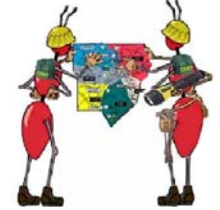


# BACK PACKS & HARD HATS



The Official CERT Team Member Newsletter

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## The Frey-Durham NCERT

By Joe Baude

Developing the Frey-Durham Cobb County Neighborhood CERT (NCERT) is truly a challenge and Sam Peng is up to it. He and his present 14 CERT and 47 NCERT volunteers are using and evaluating the effectiveness of the NCERT Operations Manual. This NCERT prototype project is fortunate to have the dedication, drive and discipline of Sam Peng and his NCERT members. When word went out that Cobb CERT's Emergency Preparedness Working Group was looking for champions to sponsor neighborhood CERT teams, Sam felt it was a chance to take CERT yet closer home. So began the Frey-Durham NCERT, a school-centered, PTA-endorsed/ sponsored NCERT.

The volunteer residents are from Brookstone, Camden Pointe, Pickett's Glen, Pickett's Plantation, Waldenbrooke Estates, Wingate Falls, Windstream communities, County Line Road and other non-community locations. The leadership committee works with

Sam, and they have an active Web page – [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NW\\_Cobb\\_CERT/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NW_Cobb_CERT/).

The Frey-Durham NCERT Web page includes easy access to messages, files, photos, links, database, area street maps, member listings, calendar, most recent messages and a yearly/monthly message history fast access table. Preparing and providing NCERT and family disaster exercises—including parents and their children—are all high priority tasks being concurrently formulated and scheduled to be put into play for our NCERT.

## Guiding CERT

By Anita Leming & Joan Mason

David Hilton, a member of the CERT Citizen Corp Advisory Council, is a natural for the CERT program. In an emergency, he is a man that you want by your side.

As the retired fire chief for Cobb County, he knows more about Cobb County than almost anyone. David Hilton was born in Haleyville, Ala., and fortunately for us, his family moved to Cobb County when he was 15 years old. He graduated from South Cobb High School and began his fire service career with the Atlanta Fire Department. David has had the support of his wife, Carolyn, throughout his dangerous career.

(see Guiding CERT—page 3)

## Preparing for Pandemic Influenza:

By Virginia Galvin

The public health community and the media have recently alerted us to the possibility of a new threat – pandemic influenza. Comparisons have been raised to the Spanish influenza of 1918-19 that decimated our country, and many other countries around the world, at the same time we were engaged in a world war.

It is important to make the distinction between pandemic influenza, the avian influenza that has been tracked during the last six months, and seasonal influenza that we deal with every fall and winter.

- Pandemic influenza is a highly contagious human influenza that causes a global outbreak of serious illness. Generally, with pandemic influenza, there is little natural immunity and the disease can spread easily from person to person.
- Avian (or bird) flu is caused by influenza viruses that occur naturally among wild birds. The H5N1 variant is deadly to domestic fowl and rarely can be transmitted from birds to humans. There is no human immunity and no vaccine is available.
- Seasonal (or common) flu is a respiratory illness that can be transmitted

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## Do You Know? Jim Killcreas

By Debbie Casteel

Some people watch the weather so they know what to wear, but at Cobb County EMA, Jim Killcreas keeps a weather eye open because it's his job. Killcreas is that unique individual who's actually in charge of watching the weather as it approaches Cobb County. His job description has him responsible for the sirens we hear the first Wednesday of every month. And should a threatening weather system pop up on the radar, Jim's responsible for alerting us to the impending dangers through the lifesaving system that's heard throughout the county with unmistakable clarity.

Where do you find a guy with the right stuff to handle a responsible job like that? Cobb County EMA found him right in our own back yard: he's a guy with a long history of volunteerism going all the way back to his Boy Scout days. Jim Killcreas learned a variety of skills after he graduated from North Cobb High School in 1976. First, he went to work with a furniture craftsman and then a locksmith. Then he began his emergency services training with Cobb County Fire Department. But it wasn't until he went to work for Cobb Emergency Management Agency that his truly special weather watching talents were discovered.

Since then, Jim Killcreas received his Certified Emergency Manager and his Master Manager certification through GEMA. He's spent over 600



hours training for emergency management. And constantly adapting to changes in technology, Jim is now responsible for upgrading Cobb County's siren system from mechanical to digital format. When the update is complete the sirens will be capable of running independently for up to six hours on their own power.

