



City of McKinney Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

McKinney Fire Department seeks new CERT volunteers

Citizens join Community Emergency Response Team to help in crises

McKINNEY, Texas (July 21, 2009) – The McKinney Fire Department Office of Emergency Management is hosting the 9th Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) class, and volunteers are needed. Classes begin on Wednesday, Aug. 12 and meet weekly on Wednesday evenings through Sept. 30. The CERT program is a nationally recognized program administered by the Citizen Corps. CERT seeks to educate people about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic disaster response skills.

“It’s important for McKinney to have trained volunteers to help the first responders during disasters that affect the entire community. Being trained in the CERT program will better prepare our citizens to respond to emergencies and disasters in the community,” said Emergency Management Coordinator Karen Adkins.

After completing the CERT training program, graduates know how to take care of themselves and their families for up to 72 hours following a disaster and can assist others until professional first responder help arrives. To be eligible for the McKinney CERT Program, applicants must be at least eighteen years old, possess a valid drivers’ license, and live or work in the City of McKinney.

The class is broken up into 9 units over 8 weeks as follows:

- Unit 1: Disaster Preparedness
- Unit 2: Fire Safety
- Unit 3: Disaster Medical Operations-Part 1
- Unit 4: Disaster Medical Operations-Part 2
- Unit 5: Light Search and Rescue Operations
- Unit 6: CERT Organization
- Unit 7: Disaster Psychology
- Unit 8: Terrorism and CERT
- Unit 9: Course Review and Disaster Simulation

For more information, please visit: <http://www.mckinneyfire.org/frameset.asp?aid=144> or contact Randall Gurney at 972-547-2866 or rgurney@mckinneytexas.org

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About McKinney

McKinney, Texas, is unique by nature. As one of the fastest-growing cities in the U.S., McKinney has a current population of 122,000. Incorporated in 1848, the city is located 30 miles north of Dallas and is the county seat of Collin County. McKinney offers rolling hills, lush trees, a historic downtown square and unique neighborhoods and developments. Visit the city's Web site at www.mckinneytexas.org or follow us on [Twitter](#).

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