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**July 29, 2019**  
*PRESS RELEASE*

**CONTACT:**  
Director Glenn Polk  
Deputy Director Clark  
Deputy Director Huggins  
(770) 228-2129

FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

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## **SPALDING COUNTY OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY ANNOUNCES A REFRESHER COURSE FOR COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM TRAINING PARTICIPANTS**

The Spalding County Office of Homeland Security in conjunction with the Spalding County Fire Department will be presenting a REFRESHER course for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program participants. This refresher course is designed for those who have completed the initial program.

CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations for citizens who may be on their own during the initial moments of a disaster. Knowing the right actions to take can make a difference.

The CERT Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations. Through CERT training, citizens can learn to manage utilities and put out small fires; cope with the three life-threatening injuries by opening airways, controlling bleeding and treating for shock; provide basic medical aid; search for and rescue victims safely; and organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective.

The CERT REFRESHER program will concentrate on emergency / disaster planning, safety and medical skills. This additional step is designed to reinforce the lessons learned in the CERT program and continue the coordination of efforts between emergency services and the people they serve. The REFRESHER training will assist in enhancing the importance of an ongoing training program and the need for continual planning.

CERT training classes are scheduled for 3 weeks to begin on Monday September 16, 2019 at 2 pm- 5pm., with the final class being Monday September 30, 2019, anyone interested in participating in these classes should contact:

***Spalding County Office of Homeland Security***  
***(770) 228-2129***

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