



Teton County, Wyoming Community Emergency Response Team News & More

COMING UP:

JAN. 20— EOC, 1800-2100. Rehab heater setup, CERT's infectious disease response.

Jan. 31 — Red Cross CPR/ First-Aid training at EOC. (Check MM for times.)

Feb. 18 — EOC, 1800-2100, CERT meeting with "Extreme Event" game.

MAR. 7 — EOC, 1800-2000. Mission Manager training — bring your laptop or tablet!

APR. 21 — EOC, 1800-2000, regular meeting (topic TBD)

Apr. 29 — EOC, 1700-2000, Red Cross DAT training.

Apr. 30 — EOC, 0800-1700, 72-hr. PLUS program by ARC and WY Homeland Security. SEE RICH FOR SPECIAL SIGN-UP REQUIREMENT (EventBrite).

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Four Tackle Sub-Zero Temps at Cleaners Fire



BREAK IT UP! Some of the first firefighters to take time out during last week's late-night fire at O'Ryan Cleaners in Grand Teton Mall warm up with coffee near the county's "rehab" bus. The vehicle is outfitted by Jackson Hole Fire/EMS but manned by CERT volunteers. (PHOTO BY RICH OCHS)

By FRED WHISSEL

Four CERT volunteers fought through minus-teen temperatures and low light conditions last week to aid local firefighters, who battled a blaze in Grand Teton Mall that ultimately destroyed one business and threatened several others.

Lost to flames was O'Ryan Cleaners, where a smoke alarm alerted Teton County Dispatch at 10:10 p.m. Tuesday, causing one engine, an ambulance, and an on-duty Jackson Hole Fire/EMS firefighter to respond. Minutes later, with smoke now pouring through the roof of the multi-business building, the

alarm was upgraded to a full-fledged structure fire. Ultimately, more than 30 responders were on-scene, only six of whom were classified as paid, on-duty firefighters.

Rich Ochs, Teton County Emergency Management and CERT coordinator, issued a Nixle notice at 11:11 p.m., requesting any available CERT volunteers to report to the parking lot behind First Interstate Bank, where Jackson Hole Security Owner Hap Johnson would park the county's new rehabilitation bus. Still being outfitted and modified, that vehicle will provide nourishment, heat (or cooling), shelter, a place to

rest, and minor first-aid to emergency responders.

To make sure the word got out, Ochs repeated his Nixle alert at 11:33 p.m., again cautioning CERT responders to show up in full "PPE" (helmet, goggles, gloves, and reflective vest) and to "dress warmly," in several layers of clothing. With the air temperature hovering around -13 degrees, the CERT responders could also make use of the "Winter Warm-Up Kit" contents that they recently had been issued, including a knit cap, knit gloves, tube socks, a mylar blanket, and two eight-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

## CERT Volunteers Contributed Time Worth \$19,577 in 2015

Teton County CERT volunteers continued to make themselves more and more valuable in 2015, contributing more than 800 hours of time worth nearly \$20,000.

In comparison with 2014, CERT members logged a total of 834.5 hours (760.05 in 2014), worth \$19,577 (\$17,602), and had more activations—seven versus the five in 2014—and participated in 16 public outreach events (nine in 2014), but took part in only one exercise with Public Safety Agencies, compared with two exercises in the preceding year.

Rich Ochs, coordinator for both CERT and Teton County Emergency Management, said the volunteers are doing more for the community with fewer participants. In 2015 there were only 45 “active” volunteers, versus 53 in 2014.

The falling number of CERT volunteers certainly was not due to any decline in the number of training opportunities made available during the year. In 2014, there were a total of 12 training sessions—versus 25 in 2015.

Unfortunately, Ochs was not able to schedule a CERT basic training program in either 2014 or 2015, so no new volunteers have been added to the Teton County group since 2013, when 24 individuals completed the basic training course.

