

CERT Team Monthly Newsletter - August 2024



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Thank you, and I look forward to your feedback on this month's newsletter.

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Annual Leadership Meeting

On Saturday, August 17th, we are holding our Annual Leadership Meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to conduct the business of the group and more formally establish our team. The goal of this workshop is to identify directions and resources for the upcoming year, including new training opportunities (like Drones) and new training partners (like local fire/police departments). Come ready to discuss what steps need to be taken to move the CERT team to the next level for the upcoming year.

ALL are welcome. ALL levels of physical ability can participate in disaster preparedness to safeguard our community. Exciting times are

coming as we build our relationships throughout the county and become adopted by the Tipton County Constables.

The Value of a Mounted Patrol

by Danielle Pool, FF/EMT

Mounted patrols, involving trained personnel on horseback, offer unique advantages to Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) and search and rescue (SAR) teams. These equine units enhance the effectiveness of operations in various ways, particularly in challenging terrains and situations where conventional methods might fall short.

1. Enhanced Mobility in Difficult Terrain:

Mounted patrols can access areas that are difficult or impossible to reach by vehicles or even on foot. Horses are adept at navigating rugged terrain, dense forests, and steep inclines, allowing riders to cover more ground efficiently. This capability is invaluable during SAR operations in wilderness areas, where time is of the essence.

2. Elevated Field of Vision:

The elevated position of a mounted patrol provides a better vantage point for spotting individuals or hazards. This increased field of vision can be crucial during search operations, allowing riders to detect signs of distress, track movements, or identify safe paths through challenging landscapes. In CERT operations, this advantage helps in monitoring large crowds or assessing damage in disaster-stricken areas.

3. Quiet and Non-Intrusive Presence:

Horses can move quietly through environments without disturbing the natural surroundings. This is particularly beneficial in SAR operations where maintaining silence can be critical to hearing faint calls for help or not startling lost individuals or wildlife. In CERT scenarios, a horse's quiet presence is less likely to cause panic or disruption, making them ideal for crowd control or patrolling disaster areas.

4. Psychological Benefits:

The presence of horses has a calming effect on people, which can be advantageous in high-stress situations. For victims of disasters or lost individuals, encountering a mounted patrol can provide reassurance and a sense of safety. This psychological boost can be particularly valuable in SAR operations involving frightened or disoriented individuals.

5. Versatility and Endurance:

Horses can carry equipment, supplies, and even individuals if necessary, providing a level of versatility that enhances the operational capacity of CERT and SAR teams. Additionally, horses have greater endurance than humans over long distances, allowing mounted patrols to sustain operations over extended periods without fatigue.

In conclusion, mounted patrols offer a combination of mobility, visibility, quiet presence, psychological support, and endurance, making them an invaluable

asset to CERT and search and rescue teams. Their ability to operate in difficult terrain and provide a non-intrusive yet reassuring presence can significantly enhance the success of emergency and rescue operations, ultimately saving lives and ensuring better outcomes in crisis situations.

Photo: Anderson, SC: CERT Team conducts search & rescue training.



Stay Informed & Get Connected

For the latest updates on community safety, crime prevention tips, and local events, we encourage you to visit the Tipton Constables Facebook page. Stay informed about the efforts of our dedicated law enforcement officers as they work tirelessly to keep our community safe. By following the page, you'll gain access to valuable information, timely alerts, and opportunities to engage with your local constables. Join the Tipton Constables Facebook community today and be an active participant in fostering a safer, more connected neighborhood. Your involvement makes a difference!

[CERT Team Website](#)

[Constable's Blog](#)



Photo: Anderson, SC: CERT Team members assisting law enforcement with a missing persons case.

Law Enforcement & CERT

by Michael J. Osborn, Constable, District 7

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) play a crucial role in augmenting the capabilities of local law enforcement during emergencies and disasters. By working closely together, CERT and law enforcement can create a more effective and coordinated response, ensuring the safety and well-being of the community. Here are some key strategies for how CERT teams can best collaborate with law enforcement:

1. Establish Clear Communication Channels:

Effective communication is the foundation of successful collaboration. CERT teams should establish and maintain open lines of communication with law enforcement agencies before, during, and after emergencies. This includes participating in joint planning sessions, regular updates, and using compatible communication tools during operations. Clear communication ensures that CERT teams receive timely information and instructions, allowing them to respond efficiently.

2. Understand Roles and Responsibilities:

CERT members should have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities in relation to law enforcement. While CERT teams are trained to provide support in various capacities, it is important to recognize that law enforcement agencies are the lead entities in maintaining public safety. CERT teams can best assist by performing tasks that free up law enforcement resources, such as managing crowd control, providing first aid, or conducting preliminary damage assessments.

3. Joint Training and Exercises:

Participating in joint training exercises with law enforcement helps build trust and improves coordination during actual emergencies. These exercises allow CERT members to become familiar with law enforcement procedures and

protocols, ensuring smoother collaboration. Joint drills also provide an opportunity to identify potential challenges and refine strategies for working together effectively.

4. Share Local Knowledge:

CERT teams often consist of community members who have in-depth knowledge of their local areas, including potential hazards, vulnerable populations, and key resources. Sharing this local knowledge with law enforcement can enhance situational awareness and improve the overall response strategy. CERT teams can also serve as valuable liaisons between law enforcement and the community, providing insights that may not be immediately apparent to outside agencies.

5. Maintain Flexibility and Adaptability:

Emergencies are dynamic situations that require adaptability. CERT teams should be prepared to adjust their actions based on the evolving needs of law enforcement. This may involve shifting priorities, taking on new tasks, or assisting in unforeseen areas. By remaining flexible and responsive, CERT teams can maximize their value to law enforcement during crises.

6. Respect the Chain of Command:

In any emergency response, it is crucial to respect the established chain of command. CERT members should always follow the direction of law enforcement officers and adhere to the protocols in place. This ensures a unified and coordinated effort, minimizing confusion and enhancing the effectiveness of the response.

In conclusion, CERT teams and law enforcement agencies can achieve a powerful synergy by working together effectively. Through clear communication, mutual understanding of roles, joint training, sharing local knowledge, maintaining flexibility, and respecting the chain of command, CERT teams can provide invaluable support to law enforcement during emergencies. This collaboration ultimately leads to a more resilient community and a more successful response to crises.

Let's Connect...

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What's a Constable?

Constables operate as individually elected county officials at no cost to the citizens or governments of the county. Constables supply their vehicles, fuel, and equipment. They stand ready to aid or assist all citizens and/or agencies within the county. The Tennessee Constable is a non salaried office! ABSOLUTELY no tax dollars are used to support the Constable's office.

The mission of the Constable's Office is to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Tipton County by working collaboratively with area law enforcement, General Sessions court, and our community to prevent crime, enforce the law, increase mobility, and target violent offenders for prosecution.

They supplement the county Sheriff's Office and local Police Departments. Constables are also at the disposal of the various fire departments, EMS units, and rescue squads as well as any state or federal agency which might have use of their services.

Integrity - Compassion - Service Before Self - Excellence