New Fall Semester

With the start of a new fall semester, many new students come to the Georgia Tech campus, as well as new faculty and staff members. As members of GT-CERT you can help them to adjust to their new home by being available with information. Remember, one of the most important steps to sizeup is gathering facts so that you can plan your actions in an emergency.

The beginning of the school year is a good reminder to review emergency plans, check emergency supplies for expiration dates, and to locate fire extinguishers and AEDs that may be in your building. Take a look at the Emergency Response Guidebook for ideas on how to respond to many kinds of event. Also, check out the resources on the following web site: http://www.police.gatech.edu/emergencypreparedness/managers/ It would be a great service to make sure others had them available in their office, room, etc. Finally, the new Emergency Action Plan (EAP) will be out soon and available online.

The monthly Siren Warning System test will take place August 4, 2011 at 11:00 am.

DON’T FORGET: Complete all forms on the GT-CERT website and send them to Frank Stanley (GT mail code 0440) as soon as possible.

National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month. Keep an eye out for lots of important information and events in next month’s newsletter.

New GT-CERT Graduates

Take a look inside to see the newest members of the GT-CERT team!
New GT-CERT Graduates!

The newest GT-CERT members completed their post training drill on July 27. The class was completed over a total of five Wednesdays from 3-6 each day. We were excited to have a group for this session consisting of six students, five staff members, and one faculty member, providing us with a great range of ideas and opportunities for new members. During the first section of the drill, teams triaged cards with descriptions and symptoms, then rescued victims from inside the building and treated them at the medical area. During the second, the teams reviewed fire suppression and the use of a fire extinguisher. They also extracted Rescue Randy from underneath debris using cribbing techniques. Everyone had a good time and stayed well hydrated for the drill. A huge thanks goes out to those that volunteered to be victims for the drill. Their acting was excellent and even worried the observers.

Watch upcoming newsletters for the next CERT class to be held. Also, take a look at the Emergency Preparedness Certificate Program and the Advanced Emergency Preparedness Certificate Program through the Office of Human Resources for more training opportunities. If you are interested in having a CERT class for your building or organization, please send an email to jkraft3@gatech.edu.

Hazardous Materials—Gases

While hazardous materials act as a stop sign for all CERT members, responders should still be aware of the signs and effects of a hazardous material release.

Hazardous gases can have several implications. Many gases are flammable, such as the natural gas used for heating and cooking. Others can cause serious health problems. Some are poisonous, while other can displace air resulting in asphyxiation. Other gases are extremely corrosive. Make sure that you are aware of what gases you work with and the hazards associated with them.

There are several indicators of hazardous materials release. Visual signs are vapors or fog escaping from a container. Depending on the chemicals involved, the vapor may be of other colors than the normal white or gray. Odors are often an indicator that there has been a chemical release. If you detect an unusual odor, particularly gas or an odor that burns the nostrils, inform the police immediately. Many are colorless and odorless. If you see a container that appears to be ruptured, leave the area immediately and notify the police. Symptoms of exposure to a hazardous gas or vapor can include eye, lung, or skin irritation, as well as difficulty breathing. In some cases, exposure can quickly lead to unconsciousness.

Gases can be very difficult to control if they escape their containers. If you recognize a release, get upwind of the gas immediately, and notify GTPD. Try to keep others out of the area, and meet emergency responders so that you can be treated if necessary. For more information on hazardous materials and response on campus, take a look at the Environmental Health and Safety website.
CERT Training Reminder

Sizeup Steps:
1. Gather facts
2. Assess damage
3. Consider probabilities
4. Assess your situation
5. Establish priorities
6. Make decisions
7. Develop plan of action
8. Take action
9. Evaluate progress

REMEMBER:

CERT sizeup is a continual process!

Let us know what you’re doing! GT-CERT is always interested in community service opportunities!

E-mail
jkraft3@gatech.edu

Important Links:

- www.police.gatech.edu
- www.alerts.gatech.edu
- www.facebook.com/GTEmergency
- www.facebook.com/GaTechPD
- www.facebook.com/GaTechCERT
- www.citizencorps.gov/cert/

GT-CERT Website

The Georgia Tech Community Emergency Response team is a group of students, faculty and staff that can be called upon in the event of an emergency to act in a support role for the duration of emergency response. Our goal as CERT members is to help prepare ourselves and our for emergency situations by volunteering in all aspects of emergency preparation, including learning first aid and light search and rescue to act as first responders, and the distribution of literature to inform others of how they can prepare themselves. Through continued training and preparation we can do the most good for the greatest number of people.

CERT News

National News
Cert members from groups around the country have gotten involved in search operations for missing persons. In rural areas, this can be extremely difficult, requiring much more manpower than is available. Take a look at the article posted on the national CERT website.

CERT in Action!
All kinds of skills are needed in a disaster. Remember that no matter where your skill set lies, you can always help your community!

Do you have ideas for future GT-CERT events or training? We would love to hear from you! We are looking forward to getting CERT members involved in the planning of your CERT program. If you are interested in being part of the GT-CERT Council for planning and logistics, please contact Jason Kraft at jkraft3@gatech.edu

Or send us a message on the Georgia Tech CERT Facebook page!