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Barrow County CERT Inc.

For the use of
Barrow County CERT members
Only

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BARROW COUNTY
CERT

NEW MEMBER
ORIENTATION
HANDBOOK

MEMBER: _____



This booklet contains information that you will need as a member of Barrow County CERT. It is recommended that you read and keep this handbook for future reference.

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(Refer to articles 8 & 9.) Members may carry a knife as part of their response equipment. The blade on any knife carried may not be longer than four (4) inches. This article does not preclude any CERT member from participating in a non-CERT course or activity such as “CLEA” where the use of a firearm might be required. However, members would not be permitted to wear the CERT uniform at such activities.

- CERT and/or CERT members may elect not to be deployed into any situation or location that is not considered secure.
- CERT members or teams encountering any situation that might endanger the safety of the team or team members are to withdraw from the area and report this information to Law Enforcement, Incident Command or CERT Supervisor.
- CERT members are not to initiate or engage in any activity that might endanger team members or the public.
- CERT members may carry pepper spray personal safety devices provided by the team during emergency operations. Use of pepper spray devices is strictly limited to self defense.
- No weapons of any kind are permitted within any county or governmental facility except those worn by law enforcement personnel. During emergency operations this would include any support site established by any governmental entity including the Red Cross, and Public Health.
- CERT members violating any of these policies may be subject to suspension or termination, under Article V, Section D of Barrow County CERT Inc. Bylaws.

CODE OF CONDUCT

- CERT members are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with our mission and objectives.
- CERT members are not to respond to a deployment or training event if they have been consuming alcoholic beverages and are impaired in any manner. Members considered impaired by team officers or county officials will be sent home.
- CERT members are to observe all traffic regulations when responding to training exercises or real world deployments.
- CERT members responding to a training exercise or real world deployments are expected to have photo ID cards issued by Barrow County CERT and be dressed in a manner that clearly identifies the individual as a CERT member. The team membership will have the right to stipulate deployment uniform requirements. For safety reasons, boots are recommended as footwear for those who might receive field assignments. Boots will not be required for those assigned to EOC or other non-field assignments.
- When participating in public events CERT members should dress in the approved uniform. Team members and leadership may elect to revise or update the approved uniform. Any changes which would require team members to purchase new clothing items should take place over a time period decided by the team.
- Leadership or instructor apparel may only be worn at team meetings, board meetings, or CERT Training Classes.
- Firearms and weapons are not authorized and should not be carried while participating in any CERT activity or event

DOCUMENTS and IDENTIFICATION

- Team Application
- New Member Orientation Handbook
- Background Check Completed
- Identification Badge
- Accountability Tag
- Backpack Tag
- Vehicle Decal
- Team Bylaws
- Code of Conduct
- Standard Operating Guidelines
- Liability Waiver
- Communication Handbook
- Expense Re-Imbursement Form
- Call Out Procedure
- Fire Station Locations

GENERAL TEAM TRAINING

- ICS-100.b: Introduction to Incident Command
- ICS-700.a: Introduction to NIMS
- Fire Fighter Rehab
- BullEx Training System Orientation
- Trailer Equipment Orientation
- Communications Orientation
- Traffic Control
- Team Deployment or Simulation

CERT Uniform

(Refer to the code of conduct for additional information)

When activated CERT members are to report in uniform consisting of the CERT yellow vest, team tee shirt and if possible either black or khaki trousers, with boots or closed toe shoes and your backpack. For anyone who wishes to be utilized for field activities', boots will be required.

In the case of extreme weather, either cold or hot, CERT members should takes steps to dress accordingly.

CERT Apparel

CERT apparel and equipment items may be purchased at: <http://cert-kits.com>
This is the Propac Inc.
Charleston, SC. website

For Black cargo style trousers we suggest
Checking out the following website for special pricing.
<http://www.lapolicygear.com>

Leadership apparel is awarded by the team only!

MEETINGS

- Team meetings are held monthly (third Tuesday, 7pm) where we conduct training and informational presentations. In order to stay current, it is important that members attend monthly meetings. Location: Fire Station 6, 222 Pleasant Hill Church Road, NE, Winder, GA
- Leadership meetings are held monthly on the Thursday preceding the team meeting at 7pm where team organizational and business matters are reviewed and decided. Location CERT Office, behind the administrative annex, 66 McElroy Street, Winder
- CERT is a member of the county Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) which usually meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 10am, location varies.

SPECIALIZED TEAM TRAINING

- ICS-200.b: ICS Single Resource
- ICS-800.b: National Response Framework
- IS - 120.a Introduction to Exercises
- Rescue Specialist
- First Responder
- FCC Amateur Radio License
- Property Damage Assessment
- BullEx Training System Instructor
- Point of Distribution Operations (POD)

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- BRMC Health Awareness Fair
- Public Safety Day
- Auburn 4th of July Festival
- Winder Jug Tavern Festival
- Statham Sunflower Festival
- Auburn Fall Festival
- Fire Dept. Empty Stocking Toy Drive
- Fire Safety Classes
- Other events the team elects to attend.

TEAM INFORMATION

Website: www.barrowcert.org

- The team is structured in a manner similar to that used by Incident Command; Operations, Planning, Logistics and Administration. In addition, members are appointed to serve specific positions:
- Funding for the CERT program is derived primarily through an annual grant from GEMA. Member participation in the decision process relative to what is submitted for the grant is critical to this effort.
- The team does conduct fund raising events for the purpose of procuring specific team material or equipment objectives. Member participation in this activity is extremely important in achieving these objectives.
- The team website is updated on a regular basis to provide information on team activities under the EVENTS tab. Please refer to the website when you need time and locations.
- Training activities and opportunities maintained are on the website under the TRAINING tab.