



Lealman Community Emergency Response Team

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2009 CERT-VOAD Hurricane Conference Vendor Information

Last year the Lealman Fire District's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program sponsored the first-ever statewide Hurricane Conference dedicated to increasing the skills and knowledge of CERT members in the area of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery from tropical events. The event was attended by over 160 CERT members from 20 Florida Counties. The conference was well received by attendees and the vendors with over 90% stating that they would return next year and 100% saying they would recommend the conference to other members!

Due to the success of the 2008 conference, we are pleased to announce that the Lealman Fire District's CERT Program will be hosting the 2009 CERT/VOAD Hurricane Conference on May 1st & 2nd at the Seminole Campus of St. Petersburg College located at 9200 113th Street North in Pinellas County, Florida. The 2009 conference will reach out to CERT members and also to members of other Voluntary Organizations Assisting in Disasters (VOAD) across the country. In addition to the host conference, we will be providing a live feed to mini-conferences around the nation. Local CERT programs can purchase the feed and design their conference around the 16 hours of national programming. Local CERT Programs also have the ability to utilize a DVD-set of material if they wish to hold a training program at a later date.

As you know volunteers are rapidly becoming an invaluable resource to numerous organizations across the country. CERT members are specifically dedicated to consistently pursuing additional trainings, skills, and knowledge to be better prepared. They continue to exceed expectations in all they do and the programs continue to grow each and every year. CERT members also have a keen interest in equipping themselves in order to be better prepared to handle an emergency in their community. In addition to providing quality training, we would like to provide members the opportunity to view and purchase quality products from vendors such as yourself.

We realize that the current state of the economy is affecting your business and as such we are keeping the vendor registration fees for the expanded conference at the same level as the 2008 conference. The 2009 Conference fee is \$300. However, this price can be lowered dollar for dollar (up to \$100) if you provide merchandise to be given away during the conference. Vendors will be provided an 8' x 8' area with a table and two chairs. In addition to the Host Conference site, we are able to offer 30-second time slots to vendors wishing to gain national exposure during the live feed and DVD. Pricing for this option is available on the registration form. We believe this will be a great opportunity for everybody involved to form new and continued relationships. Please bring items to sell if applicable!

We welcome the opportunity to further discuss the vendor opportunities at the conference. Your contact and event liaison for the conference will be Kathryn Stover. She can be reached at 727-687-8598 or by emailing kstover.lealmancert@gmail.com. We are looking forward to a great conference and hope that you will see the value in participating.

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