



CITY OF KIRKLAND

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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager
From: Kevin Nalder, Director of Fire and Building Department
Date: 11/05/10
Subject: Special Presentation

RECOMMENDATION:

Recognize the graduates of our Community Emergency Response Team course with a brief explanation of the program and award them Certificates of Completion.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

KIRKLAND GRADUATES TWELFTH CLASS

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program trains citizens to prepare for and respond effectively to disasters. The 29-hour CERT course is taught by a trained team of first responders and other professionals. Training covers the Incident Command System, disaster preparedness, fire suppression, basic medical assessment and first aid, light search & rescue operations, and disaster psychology.

CERT members understand the risks disasters pose to people and property. They have taken steps to reduce hazards and lessen the impact of disasters once they have occurred. When disasters overwhelm local response capability, they are trained to take care of themselves and give critical support to their family members, neighbors, and others in their immediate area until professionals arrive. When first responders arrive, CERTs will be able to provide them with useful information and support. Later, they will be able to help the City reestablish stability to the community. CERTs may also help with non-emergency projects that help improve the safety of their community.

Twenty six students graduated from Kirkland's 12th CERT course, November 21, 2010. Anyone wishing to obtain this comprehensive and fun training is encouraged to visit the City website or contact Program Coordinator, Robin Paster, in our Fire Department. People who live, work or attend school in Kirkland or Fire District 41 can take the course at no cost. Others are welcome to participate, on a space-available basis, for a fee of \$25.00, which helps defray some of the course costs.