There was a significant decline in the number of homeowners, renters, business owners and employees, civic group members, and other individuals who were given CERT’s free fire extinguisher training last year: only 253, down 140 from 2014’s 393. Specially trained CERT volunteers use a water-based fire extinguisher

training system called “BullEx,” which significantly reduces both the cost and the mess of such training, while allowing trainees to go through the line more than once. The CERT trainers often are accompanied by a member of Jackson Hole Fire/Emergency Medical Services.

Among the organizations that rely upon CERT each year for fire extinguisher training is Grand Teton National Park, which runs both administrative and field employees through the training, and Jackson’s K-Mart, which invites CERT and other organizations to participate in its annual “Safety Days” weekend.

The dollar value of volunteer hours contributed is based on the annual estimated value of hours donated in Wyoming, which is further explained at [www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org). In 2014, each of those hours was worth \$23.46, which was slightly higher than 2013’s \$23.16. (The dollar amount is always one year behind.) Ochs said the greatest individual number of hours contributed to CERT in 2015 was 237.25, compared with 110.5 in 2014.

“Teton County residents are benefiting more and more every year from the many ways our CERT volunteers contribute their time, talents, and hard work,” Ochs said. “We will continue to build our base of dedicated volunteers, and look for even more ways in 2016 to serve the community.”

Ochs said he hopes to be able to offer a new basic program training session “sometime” during 2016, but is limited by scheduling and funding opportunities.

“If at all possible, we really need to make that training available soon, since it is the basis for increasing not only the number of ‘active’ CERT members but also the best way that

### JAN. 20 PROGRAM CHANGES

In case you missed it, a last-minute change in the January 20 CERT meeting program was emailed late Wednesday by CERT Coordinator Rich Ochs.

The meeting will open with a practice setting up the Rehab bus propane heater in the EOC parking lot. (Be sure to wear clothing that is warm enough to protect you from the cold weather. Also, since the drill will take place under darkened conditions, bring your CERT vest to take advantage of its reflective stripes.)

About halfway through the meeting, Rachel Levitz, Teton County Public Health Response Coordinator, will discuss CERT’s role in response to infectious disease emergencies.

Ochs said members who have not yet signed up to attend the meeting on Mission Manager can still do so, or send him an email.

we spread emergency preparation information to the general public.”

Ochs said several individuals undergo the basic training not so much to become an active volunteer, but to learn the skills that they and their families might need in the event of a widespread disaster.

“We would love to have an even greater number of active CERT participants,” Ochs said, “but I think our current team members do an amazing amount of training and work to help protect the citizens of Teton County.”



The CERT Team EFFORT is a quarterly publication of Teton County Emergency Management, 3240 S. Adams Canyon Dr., Jackson, WY 83001. Any opinions expressed herein may not be held by TCEM or the Teton County Citizen Corps Council, which guides and primarily supports the Teton County CERT team. To comment on our articles, suggest story ideas, or to contact us for any other reason, please email us at [em@tetonwyo.org/newsletter](mailto:em@tetonwyo.org/newsletter).

CERT COORDINATOR: Rich Ochs

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Fred Whissel

## ...TRU tackles fire

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

hour chemical hand-warmers.

It was almost a year ago that a handful of CERT volunteers responded to an area ranch building blaze in mid-morning sub-zero conditions, which helped to demonstrate how CERT members could assist weary responders “on break,” if properly trained and equipped. The incident reinforced Fire Chief Willy Watsabaugh’s decision to obtain a dedicated “rehab” bus, equip it, and train a team of CERT members to be on-call when needed.

“Rehabilitation,” to firefighters and emergency rescue workers, is the act of assisting those responders who are taking mandated breaks to avoid overheating, over-exertion, or dehydration, by helping them rest, rehydrate, and restore some of their lost energy, and prevent further physical and mental deterioration. It can include basic monitoring of their condition, medical evaluation, and treatment. In prior years, those services had to be offered by fellow firefighters—whose time and training could be better used elsewhere. To fill that need, the national CERT program devotes an entire four-hour instruction module to rehabilitation.

Now known as the “Teton Rehab Unit (TRU),” the team currently consists of some 20 CERT volunteers, who work with JHF/EMS coordinator Brenda Sherwin and Johnson, who located, purchased, stores, and drives a full-sized bus that gains more capability every day, and has already proved its worth to the county.

