

# Clinton County CERT Connection

## JANUARY 2016



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## Are You In the Loop?

This is the first issue of our Clinton County CERT Connection newsletter planned for production semi-annually each calendar year. We hope you find it interesting and informative and that it will be an effective interaction between the Clinton Co. Emergency Management Agency and you the volunteers.

You may be wondering why we chose the title "CERT Connection". This newsletter is to keep you up to date and informed. The goal is to provide you with information from the previous six month's outreach events, responses and other topics pertaining to CERT. This particular issue will include events from the entire 2015 calendar year.

Now that we are starting a new year, it is crazy to look back at 2015 and how fast the time went. It seems like each year flies by faster than the previous one. 2015 provided opportunities for additional preparedness training and outreach throughout the community. In this issue, you will read about the hard work your new, fellow CERT volunteers undertook to complete the Fall 2015 CERT course. Also in this issue is a recap on the year's outreach events.

From your Clinton Co. Emergency Management Agency, we hope you enjoy these quarterly newsletters. As good housekeeping, please take this time to let us know if any of your contact information needs updated. We will continue to send out training opportunities and upcoming events by email. Thanks again for all you do! Without your volunteerism, CERT and the Therapy Dog Program would not have such a strong role in the community.

We hope you have a Happy, Healthy and Safe 2016!  
-Chance, Dan and Amanda



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# Over 21 Diligent Class Hours

During the month of September and October, 17 ambitious Graduates participated in the Fall 2015 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) course. The participants endured 7 class sessions on Thursday nights with a total of over 21 class and hands on training hours.

The recent CERT graduates trained on a variety of topics including the following:

- Fire and Gas Safety
- Fire Extinguisher Training
- Disaster Medical and Calling 911
- Light Search and Rescue
- Disaster Psychology
- Ground Search
- CERT Organization
- Terrorism/ALICE
- A Disaster Simulation w/ Search & Rescue, Triage and First Aid

There were a variety of great presenters for this course along with participation from a number of your fellow CERT volunteers who helped



*2015 CERT Graduates from left to right: (Front row) Bill Hall, K-9 Hawk, Katey Simon, Alyssa Thompson, Cassidy Jahn (Middle row) Carole Dunkin, Kathy Rohling, Marie Romo, Lisa Kueter, Joan Wiebenga, Carolyn Moore, Juanita Ellis, Gina Sexton (Back row) Steve Rohling, David Schnier, Charlotte Dunne, Taylor Winter, Riley Reed, Bob Hill*

with anything from setup to playing a victim in the hands on training exercises.

Over the past six years, six CERT courses have been conducted. From those courses, there are currently a total of 56 active volunteers that are part of the Clinton County CERT Program.

Congratulations to our most recent CERT graduates and welcome to the Clinton County CERT group!



## THIS ISSUE'S EMERGENCY TIP:

Remember to prepare your vehicle's winter emergency supply kit with several items, including a shovel, jumper cables, a bag of sand or cat litter and warm clothes.

Also remember to check antifreeze levels, the battery and ignition system, brakes and tires.

## Do You Have Something to Say?

Would you like to include information in this newsletter? Good news, there will be available space in the upcoming newsletters for your helpful tidbits.

We want to hear from you so email me your brief article! Prospective articles can include information from your experiences or facts pertaining to volunteering, CERT or emergency preparedness. All articles are due to Amanda by the end of either June or December - [apearson@clintoncounty-ia.gov](mailto:apearson@clintoncounty-ia.gov).



## The Perks of Being a Volunteer

Thanks to your continued participation and support throughout 2015, there have been over 400 volunteer hours logged between our Therapy Dog Teams and CERT volunteers.

Below are some photos of volunteers that participated in multiple community outreach events including DeWitt and Clinton's National Nights Out, Camanche and Clinton's Fire Open Houses, the Clinton Home Depot Safety Day and over 30 Therapy Dog visits.



*Therapy Dog team Susan Pannell and K-9 Ben received many pets at The Clinton Home Depot Safety Day.*



*CERT volunteer, Bob Brashaw handed out Activity Safety Workbooks to kids at the City of Clinton's Fire Open House.*



*Therapy Dog team Stan Bates and K-9 Fiona gave hugs with a young boy at the Clinton Home Depot Safety Day.*



*CERT volunteers, Ray Peck and Barb Kahler shared information about EMA at the City of Camanche's Fire Open House*

# 5 Reasons to Add Disaster Preparedness To Your New Year's Resolution

**5 Food Equals Energy** – Local law enforcement and fire departments may be unable to get to everyone quickly during a super storm. Therefore, you should prepare for at least 3-5 days of food and water for survival.

**4 One step at a time** – Start small by planning for the natural disasters that could affect your home and family. Planning can start with relocating valuables to a higher floor or making a home inventory. You can then make more preparedness steps as the year progresses.

**3 Survival of the fittest** – By having access to survival supplies, you are making your family, pets and yourself more self-sufficient. Adequate survival materials include a shelter, warmth, first aid, emergency food, water, sanitation and protection in an emergency.

**2 Pets Count** – Bring your pets inside immediately to avoid them running off. Have newspapers on hand for sanitary purposes, canned food available so they will need less water to drink and a leash. Just as humans, pets need supplies to survive too.

