



Missouri Community Emergency Response Team Association

1st Quarter 2022

Issue 1

MO CERT A Website: www.mocerta.org or find us on Facebook Missouri CERT Association

State Coordinators Note

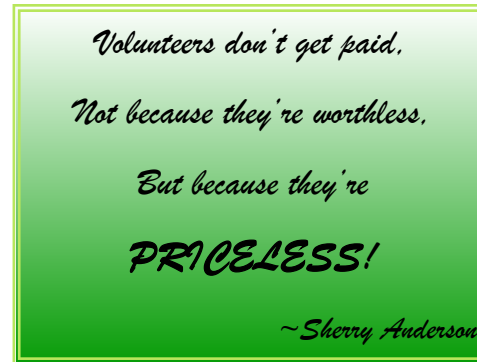


Welcome to 2022, what a year 2021 was! We had a turn-over in CERT leadership at the state. Steve Tatlow left Human Services to pursue other opportunities, only to return and become the Show-Me Response/Medical Reserve Corps. Coordinator. We held mass vaccination clinics and COVID testing sites throughout the state that many CERTs helped with. We held a National Conference in Springfield during a pandemic and not one case of COVID was reported from it. At the pre-conference training we held four classes, Roadmap to Resilience, CERT Program Manager, CERT T-t-T and Management of Spontaneous Volunteers and all the classes were FULL. The Missouri CERT Association was born out of the conference and we can't wait to work with each one of the Missouri CERT Teams to bring training, conferences and resources to you.

Whew, that's a lot for one year!

In 2022 I hope that we as a state can train more, have more in-person meetings and expand the roles for CERT members. Please be safe in all you do throughout the year. Also, if you have meetings that you would like a member of the Association to come to please contact me, tina.brown@sema.dps.mo.gov, and I will be happy to pass along the information.

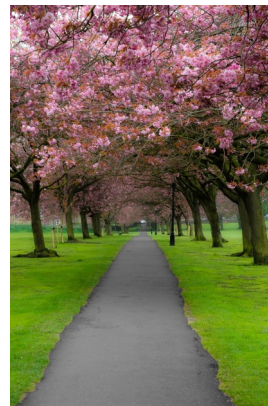
Sincerely,
Tina Brown
State CERT Coordinator



Upcoming Trainings

If you have upcoming trainings and you want them advertised send them to our PIO,

Samantha Henley at
Sam_Henley@camdenmo.org.



Frequently Asked Questions

What is CERT? The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness of hazards that may impact area and trains them in basic disaster response skills.

Would I have to respond to disaster? You are not an intentional 1st Responder. CERT training DOES tell you what to do if you happen upon an accident, a natural disaster, or other emergencies that take place in your community. It does take time for 1st Responders to arrive.

Why should I take CERT Training? Local business, and government can prepare for emergencies, but they can be overwhelmed by large-scale events. CERT training gives you the skills, abilities, and organization to take care of your family and neighbors until help arrives.