Johnson said the CERT members were “fantastic” last week, under Team Leader Al Zuckerman, who reported to him at 11:40 p.m. and was the last CERT member to leave (at 1:35 a.m.). Also responding were Bonnie Trefren, Cindy Nicholson, and Dee Buckstaff.

Even CERT coordinator Ochs got in the act, when he realized that, due to the late hour, it might be tough to find any food or hot coffee for the first firefighters to go on break.

“I ended up going because I knew there wasn’t any food or coffee on the bus,” Ochs said, “and Smith’s was 15



**WAS NO BALL — Light snow falls on firefighters already fighting flames and air temps far below freezing as CERT TRU volunteers pass out hot cocoa, apple cider, and MRE food at the rehab “meals on wheels” bus. (PHOTO BY RICH OCHS)**

minutes from closing.”

Johnson confirmed Ochs’ knowledge, when he began getting requests for hot coffee from the cold firefighters “almost immediately” after the bus arrived – and did not yet even have any water.

Normally, being parked outdoors in sub-freezing temperatures, the bus has no freezable liquids on board, and it would take some time to heat up coffee water anyway, in the microwave oven that was stored in its original box on the bus. After last week, Johnson said, he is going to find a way to make it more quickly accessible and operable.

As for the food shortage, Ochs said he contributed several complete MRE’s (“Meals Ready to Eat”), each of which contains an entrée, a side dish, a cookie, dry coffee mix, all of the fixings, and even a chemical heater. Although the MRE’s usually elicit various degrees of appreciation from their consumers, they do provide a balanced, nutritional, hot meal.

One problem the TRU encountered, Ochs said, was a shortage of helmets, vests, and some other items that CERT members receive in a complete backpack kit (including assorted first-aid treatment supplies). Not all members keep the kits available in their

vehicles. To remedy that, Ochs and Johnson have agreed to find enough space on the bus to store several complete CERT kits, along with a few extra unmarked helmets and reflecting vests for any members of the public who may want to offer their services on basic tasks. Also, one of the new CERT kits will be heavily oriented towards first-aid, allowing it to be used by anyone in need, wherever the bus is located.

While Ryan Cleaners was described by Matt Redwine, JHF/EMS battalion chief and the incident commander, as “a total loss,” it took a couple of hours of investigation—until about 3 a.m.—to determine that none of the adjacent businesses adjacent (Boot Barn, Hong Kong Buffet, Stone Drug, Plaza Liquors, Eleanor’s, and Radio Shack) had been damaged by fire, although Radio Shack sustained enough smoke and water damage to force its closure through last Sunday.

O’Ryan Cleaners is owned by Matt Ryan, grandson of the owner of Ryan Cleaners on North Cache—which itself fell victim to a mid-winter fire several years ago. According to Teton County Fire Marshal Kathy Clay, last week’s fire was likely caused by overheating in a piece of dry-cleaning equipment, which caused nearby combustible materials to ignite.



## Zuckerman will represent CERT in new TRU position

The Teton Rehabilitation Unit (TRU) has a new CERT coordinator. Rehab volunteer Al Zuckerman was named to that new position this week by Rich Ochs, coordinator of both CERT and Teton County Emergency Management.

A CERT member since 2012, Zuckerman was one of three team members who planned and supervised an entire training scenario on disaster response last July, in conjunction with CERT's annual picnic. Most recently, he was the first TRU member to arrive at the December 30 early morning fire that destroyed O'Ryan Cleaners, and the last to leave. **(See story on Page One.)**

"I am confident that Al will do a great job in representing CERT on the rehab unit," Ochs said in the announcement. "He has shown much enthusiasm and ability in various leadership roles, and has the organizational skills that this position requires." Until now, several CERT volunteers have contributed to the increasing success of the rehab unit, but have not had any single person to coordinate their efforts with those of Jackson Hole Fire-EMS and Jackson Hole Security. For JHF-EMS, that role has been performed by Brenda Sherwin, while Jackson Hole Security has been represented by Hap Johnson, its owner.

