



NEWS RELEASE

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High school students ready themselves to respond in case of emergency

February 7, 2013 — Twenty students from Hazen and Lindbergh high schools have been training to be prepared to respond in case of an emergency. For months the students have been taking part in emergency preparedness training and exercise drills offered by Renton Fire and Emergency Services as part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) TeenCERT program, the teen version of the Community Emergency Response Team.

Students in the Teen Community Emergency Response Team (TeenCERT) program will have their final drill on Saturday, Feb. 23 to become community emergency responders, which will allow them to be used in their school and community in case of emergencies and natural disasters. The students have been working under the guidance of Hazen High School health science teacher Tom Walker, who is also a 20-year volunteer firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician.

Students in the program learn about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their school or community and are trained in basic disaster response skills like fire suppression, search and rescue, team organization, assembly of medical treatment areas, applying basic first aid techniques and helping reduce survivor stress. TeenCERT members can assist in their school or neighborhood following a natural disaster or other emergency when professional responders are not immediately available. That could mean lives saved: according to FEMA, in 95 percent of all emergencies, the victim or a bystander provides the first immediate assistance.

Students in the TeenCERT program will be used to improve school safety and security measures through prevention, preparedness and response activities. The Hazen High School Associated Student Body and PTSA committed support and resources for the TeenCERT training.

The TeenCERT program is a joint venture between the Renton School District and Renton Fire and Emergency Services with additional assistance from School Resource Officers of the Renton Police Department.



Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) TeenCERT program video (www.fema.gov/media-library/media_records/7686)