

NCTCOG Regional Hot Stuff Award Nomination

The City of Lancaster received heavy damage from the severe weather outbreak experienced in the DFW region on April 3, 2012. That Friday, April 6th, the City of McKinney received a request from the Lancaster EOC to coordinate a region wide CERT response to assist with various assignments on Saturday, April 7th. CERT Teams served as advanced Public Relation Teams going door to door in the damaged neighborhoods conducting the following tasks:

- Collecting signed property waivers from residents that would allow volunteers to come onto their property; and
- Handing out information that would direct residents to the Disaster Assistance Center (DAC) to get assistance.

Upon securing property waivers, CERT Teams conducted debris removal by picking up and moving debris from private property to the right of way.

This coordinated response would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of Captain Chad Husbands and Assistant EMC Randall Gurney. Both were asked to serve the City and citizens of Lancaster on a holiday weekend. Both did not hesitate to accept the assignment to assist a neighboring community in need.

Captain Husbands served as the CERT Field Commander directing a total of 110 CERT members representing 14 counties/cities within the region. CERT members visited 500 homes disseminating information about the Disaster Assistance Center, secured 111 debris removal waivers and moved debris to the right-of-way at 109 of those properties. The day was long and the work was hard but our CERT Teams prevailed in conducting a successful operation.

Randall Gurney served as the Liaison Officer between CERT Field Command and the Lancaster EOC ensuring that objectives from Lancaster were met and all concerns from the field handled in a timely manner. He also compiled updates every two hours outlining the work that had been accomplished.

Both Captain Husbands and Randall Gurney are leaders in the McKinney Fire Department CERT program and have been advocates for CERT and its mission since becoming involved with the program several years ago.

Most often the tireless efforts of those behind the scenes go unnoticed. Captain Husbands' and Randall Gurney's selfless service to public safety and the citizens of North Central Texas is to be commended.

I respectfully ask that you consider Captain Chad Husbands and Randall Gurney for a NCTCOG Regional Hot Stuff Award.

Sincerely,

Karen Adkins
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