



## Program a CERTain Success

Two years ago, residents at Lakefront Mobilehome Park started their own Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) program due to the threat of fires and earthquakes that plague the area of Lakeside, San Diego.

Lakefront's CERT team currently consists of thirteen actively trained certified members. "We have assembled a team of individuals who are committed to the community, and will be ready when a situation arises," says resident manager Rick Hubert. "Our philosophy at Lakefront is *when not if*."

Every team member is trained in fire suppression, triage, and search and rescue. "Each member is responsible for a particular job, and collectively we all help one another," explains Rick.

On Saturday August 21, 2010, the Lakeside fire district helped the community host an open house for all Lakefront residents, as well as residents from neighboring manufactured housing communities. The purpose of the open house was to provide attendees with as much information and literature as possible to help them prepare for, and survive, emergencies such as earthquakes or fires.

"A number of fire and rescue demonstrations were held throughout the day by our CERT team members," stated Rick. "We were also very fortunate to have *Bella*, a nationally trained search and rescue dog demonstrate a mock drill for rescue."

The local community was very supportive of the event, which received press coverage from the Lakeside Chamber of Commerce, the *East County Gazette* and the *East County Magazine*. The Farmers Insurance Group was also instrumental in distributing an informative compact disc, *Before the Threat*, to all east county home owners.

The open house was extremely popular with attendees. Over 100 residents from the community participated in the program. It was also well attended by residents from other communities. "We received many contributions as a result of our efforts. We collected money and equipment for the program, and eight new residents signed up to become members of the CERT team. We are now self functioning, and will be able to provide our residents with peace of mind when a disaster strikes," says Rick. ■

Thanks to Rick Hubert for contributing this story.

Lakefront Mobilehome Park is managed by Vedder Community Management.