



Human Services (HS)

Human Services and Office of Emergency Services Provide County's First Employee CERT Training

HS Connection Staff

One by one, Children and Family Services (CFS) staff skillfully extinguished flames outside the Rialto Fire station. The fire suppression exercise was just one of the lessons learned during this pilot training. In the weeks to follow, employees also learned the basics of Disaster Medical Operations, Light Search and Rescue Techniques, Disaster Psychology, Terrorism and other disaster preparedness topics. The training concluded with a full scale disaster simulation exercise held at a local fire station. The modules taught are all part of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training.

This was the first pilot CERT training for San Bernardino County employees. CFS Safety Coordinators attended the training which was made possible by a partnership between Human Services and the Office of Emergency Services, according to Sherri Misener, Emergency Services Coordinator for Human Services.

"CERT training gives basic training skills to our employees so that they will be able to do the most amount of good for the most amount of people in the shortest amount of time," said Misener. "It allows them to focus on keeping themselves, family and/or co-workers safe. It really gives them the tools to take control following a disaster or emergency situation."

Attendees left the training with a greater awareness of what to do following a disaster.

"What I really valued about this class is learning about triage, and how to move quickly and assess head to toe for injuries," said Martha Neider, Supervising Office Assistant in Children and Family Service's Yucca Valley office. "It has been a wonderful experience and I would do it again and I have encouraged other people at work to enroll in CERT training."

Based on the positive response and the need for this type of training, the goal will be to continue CERT trainings for Safety Coordinators in other Human Services departments in the future. For more information, contact Sherri Misener, Emergency Services Coordinator at HSEmergencyServices@hss.sbcounty.gov.

