



## **MONTEZUMA COUNTY, COLORADO**

# **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS NEWSLETTER**

**November 1, 2009**

**This month's newsletter is about CERT.**

**What is it? Is it a candy mint? Is it a breath mint? (I'm dating myself referring to that old TV commercial...oh, well!)**

**CERT refers to Community Emergency Response Team.**

**The concept of CERT was developed by the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) in 1985. In response to the growing threats of wildfire and earthquake, the LAFD recognized the need for training civilians in order that they would better survive and recover from a disaster. This also provided a cadre of "auxiliary" responders who could aid victims in their immediate neighborhoods, organize "spontaneous" responders who always volunteer in time of emergency, and provide timely information to aid professional responders in deploying resources in the aftermath of a disaster.**

**CERT members are trained in basic medical triage, light search and rescue, and damage assessment. They are equipped to conduct operations as a team, answering to the incident commanders, and have proved to be invaluable during emergencies all across the country.**

**We also have a "Teen CERT" program at Montezuma-Cortez High School. This concept was developed several years ago at Eastern Michigan University as a response to high profile school emergencies such as the shootings at Columbine High School. The goal is two-fold: to create a group of trained students who can assist school officials during an emergency at a school; and to develop a career path for students who have an interest in some facet of**

emergency response, be it law enforcement, fire service or EMS. Students receive the basic CERT training curriculum, as well as career information from local emergency service professionals.

To find out more about the Teen CERT program, please contact Lori Mott at Montezuma-Cortez High School; 970-565-3722 ext. 159.

I am currently recruiting new members for the Montezuma County CERT. If you are interested, please contact me at the address and phone number listed below.

Until next month, Be Prepared!

***Doug***

**Montezuma County Emergency Manager**

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