



CERT “PREPPER” PAGE

MARCH 2023

Develop a “FAMILY COMMUNICATION PLAN”

Even though we cannot predict or prevent earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, or other natural cataclysmic events, we can prepare our families to cope and survive as optimally as possible. Learning what communication options are available during and after a disaster will bring confidence that you can better protect you and your loved ones. Establish a meeting place where family members can gather in the event of an emergency. You may want to select a local school or church. In a case where it is not possible to gather, having a common message center is vital. One of the most important keys to receiving and sending information to family members who may be in various places when a disaster occurs is through an out-of-state contact. This is a friend or relative designated to handle messages should you not be able to call or locate your local family members. While most local private phone lines may be out of order for hours after a disaster strikes, land lines (phones connected to wire you use to hang on a wall) are usually operable much sooner. The out-of-state contact can receive and relay messages from family members so all members are informed and have current info about each family member.

Tips for communication:

1. Everyone should carry with them, a card with the out-of-state contact’s name, address with day and evening phone numbers. Let your children’s school know who the out-of-state contact is for your family or that your child has that information on a card in their backpack or lunch box. That way if your children are at school and you cannot pick them up, School representatives will know whom to relay a message concerning where your children will be taken.
2. Sometimes Text messages will get through when a phone call won’t if the cell towers are jammed. Texting uses less band width.
3. When charged, most cell phones will be able to call 911 even if they are not active on a network. It may be wise to keep a spare charging cord and power supply for emergency use.
4. Keep, or get a battery operated radio that can receive on AM and FM frequencies and know where to turn for information from officials. Keep extra batteries and check often to ensure the equipment works. A battery radio with hand crank or solar charging is a good option. Willard has an emergency broadcast station at 1620 on your AM dial which broadcasts continuously and will be updated with current information as required.
5. Code Red is the county emergency information system. You can find how to sign up by going to Willard City Web page and follow the links.

Register for the upcoming Willard CERT Training Classes to learn much more local, useful, helpful information for you, your family and our community.

2023 SPRING C.E.R.T. TRAINING CLASSES

The State requires each student to complete all 6 sessions (24 hours) to be a fully certified CERT Member

All classes are held at Willard City Office Building, 80 West 50 South.

The cost is \$10 per person. Classes will be offered in-person only this year.

Class Dates: Tuesday, March 7 & Thursday, March 9 6:30 PM

Saturday, March 11 9 AM – 3 PM

Tuesday, March 14 & Thursday, March 16 6:30 PM

Saturday, March 18 9 AM – 3 PM