It's not all that surprising that Jim likes to read technical manuals, but his tastes do run the gamut to literature and James Michener. He's even written some short stories of his own and started a book or two that he'll surely adapt into something more when he retires from the Emergency Management Team. Jim was born in Florida, but has lived in the Metro Atlanta area since 1957. He and his wife Dedra have two children who make them very proud. His daughter, Jessica, is studying to be an English professor and his son, Matthew, is serving in Iraq with the Army's 82nd Airborne Division.

When high winds, tornadoes or dangerous thunderstorms come rolling over the horizon, it's nice to know that Jim Killcreas is on the job with a lifesaving wake-up call ready to wail away at Cobb County. But next time you hear the sound of sirens piercing the day-to-day routine of a sunny Cobb County Wednesday, you can relax knowing it's just Jim tuning up the system.

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                          Carol Thompson    Virginia Galvin

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

*Dear Back Packs & Hard Hats,  
 Yesterday I met with Lanita, and the matter of CERT forms came up. She asked that I email you and suggest that a good article in your next newsletter would be reminding CERTs that they have useful forms in the back of their manuals that they can use or use as guides in case of disaster.  
 Thanks, Carol Thompson*

Dear Carol,  
 Yes, this could be a good article in the future. This topic is important and every CERT member can address NOW by reviewing their manual and the forms included. Join me on the Cobb County EMA/ CERT Bulletin Board. We can address any questions you may have about the forms there and expedite this process.  
 Carol Pilgrim (Communications Chair)

# Guiding CERT

(Continued from page 1)



They have a son, Christopher, and a daughter, Candi, who has two children, Chrissy and Chase. David discovered his love for firefighting when he was a young man. He saw a fire truck respond to a vehicle fire and went to help. As with many firefighters, this love spread to others in his family. He understands not only the positive side of firefighting but discovered the negative when his brother, who was also a firefighter, was killed in an Austell fire. His son, Christopher, is a firefighter in the Vinings area. His grandson, Chase, is a firefighter in DeKalb County.

In 1964, David left Atlanta to accept the full-time position as chief of the Powder Springs Fire Department. Then in 1971, the Cobb Board of Commissioners voted to combine the eight fire districts into a unified fire department. David Hilton was appointed chief on Jan. 24, 1971. During that same year, he received a commendation from the president for *exceptional services to others in the American tradition*. David had climbed atop a blazing gas-filled rail car that was threatening an entire community and closed the gas valve.

Under David's leadership, the following events occurred, many of which are still affecting life in Cobb County—just a fraction of the accomplishments during his service as fire chief: In April 1973, Cobb Fire established the Fire Training Division. In 1976, Cobb Fire established a fire prevention program that was recognized internationally. Then in 1977, Cobb Fire began teaching fire safety to fifth-grade students in the public school system and later expanded the program to kindergartners. In 1979, the Training Division conducted

the first 240-hour fire recruit school. In 1981, the *Instant Firefighter*, a low-cost residential sprinkler system, was created. David traveled around the nation to promote the concept, and due to his efforts, it has become reality and has been incorporated in most building codes throughout the nation. In 1986, Cobb Emergency Management Agency was integrated into the fire service and he began plans for a program that would provide the most effective response to disasters. Also Cobb's Emergency Medical Services program was implemented and schools were established to train firefighters as basic and advanced emergency medical technicians.

David implemented a program to protect emergency vehicle drivers while responding to incidents, and along with other county officials, was instrumental in establishing a combined Police and Fire Communications Center and bringing the Emergency 911 system to Cobb. During his tenure as fire chief, the Insurance Services Office rating for Cobb dropped from class 7 to class 4; the lower rating meant savings for homeowners through lower insurance premiums.

David Hilton speaks with pride about the people represented on the CERT county map. "The beauty is they know what to do when they get there....they do a good job." His dedication to CERT extends beyond Cobb County. Being an ex-president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Hilton speaks with fire chiefs across the nation and around the world. "We are now getting calls from everywhere about our program." Hilton explains. "We get inquiries and we try to share what we have learned. We've come a long way, but we are still learning. I'm proud to be a part of the Cobb CERT Program."

## *Preparing for Pandemic Influenza:*

(Continued from page 1)

person to person. Most people have some immunity, and a vaccine is available.

