FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training in February, March

January 20, 2021 – Learn basic disaster and emergency response skills – such as disaster preparedness, fire safety, and basic first aid – through the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training program. This training will be conducted using online and in-person sessions.

Flagler County Emergency Management, Flagler County Fire Rescue, and Flagler Volunteer Services invite residents to sign up for the no-cost, 24-hour program that will be offered in a manner that supports social distancing. Emergency Management Director Jonathan Lord describes the program as an important partnership between the community and professional first responders.

“It is a way to improve overall community preparedness by educating residents about how to prepare for and respond to the hazards most likely to impact our community,” he said. “When our residents are trained in these basic disaster response skills, it allows our first responders to focus on the most critical needs in a disaster.”

Approximately 12 hours of the training, traditionally done in a classroom setting before COVID-19, will instead be done online – any time, and at the student’s pace.

The remaining 12 hours of instruction will be conducted as in-person, practical, hands-on sessions that are separated into four 3-hour classes. The online portion must be completed by February 1 to participate in person for the Winter session, and by March 1 to participate in the Spring session.

This CERT program will educate residents about topics such as: disaster preparedness, basic fire safety, utility controls, basic first aid, light search and rescue, disaster psychology, terrorism, and team organization.

In-person Winter session instruction will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning February 16 and ending February 25. The Spring session times and days of the week are the same, but in March. The online portion of the course must be completed before registering for the in-person portion.

For more information and registration, please go to www.flaglercounty.org/emergency and click on “Volunteering and Training,” or contact Flagler County Emergency Management at eoc@flaglercounty.org.

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