"Al will work with Brenda and Hap to coordinate the rehab unit's training efforts, stock the rehab bus with new equipment, and—above all—make certain that all CERT volunteers will be able to carry out their rehab involvement as safely as possible," Ochs said.

The rehab unit was formed last year after Chief Willy Watsabaugh observed how much CERT volunteers could do to take some of the rehabilitation load off firefighters—whose services could be better used in doing the various jobs for which they are highly trained. After Johnson offered the use and storage of a large bus that he had purchased from a local whitewater company, Watsabaugh found funds to fully equip it for rehab use, while Ochs set up a training program for CERT rehab volunteers.

Previously, rehabilitation assistance to on-break firefighters depended on finding someone to deploy a poorly equipped incident support vehicle to the scene of a fire or other incident, although "standards" of the National Fire Protection Association required such auxiliary assistance as monitoring of mental and physical health, the provision of nourishing food and beverages, and helping firefighters keep warm or cool off, as conditions required.

At the same time, the national CERT program already had an entire module designed to train CERT members on such things as food preparation, helping EMTs evaluate and rec-



AL ZUCKERMAN offered a few pointers to his fellow rehab unit members at a training event last year. It worked so well that he plans to do it again and again. (PHOTO BY FRED WHISSEL)

ord firefighter condition status, and other skills related to first-responder rehabilitation.

As Chief Watsabaugh's new equipment began to arrive in the middle of the year, Sherwin was placed in charge of inventorying it, Johnson found ways to store it in the bus, and CERT members would unpack it, set it up, and become familiar with its operation. Among those items were a 10' by 20' tent with wall panels, a generator, space heaters, a cook stove, first-aid items, and more. The bus is currently stored at Jackson Hole Security and driven to the scene of a fire, search and rescue operation, or other emergency by Johnson.

Zuckerman is married (Charlene). He completed the CERT basic training course in May, 2012, and has received Red Cross training in CPR, AED, and first-aid. Zuckerman said he also used to have a commercial driver's license but let it expire. He said he will be talking to Johnson and Sherwin about a stand-in driver for Johnson when he is not around to drive the bus to the scene of an emergency, as well as setting up some of its equipment, such as heaters.

## FEBRUARY MEETING WILL INCLUDE EXTREME EVENT!

If you're anywhere around the EOC on February 18, and happen to be a member of Teton County CERT, you will most definitely want to drop in and see what's up.

That's the scheduled date for the team's February meeting, and it's gonna be a doozy.

For at least an hour, the chances are excellent that the EOC will be one of the liveliest places in Jackson Hole, with so much going on, so many things happening all at the same time, and so much opportunity for mass confusion, that the program could very easily turn out to be a complete disaster.

Although the planned activity for that night may not be too unfamiliar to some CERT volunteers, the way everything unfolds—and the variety of ways that things can be put back together—will likely be entirely new to most team members.

"We'll be doing something that we have never done before," said Rich Ochs, coordinator of both CERT and Teton County Emergency Management. "This will definitely be an event to remember."

In fact, according to Ochs, the Teton County CERT volunteers will actually be participating that night in an exercise as guinea pigs. Depending on how much they enjoy the activity, how much they learn, and how highly they rate the training activity after they complete it—the program could be copied in various venues throughout Teton County: schools, civic groups, first-response organizations, and even neighborhood get-togethers.

What is this all about?

We can't tell you. We are sworn to secrecy, to ensure that the exercise

scenario will be as unfamiliar to all participants as possible, in order for their individual and group responses to be as pure, reflexive, and intuitive as possible.

What we CAN tell you is that each CERT member, as he or she enters the EOC, will be assigned to play a role in a game, and become a member of a group. Both individually and as a group member everyone will be faced with a major challenge that requires not merely coordination to overcome, but cooperation, making concessions when and where they are needed, and contacting the members of other groups in the room, to either request resources or share them.

How well the exercise turns out will depend on everyone working together, during a whole series of unanticipated events, to achieve what might be called a "community" result that is best for all, not just for some.

