



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: Jay Levenson
(401)230-9327

***North Smithfield Emergency Management Agency Training Opportunity
Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) course offered for area residents over the age of 18***

NORTH SMITHFIELD, RI – It is not a question if it will happen, but more a question of when and will we be prepared when the time arrives? Whether natural or manmade, potential threats of disasters should be all of our concern. The North Smithfield Emergency Management Agency has been awarded a grant to establish a northern Rhode Island CERT team to assist area communities in times of disaster.

CERT is a volunteer organization of dedicated men and women who wish to protect lives and property when major disasters threaten public safety in their community. CERT Team participation requires commitment, training, hard work, and caring community individuals who answer the call for help. Basic CERT training teaches skills to allow family members to help each other, neighbors to help neighbors, employees to assist fellow workers, and trained volunteers to support first responders

The North Smithfield Emergency Management Agency will sponsor an 8 week CERT training class for area residents of North Smithfield, Smithfield, Woonsocket, Cumberland, Lincoln, and Burrillville. The CERT class will be offered free of charge for residents to better prepare themselves and their families for emergency preparedness and response in times of a disaster. The class will be held on Tuesday nights April 19th through June 14th from 6:00pm until 9:00pm.

An informational meeting will be held Tuesday, April 12th, 2016 at 07:00PM. It will take place at the North Smithfield EMA office (Lower level) located at 575 Smithfield Road, North Smithfield, RI. This meeting will outline the content of the class and its subjects.

The CERT class will include training on the psychology of disaster trauma, light search and rescue, emergency preparedness, fire safety, basic first aid, terrorism, CERT operation and participation in a CERT team. All training materials are provided at no cost to participants. Graduates of the program will receive a CERT identification card and those who join our CERT team will receive a CERT disaster kit.

You may apply online by visiting www.NorthernRIReact.org and click on the CERT link or by calling the EMA office during regular business hours at (401)767-2206 for a copy of the application and faxing to (401)762-5282. For further information contact Peter Branconnier at (401)767-2206 or Jay Levenson at (401)230-9327.