

## **Cobb CERT Community Preparedness Working Group**

### **Mission Statement**

To assist Cobb Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) in planning and implementing strategies for disaster preparation education and encouraging readiness of Cobb residents.

### **Goals and Objectives**

1. Implement approved strategies for educating residents in disaster preparedness by assisting the Cobb Coalition on Disaster Education (CCODE) and developing contacts with secondary media outlets.
2. Train CERT members who will staff the CERT desk in the EOC during disaster activation.
3. Provide support to other specialized preparedness programs and special projects as requested by the CEMA Deputy Director.

### **Accomplishments**

- Developed Neighborhood CERT (NCERT) operational manual
- Developed the pilot NCERT program, kick-off conference, and recruitment efforts
- Established Cobb Coalition on Disaster Education (CCODE) as well as databases including day care centers, churches, mosques, synagogues, and faith-based organizations to be used by CCODE and CEMA
- Developed database of CERT member skills and other pertinent information for more effective use of CERT volunteers
- Introduced CERT to local universities (Kennesaw State University and Southern Polytechnic University)
- Developed specialty databases for populations-at-risk
- Drafted manual for CERT operations during EOC activations
- Incorporated Cobb Disaster Preparedness Volunteers, Inc., a non-profit organization to assist in resource development for CERT, Cobb Medical Reserve Corps, and other projects supported by the Cobb Citizen Advisory Corps

### **Chairman of the Working Group—Gini Galvin ([vgg@mindspring.com](mailto:vgg@mindspring.com))**

Gini's medical background includes a residency in emergency medicine where she served as chief resident in emergency medicine at Grady Hospital. Her interest in pre-hospital care led to a position as the regional EMS Medical Director for the eight-county metro Atlanta area, a position she held for almost twenty years. As a part of that job, she drafted the trauma system plan for Atlanta that is currently in operation. She has also served as the district health director for Cobb and Douglas counties until her retirement several years ago and was in charge of all public health programs in those two counties.

### **Vice Chairman of the Working Group—Carol Thompson ([certthompson@comcast.net](mailto:certthompson@comcast.net))**

Carol is also Vice Chair of the Community Education Working Group and serves as scheduler for the fair booth and Skills Sustainment classes. She also chaired the Membership Administrative Support Working Group until it merged with the Community Preparedness Working Group. Her background is in the secretarial/office manager area. She served on her community's board of directors for over eight years and was president for five.