



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Dave Ramsay, City Manager  
**From:** Jeff Blake, Director of Fire and Building Department  
**Date:** 10/16/06  
**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 FOURTH CERT CLASS**

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program trains citizens to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their communities. When emergencies happen, CERT members can give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims, and organize untrained volunteers at disaster sites. CERT members may also help with non-emergency projects that help improve the safety of their community.

The 24-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 take steps to reduce hazards and lessen the impact of disasters once they have occurred. When disasters overwhelm local response capability, they will be able to give critical support to their families, neighbors, and others in their immediate area until professional help arrives. When professionals arrive, they will be able to provide useful information and support first responder efforts. Later they will be able to help efforts to reestablish stability to the community.

Kirkland's fourth CERT course, graduating Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, inaugurates the second year of the City's program. The course will be offered again throughout the winter, spring and fall of 2007. The next course is scheduled to begin Jan. 9, 2007. Residents in the Kirkland fire response area (Kirkland and Fire District 41) are welcome to participate. Residents outside this area will be accepted on a space-available basis.