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MO CERT Association Map

Regional Directors

Region A

Rural - Cassidy Poteet; cpoteet@jocoema.com

Urban - Michael O'Neal; michaeloneal@plattsheriff.org

Region B

Tish Diggins; DwigginsL@gmail.com

Region C

Rural - Sidney Casey; scasey@bolesfiredistrict.org

Urban - Michael Thiemann; miketh@metrowest-fire.org

Region D

Phil Amtower; philamtower@christiancountymo.gov

Region E

Jim Watkins; jimwatkinscert@yahoo.com

Region F

Elizabeth Thompson; EThompson@boonecountymo.org

Region G

Sam Stephens; stephenss@stlouis-mo.gov

Region H

Mike Guyett; mguyett88@yahoo.com

Region I

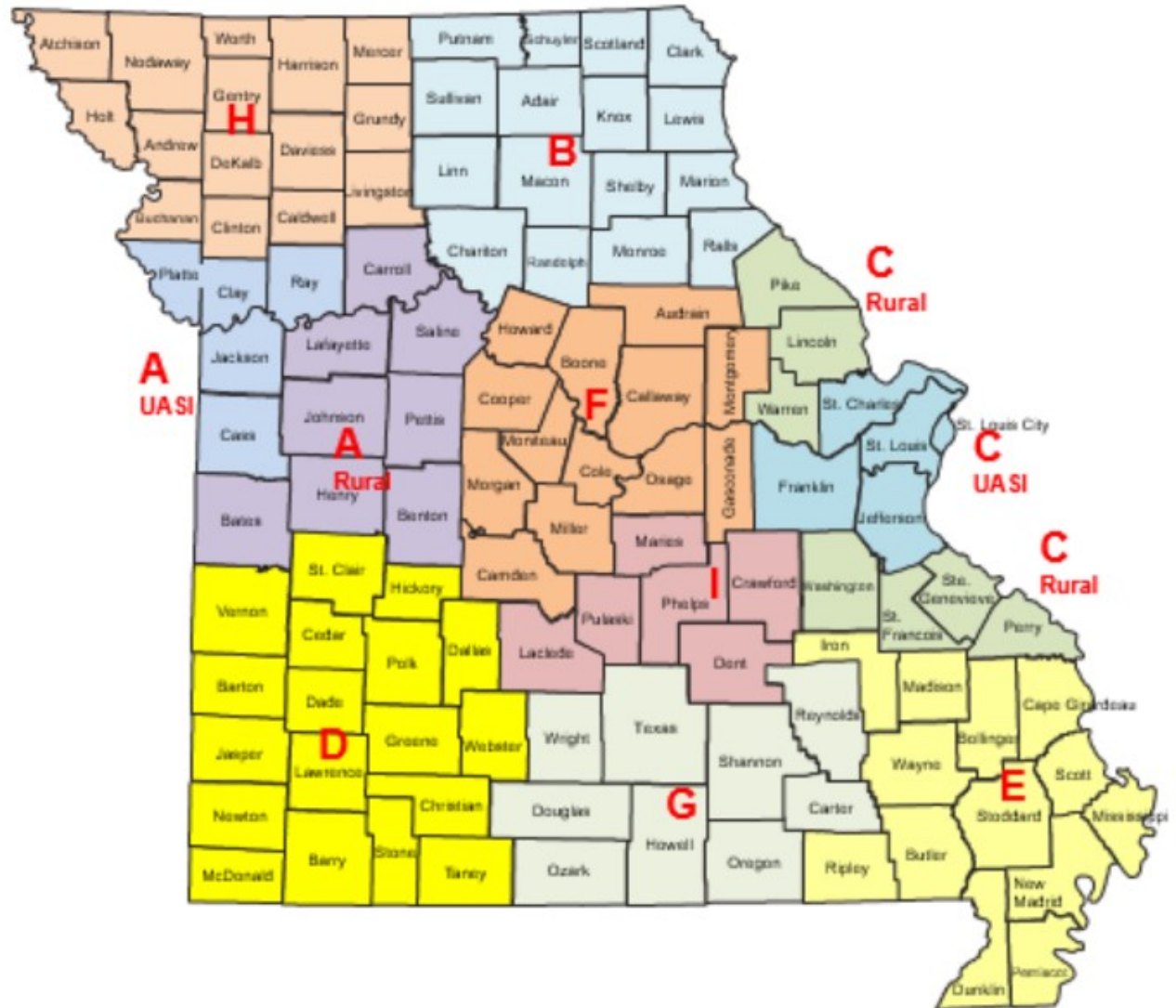
David Miller; dlmiller.lccert@gmail.com

PIO

Samantha Henley; Sam_Henley@camdenmo.org

Treasurer

Michelle Kidwell; MichelleKidwell@cceoc.org





Meet the Association Directors



In late 2018, Cassidy Poteet was hired as the Deputy Director of Johnson County Emergency Management Agency based in Warrensburg, MO. In this capacity, she oversaw the Johnson County Community Emergency Response Team, as well as all Emergency Management Volunteers. Other duties assigned included Account Management and Grant Administration. While serving as Deputy Director, Poteet was able to create the Rural Region A CERT Committee which brings together CERT Program Managers and Sponsoring Agencies to coordinate resources, trainings, and knowledge at the regional level. In October 2020, Poteet was appointed as the Emergency Management Director for Johnson County, MO. In this capacity, she oversees all day to day operations of the Emergency Management Agency to include development and sustainment of the Local Emergency Operation Plan and the Emergency Operation Center.

Poteet is a University of Central Missouri Alumni. She is a recipient of two degrees, the first of which is a Bachelor of Science in Crisis and Disaster Management and the other is a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. Poteet currently holds her Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Part 107 licenses. Furthermore, Poteet has earned many certifications related to Emergency Management through the Emergency Management Institute and the University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute.

