Training Classes

There are a number of Emergency Preparedness Certificate Classes being offered in the month of November:

Nov. 10 - Campus Fire Safety
12:00 pm-1:15 pm
Nov. 15 - CPR/AED/First Aid Training
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Nov. 16 - What Is In Your Building: Hazards Awareness
9:00 am - 11:00 am
Emergency Preparedness 101 held three times
8:30 am - 10:00 am, 2:30 pm - 4 pm, 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm
Nov. 17 - Crime Prevention 101
12:00 pm - 1:15 pm

Go to www.trains.gatech.edu to find the locations and to register for class!

GT-CERT Students: If you are interested in being part of a GT-CERT student organization, there will be a meeting in the Piedmont room of the Student Center Thursday, Nov. 10 at 4 pm. Please email jkraft3@gatech.edu to get added to the list!

We Have a New Website!

The GT-CERT website has been updated! A new calendar and pictures are online. The site is located at:

http://police.gatech.edu/emergencypreparedness/gtcert/

Take a look!
Winter Weather Preparedness

Everyone has surely felt the weather getting cooler over the past month, so we know that winter weather is on the way. Numerous hazards are associated with the cold and precipitation. It is important to take steps now to prepare yourself for potential winter emergencies.

Preparation can start at home by checking that all vents are clear of leaves and debris if blocked, they can cause gases to enter the home and systems to malfunction. Check all vents, including those for heating systems and appliances, regularly throughout the winter. Remember, even a small amount of snow can cover a vent, especially if the wind causes the snow to drift.

Take time to ensure that all heating systems are working properly. If necessary, call a professional to perform an inspection on your system. Review processes to relight pilot lights on furnaces and hot water heaters if necessary. Service could be delayed due to winter weather.

If you have a fireplace, have firewood available as a backup source of heat. Vehicle preparations should take place as well. Take some time before winter really sets in to refill all of the fluids in your car. This includes all fluids, including even windshield washer fluid. It can be very handy for clearing road salt and dirty water that could be encountered while driving. Consider the vehicle battery and how long since it has been replaced. A fresh battery can be very helpful in the cold when dealing with a reluctant engine. Check tires to ensure that they are ready to deal with ice and snow. A few additions can be very helpful in situations like the snowstorm from last January. A bag of cat litter can be enough to provide a vehicle with traction to get itself "unstuck" from the ice (floor mats can be used too!). A vehicle emergency kit is important to have even more in winter. Include food, water, and first aid supplies, although you may want to remove water when you return home so it doesn’t freeze and break. Ice scrapers are vital in winter. When clearing a vehicle, make sure to clear all windows and mirrors. It is even more important in winter that you can see in all directions from your vehicle. Electric defrosters are helpful, but should not be relied upon.

Finally, make sure to prepare yourself for winter. Check winter jackets, gloves, and hats so that you know where they are. Keep spares in a vehicle or office so that they’re available if weather changes. A great addition to winter gear is a set of elastic shoe spikes. Use on sneakers or boots to add traction on icy ground.

There are plenty of resources online for winterizing your home, your vehicle, and yourself. The links below are a few to start with. Next month’s issue will cover winter weather procedures specifically aimed at Georgia Tech. Have a safe and fun winter!

http://www.ready.gov/winter
CDC Winter Weather

Twitter Feeds to Stay Prepared

While the microblogging site Twitter often serves as a distraction, it can also provide some very useful information, provided that you follow the right feeds. They can provide information that you may not find during a normal internet search, and the site makes it easy to pass on information. Most importantly, we suggest following @GTPDalerts. This Twitter feed is updated by any information that is released on GTENS or with regard to smaller emergency events on campus. It is the most up to date and can tell you what areas of campus to avoid and what actions to take, if any are necessary. @GaTechPD is another source to get valuable information from our police department.

There are numerous news and weather sites that can provide breaking news and weather warnings before that information may reach other media. Some are designed for national news, while others provide local breaking headlines throughout the day. @georgiatech provides the latest campus news and reposts any emergency information released by GTPD. Other sites provide preparedness information for a wide variety of topics. @ReadydotGov regularly provides information on home and family preparedness with tips for plans and emergency kits. @RedCross and @CDCEmergency make even more thorough information available. @CitiZen_Corps has some of the same information, and provides the latest CERT updates.

@FEMA and @FEMAre4 provide information on disasters in our region. Take some time to browse and find some useful feeds for keeping yourself informed and ready.
CERT Training Reminder

Just because a location looks safe doesn’t always mean it is. Perform a survey by going 360 degrees around a building, looking for damage and any other potential hazards before you enter. Remember to use all of your senses, odors and sounds can be indicators of hazards as well as visible damage.

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/

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

The Cranbury Township CERT in New Jersey assisted Trick-or-Treaters this year by handing out flashing high-visibility buttons and assisting at street crossings. The group has a history of volunteer work, particularly during storms such as Hurricane Irene.

If you have any ideas for service or volunteer work, please send an email to jkraft3@gatech.edu to distribute the information to other GT-CERT members!

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!