



COUNTY OF DELAWARE
GOVERNMENT CENTER BUILDING
201 W. FRONT STREET
MEDIA, PENNSYLVANIA

COUNCIL

John J. Whelan
Chairman

Christine Fizzano Cannon
Vice Chairman

Thomas J. McGarrigle
Andy Lewis
Mario J. Civera, Jr.

610-891-4931
FAX NUMBER 610-891-8055
E-MAIL: delcopr@co.delaware.pa.us

Department of Public Relations
William A. Lovejoy, Jr.
Director

For Immediate Release
10/26/10
Contact: **Trish Coffell**
Communications Officer
610-891-4943



**Delaware County Offers Free Public Safety
& Emergency Preparedness Seminars**
Two-Day CERT training also offered

Delaware County residents can learn about disaster preparedness at a series of free public safety and emergency preparedness seminars that will educate people not only about their own personal preparedness, but also how to help during a greater emergency in their workplace or community.

Delaware County Council and the County's CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) program are partnering with the Delaware County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and Delaware County Community College's Institute for Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness to offer two types of seminars throughout the fall at various locations.

The county's CERT program educates people about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescues and disaster medical operations.

The county's CERT program is operated through the Department of Intercommunity Health Coordination. CERT courses benefit all citizens, helping them to be better prepared to respond to and cope with the aftermath of a disaster.

"It's important for people to be prepared for an emergency, whether it's a power outage in your home or a major disaster in the county," said County Council Chairman Jack Whelan. "CERT is about readiness, about helping people, about partnerships between local government, emergency responders and the community. Council is pleased that we can partner with Delaware County Community College and the LEPC to offer both of these seminars to our residents."

Residents can choose to participate in the three-hour personal preparedness courses or in the two-day CERT Operations courses.

All courses are free of charge and held at various locations throughout the county. Due to space limitations, the free seminars are open to adults only.

* **Personal Emergency Preparedness Awareness:** This workshop aims to increase the awareness of disaster risk, improve the community's ability to communicate and coordinate emergency management preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery efforts. Through these introductory sessions, residents will practice emergency response skills with hands-on-training, tabletop exercises and drills. Participants will also be given the opportunity to identify and coordinate volunteer service opportunities.

The Personal Emergency Preparedness Awareness Workshops will be held 7-10 p.m. on Oct. 26 at the Radnor Police Station, Oct. 27 at Brookhaven Fire Station, Nov. 8 at Collingdale Community Center and Nov. 9 at the Upper Darby Municipal Building.

* **CERT Operations:** Residents interested in more extensive training can opt to enroll in the two-day Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Operations workshops. The CERT workshops aim to educate residents on disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. The two-day CERT course will be held 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Nov. 11 and 13 or Dec. 4 and 5 at Delaware County Community College.

County Council was joined in announcing the seminars by Maureen Hennessey Herman, Director of Intercommunity Health Coordination, and Edwin C. Kline, a CERT instructor. Kline is a Swarthmore police officer and the deputy fire marshal and emergency coordinator for Nether Providence Township.

For information or to register for the courses, residents can contact the Delaware County Community College Institute for Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness at (610) 723-2008 or by visiting www.dccc.edu/emergencyinstitute/

For information about CERT programs, people can also visit www.citizen corps.gov/cert/

Personal Emergency Preparedness Awareness Workshop Schedule:

- 7-10 p.m. Oct. 26, Radnor Police Station
- 7-10 p.m. Oct. 27, Brookhaven Fire Station
- 7-10 p.m. Nov. 8, Collingdale Community Center
- 7-10 p.m. Nov. 9, Upper Darby Municipal Building.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Operations Workshop Schedule:

- 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Nov. 11 and 13, Delaware County Community College
- 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 4 and 5, Delaware County Community College