



CITY OF KIRKLAND

123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3000
www.ci.kirkland.wa.us

MEMORANDUM

To: Dave Ramsay, City Manager
From: Jeff Blake, Director of Fire and Building Department
Date: 03/06/07
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 FIFTH CERT CLASS

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program trains citizens to prepare for and respond effectively to disasters. 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 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.

Kirkland's fifth CERT course, graduates March 3, 2007. The next two courses will run from April 18 to June 2 and 9. One will be held, to train employees who will form a City CERT team; the other will be held Wednesday evenings. Both courses will also be open to the public. Residents and people who work 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.