



FOR RELEASE
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AACOG Honors New Braunfels Community Emergency Response Team with Multiple Awards

New Braunfels - The New Braunfels Community Emergency Response Team (NBCERT) won the Team of the Year for the second time in the last four years. The Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) presents the honor to one team from a 13 county region.

Steve Harris, Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of New Braunfels, was also awarded the 2014 Citizen Corps Program Manager of the Year. He implemented the NBCERT Team in 2010 and utilized volunteers to create a sustainable program in New Braunfels.

Volunteer Paul Ericksen, Master Instructor, was awarded the 2014 Instructor of the Year. As the lead instructor for NBCERT he has organized and spearheaded a staff of eight other volunteer instructors who taught four basic training classes in the last year. The classes produced 71 new recruits for the local CERT program and an additional four guest graduates from other programs.

Lisa Rubey, a volunteer Training Officer, was awarded the 2014 New Instructor of the Year. She has taken on the duties of Program Management, which provide infrastructure and processes for volunteers.

Volunteer Vickie Adams, Public Information Officer for NBCERT, was named the 2014 Team Member of the Year.

“The team’s hard work has paid off this year and will continue to benefit the community with new members that are trained and ready to respond if the need arises,” said Steve Harris.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program is an emergency preparedness program supported by the Department of Homeland Security. NBCERT members receive special training to enhance their ability to support the City’s Office of Emergency Management, City first responders and all other City departments during emergency/disaster events.

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Optional photo attached. Caption: 2014 Service Award Recipients Steve Harris, Lisa Rubey, Paul Ericksen and Vickie Adams