**1 Practice, Practice, Practice** – Sharing survival information with your family on a meeting location in case of a fire or if separated during a disaster helps to keep your loved ones safe. Teach your children what to expect and how to respond in an emergency.



## Help Save Your Life with ALICE

ALICE training was conducted by Certified ALICE Trainers Chance Kness, Bill Hall and County Auditor, Eric Van Lancker at the county Administration Building on November 24<sup>th</sup>. There were a total of 25 class participants from county employees, members of the Sheriff's Reserve and CERT volunteers.

ALICE is an acronym for a method of responding to an active shooter event. It stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate. These steps are not sequential with Evacuation always being top priority.

The training included classroom training and scenarios included escaping, sheltering in place by barricading and confronting the shooter by throwing objects to disrupt the shooter's focus. This training used tennis balls but in a real life situation, a stapler could be your best friend in saving your life.

### CERT MEMBER'S EMERGENCY TIP:

A time change is a good reminder to check the expiration dates on the supplies in your emergency preparedness kit. Soon to be expired items can be donated to a local food bank.

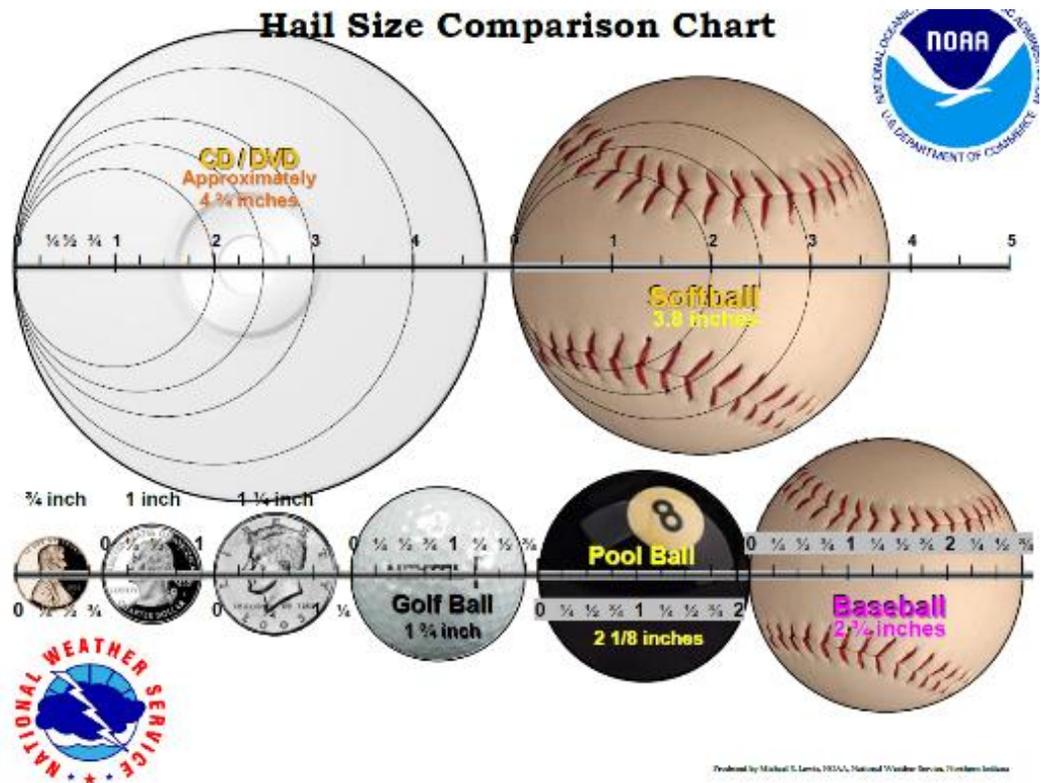
-Bob Hill

# What Everybody Ought to Know About Hail

The Outdoor Warning Siren Activation Protocols were updated this year to include hail of golf ball size 1.75" or larger. Hail can fall at speeds up to 120 mph.

Windows begin to break at golf ball size hail. To the right is a hail size comparison chart with dimensions of coins and game balls.

Remember, when the sirens sound, go inside. It is not safe to be outside.



## Looking Ahead

Mark your calendar for the upcoming training events. Communication through email will still be used to update volunteers on additional trainings that come up. If you are interested in signing up for a training, requests can be sent to Amanda unless a different registration process is required.

Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 – 8:30 pm  
**CERT Training meeting**  
 DeWitt Satellite Office (226 11<sup>th</sup> St., DeWitt)

Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 5:30 – 8 pm  
**Iowa Pipeline Association Safety Training**  
 Vista Grande (2141 16<sup>th</sup> St. N.W., Clinton)

Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 – 8:30 pm  
**CERT Training meeting**  
 EOC in the Courthouse (612 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Clinton)



**Clinton County  
 CERT Connection**  
 612 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.  
 Clinton, IA 52732  
 (563) 242-5712

### CALLING FOR TRAINING TOPIC IDEAS:

We are also looking for training topics you may have for our monthly training meetings. Don't be shy, we appreciate your input! To share your ideas, email [apearson@clintoncounty-ia.gov](mailto:apearson@clintoncounty-ia.gov).