It certainly won't be building towers out of raw noodles, pieces of string, cellophane tape, and marshmallows—

which the team enjoyed so much at one meeting last year. This time they will be using laptop computers (connected to the internet), will follow some surprising developments on the room's 53-inch monitors, and will even be drenched with sustained sound effects—all generated by a computer program. As the scenario develops, they will have an opportunity to download more resources, or give some back if they are not needed. For each group decision, a score will be recorded, and the highest score of the night will win.

The activity was developed by the museum of a well-known scientific organization (which, to reveal, could be a dead giveaway), in collaboration with a private organization that shall also remain nameless.

"This is going to be quite a night," said Ochs. "I can hardly wait to see how well our CERT volunteers perform, and how well they work together for the common good. If nothing else, it's sure to be an extreme event!"



**USING THEIR NOODLES** — CERT members Laurie Fukawa, Nan Neth, Barbara Whissel, and Jim Joseph take part in a team challenge exercise last year. (PHOTO BY FRED WHISSEL)

## Fire Marshal Clay Talked Detection in December

How often do you check the 9-volt battery in your smoke detector? Do you have enough smoke detectors in your home or business to provide adequate protection? If you already have smoke detectors, do you also need carbon monoxide detectors?

Those were some of the discussion points at Teton County CERT's monthly meeting, presented by Kathy Clay, the county's fire marshal.

According to Clay, one of the biggest home risks in America is old smoke alarms, which often are not checked periodically to make sure they are still working. If "certified" (which can be determined by their yellow model number tag), they should last 10 years.

However, that lifetime can fall far short without having battery power—or some kind of power interruption, in the case of devices that are hard-wired.

"We tend to ignore things that can kill us," said Clay, in a presentation that she has gotten down to about 20 minutes and makes available to schools and civic organizations. Clay said prevention works. "In 2012, for instance, 86 per cent of people in cars were wearing seat belts." When various states started requiring the wearing of seat belts, the number of vehicle crash fatalities and serious injuries plummeted.

Fortunately, "we live in a county that is very, very educated," Clay observed, saying that is one of the reasons why "we don't have many fires with deaths." Yet, 14 persons, she noted, were once pulled out of a Thanksgiving meal in Teton County, when they fell victim to carbon monoxide poisoning.

What's the difference between a carbon monoxide detector and a smoke detector?

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, tasteless, odorless gas that has different effects on humans, depending on the amount consumed. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, it is okay to have a constant CO level of 8 parts per million. At 100 ppm, you begin to get a slight headache. At 800 ppm, you can experience dizziness and convulsions, and at 1600 ppm, you die.

Carbon monoxide is carried through the bloodstream by hemoglobin—at a rate that is 240 times as easily as oxygen. (Which means that you could have a very high level of oxygen in your body and still die—from an even higher level of carbon monoxide. It also means that the first course of treatment for a person overcome by carbon monoxide is to

provide a high flow of oxygen.)

Smoke detectors are just that: they detect smoke particles in the air. Clay said you could hear a smoke detector beeping long before you heard a carbon monoxide detector. But not all exposure sources have dangerous levels of both smoke and carbon monoxide.

What can you do to increase the effectiveness of smoke detectors in your home or business? First, use more than one. You should have one on each floor of a home where there is a wood stove, pellet stove, or gas stove, and they should be periodically inspected to make certain that they are both powered and operating properly. (Each device has a round, spring-loaded button, which sets off a squeal when pushed.)

If you live in an area such as Jackson Hole, where homes typically have a lot of snow on their roofs in the winter, periodically examine all chimneys and vents, to make sure they have not become blocked by snow (or fallen leaves). Have you recently changed from one type of gas fuel to another in your stove? Be aware that each kind of gas has its own density and flow characteristics—so you may need to change the orifice.

Cars left idling in cold garages, to warm them up, emit exhaust gases that are nearly invisible — and deadly.

Even pulling skiers along behind boats on Jackson Lake can create exhaust gas levels high enough to be toxic.

