

2023 Annual Report



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Mission

The Burleson Community Emergency Response Team is a united group of trained volunteers committed to enhancing community resilience in emergencies. Through education, collaboration with first responders, and rapid response actions, we empower citizens to assist their neighbors and promote a culture of preparedness and support.

The Burleson Fire/EMS Department proudly sponsors the Burleson CERT Program.



CERT Leadership



Joe Laster

Emergency Operations Manager
CERT Program Coordinator
Burleson Fire/EMS Department

Griselda Finestead

Administrative Assistant
CERT Program Manager
Burleson Fire/EMS Department



We proudly present the Burleson Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) 2023 annual report to you. CERT has grown by leaps and bounds in 2023. Membership, community service, training hours, and special event support have all substantially grown, just to name a few. CERT volunteers dedicated multiple hours to training the Burleson community and themselves. All in the name of enhancing the community's resilience during disaster events. CERT remains a pillar of preparedness in the Burleson community, and the Burleson Fire/EMS Department could not be prouder of the Burleson CERT and their accomplishments.

Year at a Glance



**REBRANDED
ESTABLISHED
501 (C) (3)**



**COMMUNITY
EVENTS**



**NEW CERT
INSTRUCTORS**



**ENHANCED
MEMBER TRAINING**



**PARTICIPATED IN
JOINT EXERCISE W/
FORT WORTH CERT**



**RECORD HIGH
VOLUNTEER HOURS**



**SERVICE
DAY'S**



GRADUATED 22



**MEMBERSHIP
INCREASE**

Basic CERT Course

CERT training covers basic skills that are important to know in a disaster when emergency services are not available. With training and practice, and by working as a team, you will be able to protect yourself and maximize your capability to help for the greatest number of people after a disaster.

June 2023 Class- 7 Graduates



August 2023 Class- 15 Graduates



Volunteer Hours



2022

286 hours

2023

1,148 hours

CERT increased their volunteer hours by over 400% in 2023. As of 12/5/23, the Independent Sector estimates volunteer hours to be worth \$31.80 an hour. Saving the City of Burleson **\$35,517** on labor, training, and more costs.

Membership Growth

Increase in Membership in
2022

11 New Members

110% Growth

Increase in Membership in
2023

17 New Members

81% Growth





Burleson CERT Association

The Burleson CERT Association was established to bolster the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program by obtaining 501(c)(3) status. As a nonprofit organization, it aims to provide essential support and resources for the CERT program in Burleson. This designation not only facilitates fundraising efforts but also enhances the association's ability to contribute to community safety and preparedness initiatives. By operating as a 501(c)(3), the Burleson CERT Association can foster partnerships, secure grants, and engage in charitable activities that benefit the CERT program and the community at large.



