Fall is Here!

The seasons are changing again, which makes it a great time to review and check emergency materials. This time of year signals a change from warm weather to cold weather preparedness.

Take steps now to prepare your home and vehicle for colder weather. Ensure that gutters are clear of fallen leaves to allow rain or snow water to leave your roof. Keep an eye on the weather to make sure you are prepared for whatever conditions you may face.

The last several winters throughout the United States have resulted in motorists becoming stranded in their cars. In case of an unexpected ice storm, make sure you have emergency supplies with you. Have your battery and fluids checked to make sure you’re ready for colder weather. Check the CDC for ideas of what should be in a vehicle emergency kit.

GT-CERT Students: If you are interested in being part of a GT-CERT student organization, please email jkraft3@gatech.edu

Do you have trick-or-treaters?

Remember to visit only homes you know, and to carry a flashlight to make sure that you are visible at all times. Bright or reflective costumes are event better. Accompany all children, and be especially careful in the area of streets or intersections, making sure only to cross at marked crosswalks. Between houses, take off masks so you can see and hear what’s going on around you. Have a fun and safe night!
Crime Prevention Month

October is National Crime Prevention month. Take steps this month to make yourself and your belongings more secure.

The easiest way to prevent theft is to lock your door, even when only leaving for a short time, and to make sure that you have an agreement with roommates or coworkers to do the same. This applies to homes and dorms, too. Don’t allow tailgating unless you know the person and that they have a reason for being in the area. If you do not feel comfortable challenging someone’s reason for being in an area, particularly if they are acting suspiciously, notify a supervisor or GTPD immediately.

NEVER leave your valuables unattended in any public area even for only a few minutes. That’s enough time for a thief to take advantage of you. This includes the library, student center, and common areas of any building. Only trust people that you know to watch your things.

In vehicles, the best way to avoid theft is to remove any objects from the vehicle. This includes electronics, such as GPS devices and cell phones, spare change, CDs, clothing, and food. Lock all doors and shut windows tightly. If you have objects that you cannot take with you, put them in the trunk of the vehicle or out of sight. In many incidences of theft, the vehicle is not taken, but rather what is loose inside. Park in well lit, patrolled areas.

Consider your personal safety as well during this month. When walking at night, be sure to walk in groups and stay in well lit areas. Be aware of your surroundings; take out head-phones and put away electronics. Putting those items away makes you less tempting to a thief as well. Keep in mind that you can use the Stingerette, 404-894-7433, if you need to travel late at night.

Make sure to register your laptop and bicycle with the Georgia Tech Police Department. Information on how to do so is here. Taking this quick action can help to recover your belongings if they are stolen. To help prevent bike theft, use a U-lock, NOT a chain or cable lock. U-locks are much harder to break through. Register your bike with GTPD and receive a discount on U-locks at Barnes & Noble.

In addition to registering your laptop, take pictures of your other valuables and mark the pictures with the serial numbers of the item. Keep these pictures in a safe place hidden away from your other things. In the event that something is stolen, having pictures and numbers for the items will provide the police with important information that they can connect to your objects if they are located somewhere else.

If you have questions about crime prevention, contact Alex Gutierrez at 404-385-3346, or by email at alex.gutierrez@police.gatech.edu

GT-CERT Outreach

How would you like to show off your CERT skills to the rest of Tech? We would like to hold a public display to teach others at Tech about the program and to build interest for our next round of classes. We would like to organize some events on campus to show what the training can do for individuals and organizations. These events could include demonstrations, displays, or information distribution. If you would be interested in helping with such an event, please send an email to jkraft3@gatech.edu.

Keep in mind, the Fulton County CERT Challenge will be coming up at the end of spring, it would be great to bring two teams next year! Our team from last year placed second overall. Please send an email if you would be interested in a CERT challenge event as well.

If you have any suggestions or would like to submit anything for the newsletter, please send them to jkraft3@gatech.edu.
CERT Training Reminder

Remember when cribbing to lift an object evenly. Failing to do so can result in more pressure being applied to a victim. Make sure to keep hands out from under objects when they are being lifted, in case the object must be set down suddenly.

“Lift an inch, crib an inch!”

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

E-mail jkraft3@gatech.edu

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.

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

National News
CERT programs are growing all over the country, with more and more city, county, and university emergency management groups offering CERT training. Training has recently started in Horry County, South Carolina, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and at Seton Hall University. The training participants look forward to helping to prepare their respective communities. Thanks for being part of this growing national program, and for all you do here at Tech!