If you have any questions about carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, smoke, or fires, give Clay a call at 733-4732, or email her at [kclay@tetonwyo.org](mailto:kclay@tetonwyo.org).



## ALL MeSSeD Up — and No PLace to Go?



What do you do if life gives you lemons? Of course! — You make lemonade! Above are several CERT items that had to be cleared from storage in the EOC. After sorting and inven-

torying, they ended up as five complete Kits and five partial ones, which are now stored on the rehab bus or in the CERT trailer. Waste not want not. (PHOTO BY FRED WHISSEL)

## Time to Sift Through the Radon Gas Danger in Homes, Businesses

In case you missed the message, January happens to be National Radon Awareness Month, and Teton County Public Health's Environmental Health Division is advising you to test YOUR home for the colorless killer gas.

Did you know that radon consumption is one of Teton County's Top 10 health issues? That makes sense, if you realize that radon is a byproduct of uranium decay—which occurs almost everywhere in Wyoming. Unless your home is floating on water, it is subject to this creepy-crawly, odorless, colorless, and tasteless gas, which sifts through soils and sneaks through cracks and other openings in your floors and foundation.

Why is radon so dangerous to your health? Because it invades your lungs

as you breathe, and raises the possibility of developing lung cancer. Lung cancer, if you missed that message too, is the leading cause of cancer in America among non-smokers.

So how bad is the radon threat in Teton County? Well, to pass up all of the "picocuries per liter" calculations, let's just say that Wyoming has the highest potential for having "elevated" radon levels, and 37 per cent of Teton County's tested homes are at that level. Even worse, the average radon level among those tested homes was TWICE as high as what is defined as "elevated."

On January 19, St. John's Medical Center will host a "Lunchtime Learning Session" at where Public Health

workers will provide free information about radon, and a similar session will be held on January 21 at a "Sustainability Series" meeting of the Yellowstone-Teton Clean Energy Coalition.

For \$10, you can purchase a short-term radon detection kit at the Public Health Department, 460 East Pearl Avenue, which is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. For \$25, you can buy a long-term kit.

Once you know whether your home or place of business is high or low in radon levels, you may want to have that confirmed by a professional inspector, or make arrangements to mitigate the gas levels. Or not. It's your life.

# Habitat for Humanity raises roofs for Teton County's poorest

*In this issue, The Effort begins a series of articles to inform both CERT members and our other readers about the roles of the 31 organizations (including CERT) that belong to Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD). We begin with an article by Gina Valencia, interim executive director of the Teton County Habitat for Humanity.*

refer to itself, depends on volunteers to carry out its mission, both at the jobsite and "behind the scenes." Habitat employs volunteers at its well-known "ReStore" facility south of Jackson, where donated home furnishings, building supplies, and other items are sold at a discount to help raise funds. Volunteers also serve on other Habitat committees and participate in other fund-raising activities.



Officially known as "Habitat for Humanity of the Greater Teton Area," this VOAD member organization creates Category 1 housing in Teton County for those who have an income that is less than 60 per cent of the area's median income.



After construction, the homes are sold to "qualified, hard-working families" with an interest-free, 30-year mortgage.

"We are the only organization in Teton County to provide such homeownership opportunities to very-low-income residents," said Gina Valencia, interim executive director of Teton Habitat. "These families do not qualify for conventional loans, nor for other affordable housing options."

"Habitat," as the organization likes to

All of Habitat's efforts help it produce homes that are truly affordable, but the use of volunteer construction labor par-

lencia said. "This leads to lasting relationships that strengthen our community and broaden awareness."



ticularly helps keep construction costs at a minimum.

"The construction site also provides an opportunity for individuals and groups to work side by side with future homeowners and other community members," Va-

lencia said that, over the past 20 years, Habitat has provided "safe, decent, affordable housing" to 34 families, including 96 children.

"The experience of helping someone build their home is a powerful one," said Valencia, "Our organization believes in a world where everyone has a decent place to live."

She said Habitat "looks forward to working in partnership with the community for many years to come to make a positive impact on people's lives."

