



City of Dallas

Community Preparedness Program Overview

**Public Safety Committee
September 9, 2024**

Cassandra Wallace, Manager
Community Preparedness, Outreach & Recovery
Office of Emergency Management & Crisis Response

National Preparedness Month



- Sponsored by FEMA within the Department of Homeland Security
- Recognized each September since 2004 to promote family and community disaster planning now and throughout the year
- The 2024 theme is “Start a Conversation”



Community Preparedness Programs



- Community Emergency Response Team
- Community Partnerships
- Community Engagement
- Emergency Financial Empowerment
- 2024 Preparedness Fair



Community Emergency Response Team



- CERT is celebrating 17 years of service to the City of Dallas and over 5,000 residents have received training
- Classes are offered quarterly, including one Spanish class annually
- The 20-hour CERT class includes basic emergency response skills
- Advanced training opportunities include amateur radio communications, CPR, search & rescue, and more



CERT Activations



- CERT volunteers serve at community events and disaster activations and are available to support other city departments as needed
 - Sheltering
 - Vaccine Operations
 - Public Safety Exercises
 - Damage Assessment
 - Ransomware Response
 - Resident Resource Centers



Community Partnerships



- Our Community Partners program brings local businesses and agencies together to build relationships before disasters to enhance our ability to respond when incidents occur



Community Engagement



- Disaster preparedness presentations are available upon request to educate businesses, community groups, and faith-based organizations
- Public education at community events



Emergency Financial Empowerment



- One of five cities to receive the first Emergency Financial Empowerment grant from Cities for Financial Empowerment
- Briefed to Public Safety Committee on Aug. 27
- Approved by City Council on Aug. 28



Next Steps



- City of Dallas Preparedness Fair Sept. 21
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at UNT Dallas
- Next CERT class starts Nov. 9; register at dallascert.com





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