Cassidy will be representing the Region A Rural Area and is the Vice Chair



Michael O'Neal is a Deputy Sheriff and the Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator for the County of Platte, Missouri. He has been in the emergency management field for the past twenty years; Michael is also retired as Deputy Chief of Police for Weatherby Lake Police Department for thirty-four years.

Michael began work at Weatherby Lake as a patrol man in 1987 to July 2021. He began working at Platte County Sheriff Office in 1991 to 2000 as a deputy and promoted to sergeant in detention and from 2002 to present as a deputy sheriff working in emergency management as the Assistant EM Coordinator.

Michael is also a member of the following groups Metropolitan Emergency Managers Committee (MEMC) in the K.C. MARC region, a member of the Local Emergency Planning District (LEPD), a member of the Area Maritime Security Committee (AMSC) for the Coast Guard for the Port, Lead CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) coordinator for the Northland to include Clay and Platte counties. He also is the Missouri co-chair of the UASI CERT group which coordinates regional activities with locals CERT Teams. He is also a member of the Citizen Education Committee (PrepareMetroKC.org (formally known as Safety City) which does outreach with local emergency management and volunteer groups in the MARC region. Michael is also a member of IAEM since 2009. I am also the current Chair of the Kansas City Regional Community Organization Active in Disasters (KCR COAD) for the 8 counties in Missouri and 3 counties in Kansas.

Mike is the Chair and the Region A Urban Director.

Meet the Association Reps cont.



Tish Dwiggins joined Boone County CERT in 2017 as a volunteer. Tish brought with her a passion for helping the community and a history of emergency planning through local businesses. She has served as the Emergency Planning Coordinator handling employee emergency training and drills for multiple non-profit organizations in Columbia, MO.

Tish is a Missouri native who grew up in the north-central part of the state in Macon, where much of her family still lives. She works for the University of Missouri and has a background in Human Resources and employee training. She was certified with CERT Train-the-Trainer in 2021 and looks forward to helping serve CERT programs of the state through MOCERTA, especially those in unrepresented regions.

Tish will be representing Region B



Sidney Casey, Paramedic/Firefighter has been a member of Boles Fire Protection District for 22 years. She retired after 16 years on a 911 ambulance service and 12 years with SSM Health in Emergency Preparedness. She is an Instructor for EMS, Fire and CERT.

Sidney is married, has three (3) children, and eight (8) grandchildren.

Sidney is representing the Region C Rural Area and is the MO CERT Association Secretary



In 2003, Michael D. Thiemann started his career at the Metro West Fire Protection District. His initial assignment was to implement CERT training and to support the public relations and public education programs. In 2018, Mike received a promotion to Division Chief of External Affairs & Emergency Management. In this capacity, he manages Life Safety Education Programs, Media Relations, Emergency Management, Public Information, Public Relations, and special projects.

Mike serves regionally as the Planning Section Chief for Region C Fire Mutual Aid and is a Type 3 member of the St. Louis Area All-Hazards Incident Support Team. He serves as Treasurer of the Board for the Missouri Fire Service Alliance and is the Treasurer and member of the Board of Directors for the St. Louis Metro Fire Service Alliance. He is a founding member of the Meramec Valley Citizen Corps Council Board of Directors where he serves as a past Council President and is active in CERT in St. Louis County. In 2018, Mike was appointed by Saint Louis University as an Advisory Board Member for SPS Emergency Management programs. He is also Adjunct Faculty at SLU in the School for Professional Studies, Emergency Management, and Homeland Security section.

He achieved his master's degree in Management & Leadership from Webster University in the spring of 2018. His undergraduate degree is in Emergency Management from Grand Canyon University. Mike holds many certifications in emergency management, fire service executive planning, & disaster response through the National Fire Academy, & Emergency Management Institute.

Mike is representing the Region C Urban Area.



Meet the Association Reps cont.



For the past 23 years, Phil Amtower has served at the Emergency Management Director of Christian County, Missouri and he also currently serves as the Task Force Leader for MO CERT 1.

Before Mr. Amtower became the Director of Emergency Management, he served as a volunteer firefighter. Mr. Amtower was appointed as Director in January, 1997 by the County Commission. Since then, he has directed the response to 9 Presidentially Declared disasters.

