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The Greene County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will be expanding its range of capabilities this fall. Working with the Office of Emergency Management, the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), the National Park Service and Greene County Amateur Radio Emergency Services, CERT will be holding a wilderness search and rescue exercise on October 16 at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.

In a series of trainings preceding the exercise date, CERT members will learn how to traverse rough terrain using compasses and topographical maps. They will also learn how to coordinate search efforts on the ground, with aerial search operations conducted by CAP.

On October 16, CERT's new skills will be put to the test as team members search for volunteers playing the part of lost hikers in Wilson's Creek National Battlefield & other hidden targets. The exercise is scheduled to run from 7:30 a.m. through 4 p.m.

The press is invited to attend and may also arrange to have a reporter embedded with a search team for the duration of the exercise. Please keep in mind that the terrain CERT teams will be traversing is rough and as such anyone in the field can expect a very physically demanding day. If you are interested in embedding a reporter, please contact CERT Director Warren Robinson at the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management to make arrangements. If you are not planning on embedding with a team, the best time to gather video and audio of the event will most likely be between 8:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. Please keep in mind that, due to the nature of exercises, the times given are only estimates and subject to change.

7:30 – 8:30: Check In (At Wilson's Creek Visitor's Center)

8:30 – 9:00: Team Organization

9:00 – 9:30: Team Insertion

9:30 – 1:00: Search & Rescue Operation

1:00 – 1:30: Demobilization & Team Extraction

1:30 – 2:30: Debrief

2:30 – 4:00: Cookout

For more information, contact Warren Robinson at 417-869-6040