

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Victoria County Completes First CERT Training**



*Pictured above: The students and instructors who participated in the first Victoria County Community Emergency Response Team Training that was completed on January 24, 2009.*

Victoria County began 2009 by training its residents to be more aware and better prepared in the event of a disaster. They are pleased to announce the completion of the first Victoria County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training on January 24, 2009.

Victoria County officials were excited to obtain funding to launch their CERT Program last year, and county emergency management officials eagerly set to work recruiting volunteers who were interested in receiving disaster preparedness training in their community. For many months, they recruited volunteers from their community by participating in various community events that supported public safety, whether it was Safety Day at the local mall or a larger statewide sponsored event such as the *Ready or*

*Not? Preparedness Campaign* sponsored by the Texas Department of State Health Services. They successfully recruited a group of volunteers from a variety of areas, including the Victoria Civilian Police Academy, Victoria Civilian Fire Academy, as well as members of the community who had no background in emergency response. Recruiting such a diverse group of volunteers proves that anybody who is interested in helping their community can.

“Having seen the impact of a well-trained CERT firsthand in the past, I am very excited by the graduation of Victoria's first CERT,” said Jeb Lacey, Victoria County Emergency Management Coordinator. “These volunteers represent what is so great about our region. Victoria is a community brimming with people who want to help and a desire to learn how.”

Volunteers have learned such skills as basic fire suppression, how to prepare themselves and their families in the event of a disaster, and many more important preparedness activities. By the end of this class, participants clearly understood not only how to help themselves, but how they can help their county emergency management department if a disaster occurs in their community.

The funds for the group's training expenses were made available through a small grant from DOW Chemical, and the support of Victoria County Office of Emergency Management staff Brenda Rosbottom, Lorrinda Osborne, Richard McBrayer, and Jeb Lacey. Brenda Rosbottom stated, “We are extremely proud of our first team, and look forward to training many others in our community.”

**About Citizen Corps:** *Citizen Corps offers volunteer opportunities to support local fire, law enforcement, emergency medical services, and community public health efforts. With the added support of citizen volunteers, emergency service providers have more time to fulfill their highly skilled responsibilities to make our communities safer, stronger and better prepared. To learn more about the Citizen Corps Program, go to [www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov) and [www.texascitizencorps.org](http://www.texascitizencorps.org).*