Mr. Amtower started the local county volunteer C.E.R.T. (Community Emergency Response Team) team in 2003 and has since trained over 1,300 people in program. After seeing several large destructive events in the region, Mr. Amtower saw the need to form the regional CERT group called MO CERT 1. The basic premise was to harness a stronger response group that would bring more assets and personnel into a regionally deployable team that would be available to respond to a variety of events. The MO CERT 1 team has been deployed to: Joplin, MO; Moore, OK; Baxter Springs, KS; Quapaw, OK and Branson, MO. The team has a FEMA Type III S&R Team as well as a FEMA Type III Mass Care Team in place. In 2014 MOCERT1 was awarded the FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Award for Outstanding Community Response Team Initiatives. Also in 2014 Phil Amtower received the Presidential White House Award for Champion of Change for his service in Emergency Management.

Phil is the Region D Representative



Jim Watkins retired from Public Education as Elementary Principal in Cape Girardeau Public School System in 1998.

In 1999, Jim completed Basic CERT and CERT Train the Trainer. That same year, Jim started volunteering with the Citizen Corps program supported by the City of Cape Girardeau Fire Department and the City of Cape. In 2008, Jim was hired as Coordinator of Cape's Citizen Corps program to complete grant requirements, produce, promote, and offer presentations, activities to the businesses, agencies, faith-based groups, and the public information on disaster preparedness, response and recovery topics. A concerted effort to offer CERT classes to school staff was successful as several area schools hosted this program. Jim has presented Basic CERT classes and CERT Train the Trainer classes throughout Region E and for Missouri State Emergency Management Agency.

In 2010, as Citizen Corps funds disappeared in Missouri, Regionalization of Disaster Planning and Preparedness came into a process. Region E brought the CERT program and Disaster Preparedness to the thirteen counties of Southeast Missouri. Jim accepted the responsibility of coordinating disaster preparedness presentations, activities, as well as expanding the CERT program to all citizens in Region E.

Jim has served organizational roles of Region E, Cape CERT Alliance, Missouri CERT Council, National CERT Conference Committee. He has completed courses at FEMA's EMI and SEMA's Professional Development

Jim is the Region E Representative

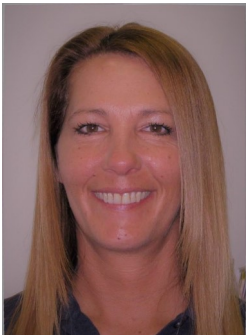


Meet the Association Reps cont.



Elizabeth Thompson, Planning & Preparedness Specialist & CERT Program Manager, Boone County Office of Emergency Management. Elizabeth worked for three years in various capacities for the Missouri Emergency Response Commission and the State Emergency Management Agency before joining the Boone County Office of Emergency Management team in 2016. In January 2020, Elizabeth joined Missouri Task Force 1 as a Planning Team Manager and went on her first deployment in response to Hurricane Ida this past August. As part of her responsibilities with the Boone County Office of Emergency Management, Elizabeth began assisting with the CERT Program in 2017, and became Program Manager in July 2019. Elizabeth is excited to see CERT being revitalized in many areas across the nation. She believes the MO State CERT Association will be an important resource for local programs and can't wait to see how the Association grows

Elizabeth is representing Region F



Michelle Kidwell is the current Director of Emergency Management for Callaway County and the City of Fulton. Additionally, she is the designated Floodplain Administrator for Callaway County and the City of Mokane. She has served in this position for the past 15 years. Prior to her appointment with Callaway County she served as the Miller County 9-1-1 Director. Her career in emergency services began in 1988. She will earn her B. A. Degree in Emergency Management and Disaster Response this year from the American Public University in West Virginia.

Ms. Kidwell has a perpetual passion in ensuring individuals within her community are better prepared for disaster instances and enjoys every opportunity afforded to provide public education presentations to further preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery. Working closely with residential care facilities, education institutions, homeless shelters, businesses and the faith community as well as non-governmental organizations.

Michelle is the Treasurer and a Region F Director



Samantha (Sam) Henley currently serves as the Director of Camden County, MO Emergency Management Agency. Prior to her promotion to this position, she served as the Deputy EMD of the Camden County EMA, as well as the Deputy EMD of Benton County Emergency Management. In this unique position, she served not only two counties at the same time but two REGIONS (A & F), giving her a broader perspective and the chance to bridge more than one gap!

Sam has a long-standing background in Public Relations and Communications. She serves as the Public Information Officer for Warsaw Fire Protection District, Benton County CERT, and Camden County CERT. She currently manages twelve public websites, along with Facebook and Twitter accounts for numerous organizations. She is also an Amateur Radio Operator, holding a General Class license, call sign KEOLMY.

