

Please take a moment to review RCCC and CERT's Upcoming Meetings and Events, Volunteer Opportunities, Preparedness Training and General Information.

Weather Emergency Resources

For the latest information about weather, driving conditions and power, bookmark these handy resources:

Dallas area alerts and information, tune to WBAP 820 AM or KSCS 96.3 FM.

Road conditions, visit <https://drivetexas.org/>

Power outages: visit <https://stormcenter.oncor.com/> (Or to report an outage, text OUT to 66267.)

ERCOT grid conditions: visit <https://www.ercot.com/gridmktinfo/dashboards>

Mark Your Calendars: Upcoming Meetings and Events

ARES Rowlett Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) has a Net (over-the-air radio meeting) on the first Monday of each month at 2100 hours (9PM).). The next ARES NET is **Monday, February 7th**. ARES also has an in-person meeting on the third Monday of each month at 1900 hours (7PM). The next ARES meeting is **Monday, February 21st**. Both meetings include some type of training to improve our readiness for activation. For further information, please contact Mark Riaboy - Director, riaboymrcc@gmail.com

CERT Logistics Team keeps the CERT equipment rolling. They maintain CERT's many vehicles, keep the communication equipment operational, and organize power and radios during a deployment. If you're handy and organized, and want to get involved, the Logistics Team meets on the second Thursday of each month at 1900 hours (7PM). The next Logistics meeting is **Thursday, February 9th**. For more information, contact CERT Logistics Director Greg Bass, Greg.Bass1@Verizon.net.

Monthly General CERT Meeting: Equipment & Clothing Selection and

Recommendations Join us **February 16th** at 1900 hours (7PM) at Fire Admin, 4701 Rowlett Rd, Rowlett TX 75088.

CERT members are issued a basic kit, but have you ever wondered what to add to your kit, to enhance capabilities or comfort in the field? Come get pointers and recommendations on gear and clothing, with additional tips and tricks for your kits.

CERT Quarterly Drill Join us **March 26th** at the Bob Bolen Public Safety Complex, 505 W Felix St, Fort Worth, TX 76115 This will be a joint regional exercise with Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). The exercise will consist of two back-to-back iterations of a round-robin exercise intended to test essential CERT and MRC skills. The skills tested will include, but not be limited to search and rescue, size up, damage assessment, stop the bleed, medical triage and other program skills identified by your exercise planning team. More information coming soon.

Volunteer Opportunities

G317 Volunteers Needed Remember the Capstone exercise, back when you took G317? Remember all of those victims yelling and groaning? Well, you could be one of them! On Saturday, **February 26th** from 1500 (3PM) to 1800 (6PM) we need 15 volunteers to help test our G317 participants' knowledge. Think you can do it? Sign up in the new Track It Forward system here: <https://www.trackitforward.com/site/629100/event/630557>, or by logging into Track It Forward and clicking on EVENTS.

Smoke Alarm Blitz Saturday March 12th from 0800 (8AM) to 1200 (Noon). Wear your vest and badge to identify yourself as a program volunteer, and dress for the weather. We'll meet at Fire Admin, 4701 Rowlett Road, Rowlett 75088. We will not be installing smoke alarms, but volunteers will go to preselected neighborhoods to drop off literature bags door-to-door, and to ask residents to call in for assistance if a check or install is needed. Sign up to volunteer here: <https://www.trackitforward.com/site/629100/event/632828>

Assistance will be needed stuffing literature bags prior to the event. More information will be posted closer to March.

Calling all Techies! At CERT and RCCC, our volunteer members' job is response readiness. Behind the scenes, RCCC IT supports that readiness by keeping various software systems in sync. This can include data entry and cross-system validation, querying support desks for how-to answers, manning deployment software during an exercise or event, or posting on social media. If this sounds interesting, and you're willing to help, please contact Jacqueline Prescott Meyers (JP): JP@rowlettcitizencorps.org.

