

NEWS RELEASE: April 30, 2009

### **CERT earthquake drill tonight at OEM**

The Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management is coordinating an earthquake response drill to test members of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) tonight, April 30, 7:30 p.m. at the Office of Emergency Management, 833 Boonville Ave., in Springfield.

CERT is a free volunteer education program coordinated by the Office of Emergency Management. The program teaches residents basic skills of disaster response, including preparedness, medical operations, fire suppression, search and rescue and terrorism awareness. Volunteers take 20-24 hours of classes before receiving certification they have mastered skills to care for themselves, their family, and their neighbors during a disaster.

Tonight's exercise will test 16 CERT members. A group of Boy Scouts will volunteer as victims. This exercise is the final step in the CERT class, challenging team members with site assessment, medical triage, patient transportation, building safety, and other skills.

"Our CERT members are committed to excellence and we are confident that they will perform above expectation," said Ryan Nicholls, Director of Emergency Management. "We encourage everyone who has not been through CERT training to register for the next class. We know it will benefit them, their neighbors and the community."

The next CERT class starts in June. To register, call the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management at 417-869-6040.

For media inquiries, call the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management at 417-869-6040; Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Greene County Public Information Officer, at 417-379-5713; or visit [www.greencountymo.org/web/OEM](http://www.greencountymo.org/web/OEM).

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