Several CERT members have been actively involved in community planning for a pandemic influenza. Ann Roginsky, Carol Pilgrim, Dan Connors, Jim Shuler and Gini Galvin have been participating on the Cobb County Pandemic Influenza Planning Task Force chaired by Pam Blackwell of the Cobb-Douglas Board of Health and Lanita Lloyd of Cobb Emergency Management Agency. This group is looking at preparedness issues for all sectors of our community, including government and public safety, business, education, health and medical sectors, media/public information and

community/volunteer/faith-based organizations.

As the planning has progressed, it has become apparent that a large part of the burden for support will fall on the last sector: community/volunteer/faith-based organizations, because of the strategy that encourages "social distancing," voluntary isolation of an individual and his/her family in order to prevent spread of a disease. With an increased number of our residents "sheltering in place," CERT members can play an important role in supporting their neighborhoods, providing education and training, delivering resources, etc.

In preparation for every influenza season, CERT members and their families should always get their flu shots!

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### CERT Training Video Receives IAEM 2006 Media Award

The Cobb CERT Training Video was recently awarded Honorable Mention by the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) in the IAEM 2006 Media Awards Contest: Category D: Audio Visual - Subcategory 2: Videotapes/DVD - Division 1: Local Emergency Management. The Cobb CERT Training Video was developed to educate first responders and our residents on criteria to join the CERT program, the training that CERT members receive, how we are identified, what assistance we provide and how we interact with Public Safety during a crisis or other events.

### KSU POD Exercise on March 7

CERT members participated in the Cobb & Douglas Public Health/Kennesaw State University full-scale exercise to test the efficiency of opening a vaccination site and assess the capabilities for dispensing medication during a disaster, most specifically during a pandemic. Our very important role, acting as patients, allowed responders to identify challenges and better prepare for actual events. Weeks before the event, two CERT members also helped Public Health pack the "POD" (Point Of Dispensing) trunks filled with supplies used in the exercise.

### Awarded CEM Credential by IAEM

The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) recently awarded their highest available honor, Credential of Professional Achievement of Certified Emergency Manager (CEM), to Lanita Lloyd, Deputy Director of Cobb Emergency Management Agency (CEMA). More than 3,200 emergency managers representing local, state and federal government, private industry and military emergency managers are members of the IAEM.

### Cobb Disaster Recovery Honors CERT

On April 19, Cobb Emergency Management Agency and the CERT program were presented a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of their outstanding support to the long-term recovery of residents affected by flooding due to Hurricane Dennis.

### Cobb Coalition on Disaster Education

On April 28, the first "Community Disaster Train-the-Trainer Forum on All-Hazards Preparedness" was held. The invitation was extended to all CERT members. Ten members took advantage of this opportunity. The goal of the training is to promote and motivate Cobb County's residents to prepare themselves for any type of crisis or disaster. Those who attended this forum were encouraged to provide

instruction to organizations with which they are affiliated about how proactive preparation and education will provide increased security and safety for all Cobb residents.

### Arthritis Foundation Walk on May 5

A team of CERT members participated in the 2007 Arthritis Foundation Walk on May 5 at Atlantic Station. Members wore their CERT vests during the walk to promote our program.

### Cobb County Fourth of July Parade

The Cobb County CERT program will be entering a float and walking in the Cobb County Fourth of July Parade. If you are interested in participating in this event, please contact Jeanine Whitmire at 770-319-5914 or [Jeanine.whitmire@cobbcounty.org](mailto:Jeanine.whitmire@cobbcounty.org).

### *Cobb County CERT Classes*

#### **Wildwood Baptist Church**

4801 Wade Green Rd., NW, Acworth, GA 30102

Day classes May 3, 10, 17, and 24

(Classes on Thursdays for four sessions)

9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Evening classes meet May 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, and 24

(classes on Tuesday & Thursday for seven sessions)

6 to 9 p.m.

#### **Acworth Police Department**

4400 Acworth Industrial Dr., Acworth, GA 30101

Classes will be held in the courtroom.

Classes meet Aug. 4, 11 and 18 (classes on Saturday for three sessions) 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

#### **Burnt Hickory Baptist Church**

5145 Due West Road (Activities Room, upstairs)

Powder Springs, GA 30127

Evening classes meet Sept. 13, 18, 20, 25, 27, Oct.