

Community Emergency Response Team Newsletter

1 July 2005

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TEAM MEMBERS

Bernice Myer
 Carter Myer
 Bob Hart
 Alisa Gilley
 Joan Durkin
 Greg Witmyer
 Karen Daniels
 Chris Kubricky

The Millers Island Community Emergency Response Team

I'd like to take this time to introduce a very important component of the Millers Island Community Association. We all lived through Tropical Storm Isabel and we all have been affected by her vengeance in one way or the other. I'm a firm believer of using every experience in a productive way. With that being said, we now are in the process of putting together our very own Community Emergency Response Team, commonly known as CERT. This team is made up of Millers Island residents that are willing to volunteer their time for the sake of their own families and neighbors. Currently the following residents have stepped up to the plate

for the benefit of every Millers Island resident. So let me introduce our team. Bernice Myer, Carter Myer, Bob Hart, Alisa Gilley, Greg Witmyer, Joan Durkin, Karen Daniels, and Chris Kubricky. I thank each of you for your dedication and willingness to participate.

As you can see this is a relatively small group at this time and we are hoping that in the next couple of weeks as we conduct door to door interviews throughout the community, some of you decide to join. There is a training session that we will be participating in. This training is free and will be conducted by Baltimore County. We will

learn basic first aid, emergency evacuation skills, how to prepare for disasters etc. Training will take place locally, in the North Point area. So give us some thought and come out and join us. If interested give me a call, Bernice (410) 978-1920



National Hurricane Center Predicts Above Average Activity During the 2005 Atlantic Hurricane Season

The National Hurricane Center (NHC) together with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) has forecasted an above normal hurricane season for 2005. There were 9 hurricanes, 6 tropical storms, and 1

tropical depression during the 2004 Atlantic hurricane season.

"NOAA's prediction for the 2005 Atlantic hurricane season is for 12 to 15 tropical storms, with 7 to 9 becoming hurricanes, of which 3 to 5 could become major hurricanes," said

retired Navy Vce Adm. Conrad C. Lautenbacher, PhD., undersecretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator. For more information visit the National Hurricane Center website at:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>

Isabel in Retrospect - What Could CERT Do?

As residents of Millers Island, we will never forget the evening of September 18, 2003. Hurricane Isabel arrived in Maryland on this night after leaving a trail of destruction along the coast of the Southeast United States.

Hurricane Isabel should serve to teach us some valuable lessons. The varying methods of damage resulting from a hurricane was all to clear on Millers Island. The river side of the island



was affected by storm surge and flooding while residents on the bay side faced the added threat of battering waves. There are numerous ways that each threat (i.e., hurricane, tornado, power outage, etc., etc.) can affect our community and being prepared and organized is the first and most important step we can take to help prevent future losses.

A CERT team is generally the first response available in a disaster. Teams can help to deliver the most up-to-date information, begin evacuation efforts, assist emergency personnel with rescue and recovery operations, and coordinate relief efforts for community residents. CERT personnel are trained in basic life support and sometimes can make the difference between life and death in a disaster.

For more information about CERT or to volunteer contact Bernice Meyer at 410-978-1920.

What Can You Do To Protect Yourself

While many hazards exist, hurricanes and flooding represent the most obvious threat to residents on Millers Island. There are many steps you can take to protect yourself when faced with a hurricane or flood warning.

Stay informed. The Baltimore metropolitan area offers a number of television and radio stations which provide up to the minute update on threatening weather situa-

tions. It is important to keep fresh batteries and an inexpensive but reliable battery-powered radio in the event that power is lost.

Heed warnings: If authorities advise evacuation, do so immediately. Their recommendation is based on expert information from the NOAA and NHC. Being prepared to evacuate and following instructions given by local authorities can save lives.

Be prepared: If conditions allow you to remain in your home, be prepared to be without power and water, and telephone service for a sustained period. Have an evacuation plan in the event that conditions worsen. Finally, always remain in contact with family and neighbors.

Future issues of the newsletter will offer more information for disaster preparedness.

Millers Island CERT Members Will Be Visiting Your Home

During the next couple weeks Millers Island CERT members will be coming to you home to tell you about this very important component of the Millers Island Community Association. CERT members are community volunteers and residents of our community. Keep in mind this committee has been formed for the benefit of our community and everyone that resides

here in it. So please take a few minutes and meet your CERT representative. You will be asked to complete a one page one side form with the representative. This form is so that we know who you are, where you live so we can get to you in the event of an emergency. You will be asked if you have anyone in your home with special needs and/or medical equipment. You will also be

asked if you have any special skills, fireman, police, EMT, doctors, nurses, veterinarians, BG&E, coast guard skills etc. This is a serious group, and we take what we doing very serious. The CERT team members will enroll in training that will be supplied by Baltimore County. So expect to see us and we hope you will cooperate. Thank you for helping us to help you.