



City of Murphy
206 N. Murphy Rd.
Murphy, TX 75094
(972) 468- 4000
www.murphytx.org

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Celso Martinez 972-623-8836

August 15, 2016

Registration now open for next Murphy CERT class

MURPHY (August 15, 2016) The unexpected nature of weather-related or man-made emergencies, and the accompanying need for a steady, well-prepared response are the basis for the development of Community Emergency Response Teams.

“Emergencies, by definition, do not occur on a set schedule,” says Murphy Fire Marshal Capt. Perry Elliott. “They’re just going to happen. The real question is whether or not we’ll be ready to react in a positive way.”

That’s the primary reason the Community Emergency Response Team is so critical to Murphy’s disaster preparedness.

Murphy Fire Rescue is now recruiting individuals to attend the City’s fifth CERT class. Sponsored and conducted by disaster preparedness professionals with Murphy Fire Rescue, the next CERT class begins on Sept. 22 and concludes on Nov. 12. A realistic disaster drill will follow the end of class, allowing participants to put their newly-developed skills into practice.

Applications for enrollment are accepted until Sept. 12, and applications can be submitted online through the Murphy Fire Department page of www.murphytx.org.

“In an emergency situation, we calculate that residents have to maintain self-sufficiency for up to 72 hours, with only the resources on hand. Neighborhood-based CERT teams have the training to help bridge that potential 72-hour gap between the incident and when additional help arrives,” he said.

The CERT program trains volunteers in disaster preparedness, looking for and dealing with hazards that may have an impact on affected areas. Participants learn basic disaster preparedness skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

“This kind of training cannot be picked up on the internet or by watching videos. It’s hands-on, intensive and highly-focused,” said Elliott. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, residents of Murphy and pass a background check.

More information can be obtained from the Fire Department page under Departments at www.murphytx.org or by calling Murphy Fire Rescue at (972) 468-4300 or by sending an e-mail to cert@murphytx.org.

###

ABOUT MURPHY -- Murphy is a fast-growing community located in Collin County. The population is approximately 18,020, generally characterized as highly educated with a median household income above the state average. With more than 70 percent of the land developed, the community is dominated by single-family residences. City planners strive to preserve a country feel while exhibiting an aggressive economic development stance. Money Magazine has dubbed Murphy as the 27th Best Place to Live in America for small cities, and D Magazine placed Murphy as the fifth best suburb in the 2014 list, where it has consistently ranked in the top 10.