic mistake, as some learned in Texas. Short term problem with long term consequences. Make sure that your smoke detectors and CO detectors are operating, have new batteries and the units not past their replacement date. Make sure there are working fire extinguishers located in strategic areas throughout the house and upgraded models especially in places like the garage and kitchen. This is where your CERT fire training comes in.

Lesson #8 – Our infrastructure is aging badly.

Unfortunately the electric grid in the United States is being held together with bailing wire and duct tape. If any small disruption happens in one area, a waterfall effect can bring down large swaths of the grid. Some of the needed parts may be months away before things can be brought back to normal. In Texas, the electric company said they were literally minutes away from a catastrophic failure that would have taken down large parts of the state for months. I don't understand how the government can be pushing electric vehicles, etc. without first upgrading the grid in a major way. Our system as it sits today won't be able to handle the increased demand; it can barely keep up now. And keep in mind without electricity, the water filtration and pumping stations cease to operate. Gas stations can't pump fuel to our cars and



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the everything (cell towers, cable TV, Wi-Fi) ceases to work. A good battery powered emergency radio would be invaluable at times like this. An after incident review of what was done right and where things can be improved will make for a safer and better outcome when life's emergencies are thrown your way. Be prepared for uncertainty. And as always, stay prepared.

Are you MOVING? Remember if you move outside of the DuPage County and / or the State of IL, we will need your CERT Backpack back. It will be recycled to someone else.

If you have moved within the DuPage County, do we have your new address on file? Phone number, CELL Carrier, and email too?

This is extremely important we have accurate information on file because if there is a CALL OUT, we need to be able to reach you!



Volunteer for 1 or 2 events this year

Complete online course IS 100b

Complete online course IS 700a

Brush up on your training by auditing a class or volunteering at an event.

FYI: We have started up a Milton Township Facebook Page! This has articles and pictures from events that we have done and events that are in the area. If you are a Milton Township CERT Member and are on Facebook, please join our group and see what's new!



MILTON TOWNSHIP CERT TEAM - FB Name

MILTON TOWNSHIP CERT TEAM - On LinkedIn

Milton Township CERT on LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/milton-township-cert>.



Please visit our website at www.miltontownship.net - It's new!
(Click on the CERT TAB)

The CERT application is also on our website. Please tell your friends, co-workers, family members etc. who may be interested in enrolling in class.

FYI: Save the Date!



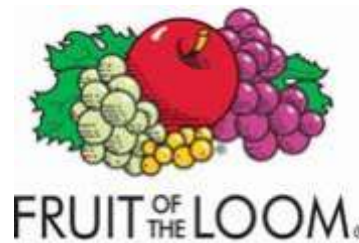


*shown on adult large tee



Official CERT Tee Shirt™ Milton Township Cert Team

A beautiful 100% 5.6oz Cotton
Shirt with pocket from



- ◆ This Forest Green Shirt comes in sizes Small to XXX Large
- ◆ It features an embroidered (not Screened) CERT LOGO on the front, and a retro reflective night time safety "CERT" name on the back.
- ◆ Your Cost is \$20.00
- ◆ Please email Trish at P.billings@miltontownship.net to order
- ◆ Please include your name/ size/ quantity/ phone/ & return e-mail address with your order

** Available only to CERT graduates! **



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“Are You Ready?”

We are on the web:
<http://www.miltontownship.net>

Visit the calendar for current and future classes/events

www.miltontownship.net

Visit the gallery of photos from past classes/events

www.miltontownship.net