Sam is the Public Information Officer for the MO CERT Association.



Meet the Association Directors cont.



Sam Stephens joined The St. Louis City Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) as Emergency Management Specialist in October of 2021. Prior to joining CEMA, Sam worked as a Project Manager for Rise Community Development and DeSales Community Development, where he helped develop affordable housing for individuals, families, and veterans throughout the Greater St. Louis Area.

Sam is a native of St. Louis, having grown up in nearby University City. Before returning home in late 2015, Sam worked in disaster recovery consulting and housing development in post-disaster settings in New Orleans. His position prior to relocating to St. Louis was Program Manager at Youth Rebuilding New Orleans, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing quality, affordable housing to educators displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

Sam earned his BA in Political Science and Public Policy from Tulane University and an MS in Emergency Management from Tulane's Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy.

Sam has agreed to be a general director in Region G.



Mike Guyett is a Firefighter/Paramedic for Liberty Fire, I have worked full time for Liberty Fire for 11 years. I am married to Amy Guyett for 13 years and we have 5 daughters from 25 to twin 10 year olds and 2 granddaughters with a third granddaughter on the way.

Mike was asked to start a CERT team for Caldwell County 3 years ago February, we now have 22 members on a regular basis. He is a CPR instructor, first aid instructor, EMS instructor, Fire instructor, live burn instructor, and have been through the CERT train the trainer course.

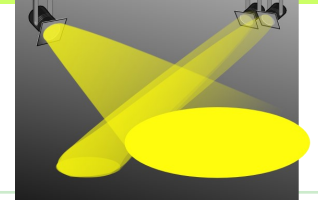
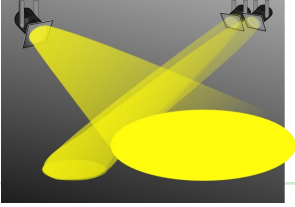
Mike is representing Region H.



David L. Miller - Born and raised in Lebanon Missouri and having deep roots in central Missouri. David has had a lifetime of public service starting at the age of seventeen with the local forestry service in Laclede County Missouri. This started his involvement as one of the charter members of the Lebanon Rural Fire Department which led to 45 years of public service in emergency response and public service. Ranging from Law Enforcement , Fire , EMS, and Emergency Management. In addition to the public service. As well he has been a very successful entrepreneur throughout his career. He gives back to the community by helping with local disaster planning and business continuity planning for local businesses in the communities he serves. He has a strong passion for helping people in times of need. Currently David serves on several local boards to help support our communities. Chairperson - Laclede County (COAD) Community Organizations Active in Disasters , Co- Chairperson (CHIP) Community Housing Intervention Program, Board Member -(LEPC) Lebanon Emergency Planning Committee, Board Member - (RHSOC) Region I Homeland Security Oversight Committee and the Program Manager - (CERT) Laclede County Community Emergency Response Team

David is the Region I Director

Team Spotlight



Christian County/MOCERT 1

Recently, CERT has found another avenue to assist local Law Enforcement officials. Due to personnel shortages, looking for pieces of evidence has become an issue for local Law Enforcement Agencies. Sometimes 15 –20 personnel are needed to search an area. This becomes very costly and a staffing nightmare for already understaffed agency. MO CERT 1 has been asked to respond to many searches for missing persons in the last few years. CERT has provided trained personnel to assist local authorities in the search capability as well as the management of the search.

Most of the time an evidence search is not a highly specialized endeavor nor does it take specialized training. It takes focused people that have a minimal amount of training and some on site instruction. Using CERT for these types of Incidents can save a department hundreds of hours of hours of over time or comp time.



In the past year or so, CERT has helped with three (3) such events. Most recently, MO CERT 1 found a possible murder weapon that had been buried for a couple of years! A critical piece of evidence in a murder investigation that has been on-going between Christian, Webster and Douglas Counties. Some borrowed metal detectors, ten (10) minutes of training on the equipment and some dedicated CERT Members made three (3) Sheriffs very happy people.



TAKING CERT TO THE

NEXT LEVEL

2022 NATIONAL CERT CONFERENCE



SAVE THE DATE

AUGUST 18-20, 2022

Galveston Island Convention Center
Galveston, TX

Presented By
the National CERT Association
in partnership with FEMA Region 6



CERT



FEMA

Pre-Conference Training
August 15 - 17, 2022

Early registration opens
February 1, 2022

For more information visit:
nationalcert.org