Board Members 2023



**CERT Program Manager
Griselda Finestead**



**President
Jonathan Jeffers**



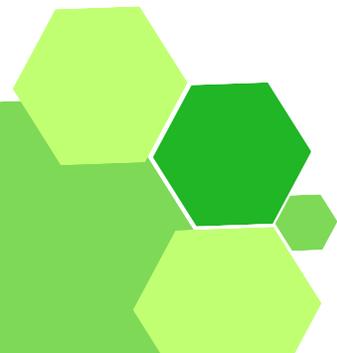
**Vice-President
William Hymes**



**Secretary
Jessica Jackson**



**Treasurer
James Staud**



Monthly Training

January

- First Aid/Search & Rescue

February

- Triage
- SKYWARN

March

- Triage Tabletop Exercise

April

- Johnson County Support Services

May

- Civilian Response to Active Shooter
- CERT Train-the-Trainer
- TDEM Conference

June

- United Way

July

- Damage Assessment
- Joint Exercise w/ Fort Worth

August

- Grid & Line Search Classroom
- ICS 300/400

September

- Grid & Line Search Practical Application
- Amateur Radio Licensing

October

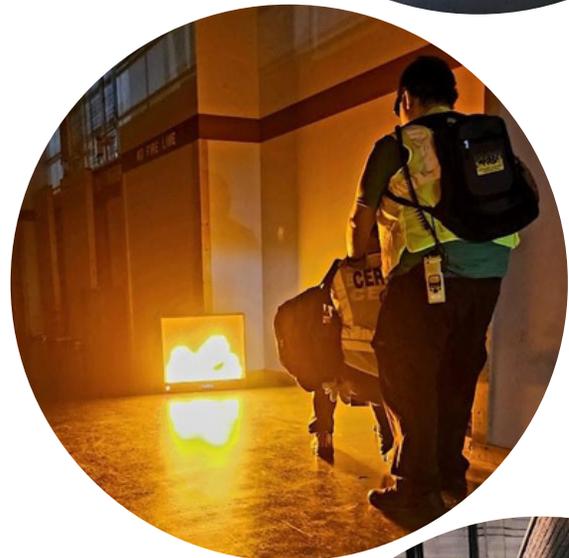
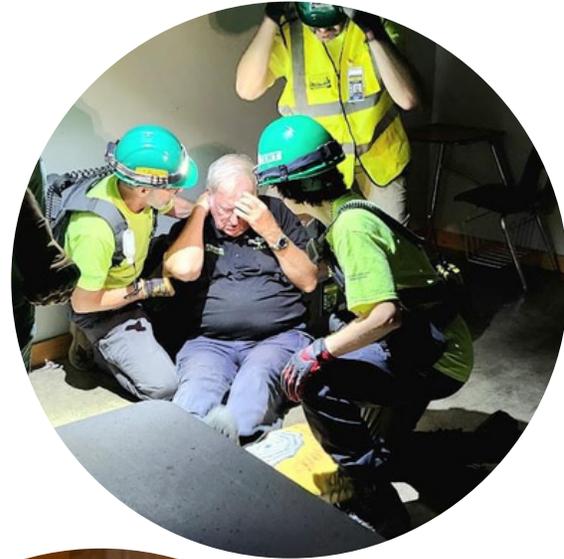
- Stop-the-bleed

November

- Better Impact

December

- Holiday Party



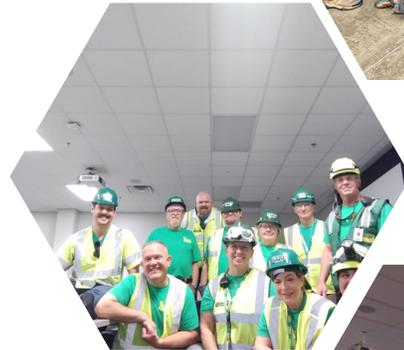
Joint Exercise



In a collaboration, Burleson CERT and Fort Worth CERT joined forces for a joint exercise on July 22 at the Bob Bolen Public Safety Building in Fort Worth. Twelve dedicated members from Burleson CERT actively participated in the event, which featured a comprehensive refresher course covering essential skills such as medical, search and rescue, and communication on radios. The training also included a crucial "Stop the Bleed" class.



Following the educational sessions, CERT members from both groups seamlessly transitioned into two search and rescue exercises, applying their newly acquired knowledge and reinforcing the power of coordinated emergency response efforts.



The CERT members found the joint exercise to be a valuable refresher, fostering skill enhancement and teamwork. Their positive feedback reflects a shared enthusiasm for future collaborative efforts, emphasizing the importance of ongoing training and preparedness within the community.



Community Events

April

- Trash Bash

May

- Honey Tour
- Super Safety Saturday

June

- Hot Sounds
- Juneteenth

July

- Hot Sounds
- 4th of July Fireworks

August

- BISD Football Game

September

- Cool Sounds
- Burleson Preparedness Fair
- Be Healthy Run
- Trash Bash

October

- Cool Sounds
- National Night Out
- Founders Day
- Boo Bash

November

- Service Project- Center for ASD

December

- BTX-Mas
- Center for ASD- Family Thrive



Special Recognition

2023 CERT Member of the Year

This year, the honor goes to Jessica Jackson, a shining example of what it means to be a dedicated CERT member. She has not only embraced the principles of Community Emergency Response Teams but has also gone above and beyond in demonstrating leadership, compassion, and resilience.

Jessica has consistently demonstrated a strong sense of duty, responding to emergencies with a calm and collected demeanor that inspires those around them. She has invested countless hours in training, acquiring, and honing the necessary skills to be an influential CERT member. Whether participating in drills, leading workshops, or assisting with community outreach, Jessica has been the embodiment of preparedness and community engagement.



What truly sets Jessica apart is her unwavering commitment to helping others. Jessica exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism and embodies the values of community, resilience, and service that define the CERT program.

Moving Forward

In 2024, CERT will continue to grow and focus on community preparedness. Additionally, CERT will work to accomplish the following...

- Continue to enhance member training.
- Facilitate two introductory CERT courses.
- Enhance special event participation.
- Build relationships with other CERT programs in the region.
- Enhance service project initiative.
- Work towards obtaining a fleet vehicle to achieve the following.
 - Quick Response
 - Versatility
 - Community Engagement
 - Recruitment Tool
 - Training Platform
 - On-site Resources



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