

NEWS RELEASE: April 19, 2012

Greene County CERT to surpass 2011 training numbers by week's end

Greene County's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will be holding disaster response exercises on Thursday, April 19 and Friday April 20 for students of the program. These exercises represent the culmination of two, seven-session training courses. With the conclusion of Thursday and Friday's exercises, CERT will have had more graduates in the first quarter of 2012 than it did in the entirety of 2011.

CERT is a program offered by the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management (OEM). It is a free class that teaches its students a wide range of disaster-related skills including general preparedness, conducting light search and rescue and how to provide basic medical care to those in need. Program graduates have the opportunity to assist the OEM in a volunteer capacity with response to various disasters and events throughout southwest Missouri. Greene County CERT's volunteers have proven instrumental in multiple OEM operations, including response to the Missouri Hotel Fire, the Joplin tornado and the 2007 Ice Storm.

The media is invited to attend these exercises. Thursday's exercise will commence at 6:30 p.m. and Friday's at 9:00 a.m. Both exercises will be held at the old Springfield Mill & Lumber Company building directly behind the Office of Emergency Management at 833 Boonville in Springfield.

For more information, contact Ryan Nicholls, Director of the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management, at 417-869-6040; or Warren Robinson, Public Information Officer for the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management at 417-869-6040 or 417-861-2478.