For more information about Teton Habitat, Teton County residents can call 734-0828, or visit the website at [www.tetonhabitat.org](http://www.tetonhabitat.org). Temporarily, the ReStore facility is located at 3510 S. Highway 89, next to Storage Stables.

**TOM SAWYER?** — An unknown volunteer for the Teton County Habitat for Humanity has his work cut out for him (left) while others make holding up a wall a team effort and three more volunteers (top) take it eaves-sy.



**FOOD, WONDERFUL FOOD!**

**Volunteers were consumed by food prep rules and regs in December**



How do you prepare and handle food properly, when wicked weather conditions, poor lighting, and other hazards to your health make it tough just to stand around and watch?

Several CERT volunteers came to the EOC tables in December to find out. They took a two-hour course in food handling, using a “ServSafe Food Handler Guide” put out by the National Restaurant Association.

The course was intended mainly for CERT members of the Teton Rehabilitation Unit (TRU) but brought out several non-rehab volunteers as well.

All of those attending passed with flying colors, according to Rich Ochs, CERT coordinator, who

**FOOD PHOTOS  
BY ALICIA WHISSEL**

sent out certificates acknowledging their achievement. The night ended with a 40-question test on the 2009 FDA Food Code.

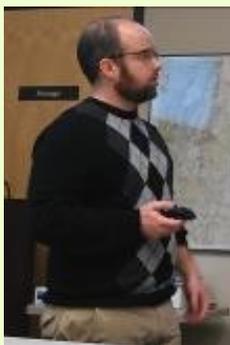
The course brought together state and local emergency resources, as members got their information from Eric Baird and Emily Freeland of Teton County Environmental Health and Jordan McCoy, Nutrition and Food Safety Coordinator for the University of Wyoming Extension Service. Jordan is assisting us in developing menus and food shopping lists for the TRU.

On the menu were such subjects as good personal hygiene, controlling cooking time and temperature, preventing cross-contamination (especially difficult under trying emergency conditions), and cleaning and sanitizing cooking equipment. They even learned how to wash their hands.

Some of the food-handling particulars included very specific requirements that would be tough to monitor, even under pristine conditions in a well-operated restaurant. For instance, the students learned the temperature range under which pathogens (things that cause illness) grow best (between 41 and 135 degrees Fahrenheit) and how to identify biological hazards, including bacteria, viruses, parasites, and fungi.

**CLASSIFIED ADD**

**WRITE NOW** — be a reporter. **RIGHT WRONGS** — be an editor. Join the staff of the best CERT newsletter in Teton County! **ENJOY FAME AND FORTUNE**, or work with us. **NO EXPERIENCE** too boring for us to listen to, but try to keep your **ADVENTURE** tales interesting. Also in need of good photographers, but **FREE CELL PHONE** camera advice may help you capture acceptable images by pure accident. **No INSURANCE**, no **OTHER NORMAL BENEFITS**, no reason to **APPLY NOW** or later, really, except a desire to help your team. See Rich or Fred about other **EXOTIC ASSIGNMENTS** that you may have read about, but will never, ever, ever get here.



**Late ‘Breaking’ News! CPR/First-Aid Training Class to be Offered!**

Just as *The Effort* was going “to press, CERT and Teton County Emergency Management Coordinator Rich Ochs posted a new calendar item on Mission Manager.

On Sunday, January 31, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., CERT members will be able to brush up on their American Red Cross CPR/First-Aid skills — and update their certification status.

Craig Kirkpatrick, Jackson area Red

Cross “ambassador” and CERT volunteer, said some CERT members may need to re-certify in CPR and adult first-aid. The Red Cross certifies proficiency in those skills for a period of two years. The most recent local training was held in January, 2014.

Ochs said he is covering the entire cost of the training (which will be done by American Red Cross instructors), but it will be for “active” members on-

ly. (They must have participated in at least two CERT activities during the past six months.) Also, the usual reservation procedure of notifying him via Mission Manager will NOT apply.

“In this case,” Ochs said, “anyone who wants to sign up for the training will need to email me.”

Ochs urged potential attendees to send that email as soon as possible, since space is limited to 16 students.