Preparedness Training Opportunities

Introduction to CERT (G317 Class) Interested in refreshing your skills? Know someone who's interested in joining CERT? Join us for the upcoming two-day G317 class on Saturdays, **February 12th and 26th**, from 0800 hours (8AM) to 1700 hours (5PM). You'll learn or get a refresher on Scene Size-up and Damage Assessment, Triage and Stop the Bleed, Disaster Psychology, Cribbing, Search and Rescue, Fire Suppression – and more! For more information please visit [Rowlett CERT Class Information – Rowlett Citizen Corps Council](#).

National Weather Service “Skywarn” Training the Forecasters from the National Weather Service in Fort Worth conduct storm spotter training sessions each year to help prepare spotters for the upcoming severe weather season. The NWS conducts the training in partnership with local emergency management officials who, in most cases are responsible for maintaining their local storm spotter network. The training sessions are typically about two hours long and cover fundamental information that every spotter needs to know, with a focus on safety, identification of key weather features, and proper reporting procedures.

Please remember Skywarn and ARES members must have taken the basic class at least once every 2 years, but preferably every year. Make sure to stay to the end of the class to get information on how to obtain your certificate to turn in to either Mark Riaboy (RiaboyRCCC@gmail.com) or Lori Chandler (lorichandler@verizon.net)

Upcoming classes include:

Rockwall County: Thursday, **February 17 @ 18:30 (6:30 PM)**. Registration is required. <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2654049965792408332>

Dallas County: Saturday, **February 19 @ 09:30 (9:30AM)**. Registration is required. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5059351498829447436>

Wednesday **February 23** from 1800 hours (6PM) to 2000 hours (8PM). Registration is required. <https://www.weather.gov/fwd/skywarnmap>

When Disaster Strikes - Prepare, Act, Survive will be offered by Texas A&M Engineering and Extension Service (TEEX) on **March 5th and 6th, 2022**. There will be a limited number of seats available, so please sign up as soon as possible. To register: [Registration Link for TEEX Prepare, Act, Survive Class PER 334 Rowlett TX, March 5-6](#)

Course Description: This course is designed to prepare individuals who may be directly affected by a disaster help themselves, their family and other community members. Participants will learn how to develop a family preparedness plan, practice self-rescue, perform search and light rescue techniques, and understand the recovery process.

Did You Know?

Your Time is Valuable Did you know that Rowlett Citizen Corps Council is reimbursed by the City of Rowlett for the hours that we spend supporting the city? That's only one of the reasons that time tracking is so important. And time tracking just got much simpler! RCCC has purchased a new time tracking app, [Track it Forward](#). You can download the iPhone or Android app on your phone, or log in here [Sign in to Track it Forward | Track It Forward](#). Log in using your email address and the initial password **RCCCT!m3**, to quickly and easily track your hours. Give it a try, or contact JP (jp@rowlettcitizencc.org) for help.

Equipment Recall Do you have CERT gear that you're not using? CERT could really use that extra helmet, vest or backpack. If you've got gear that's lying around and not sparking your joy, then please bring it to the next CERT General Meeting on **Wednesday February 16th** at Fire Admin. Your closet shelves and CERT will thank you.

You Can Support RCCC....FREE Rowlett Citizen Corps Council relies on the city, on grants, and on generous donations to keep our doors open and to do the work that we do. You can help by designating RCCC as your 501(c)3 of choice at Amazon Smiles, at Kroger, and at Tom Thumb. Every purchase you make will then benefit RCCC.

To designate RCCC on **Amazon Smiles**: Open a web browser, and go to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/14-1875027> Click the START SHOPPING button. When prompted, log into Amazon.

Tom Thumb Good Neighbor Program: Bring your reward card to the customer service desk at your local store, and ask them to link your card's purchases to Rowlett Citizens Corps Council, tax ID 14-1875027. Additional info: <https://www.tomthumb.com/yourstore/good-neighbor.html>

Kroger Community Rewards Program. Enroll your Kroger Plus Card at <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>