

Sugarmill Woods Bulletin

May 6, 2010

Dear Residents,

The Sugarmill Woods Civic Association will be holding another Community Outreach Program meeting later this month which will focus on **Emergency Management and Hurricane Preparedness.**

The 2010 Hurricane Season officially begins June 1 so we need to be prepared. We are honored to have **Captain Joseph Eckstein** from the Citrus County Sheriff's Department as our guest speaker.

The meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 18, 2010 from 6:30 PM to 7:45 PM** at the **Sugarmill Woods Country Club.**

Whether it's a minor event or the beginning of a critical situation, it generally starts with a call to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which resides within the Sheriff's Department. The EOC, under the leadership of Captain Joseph Eckstein, is home to the 911 Center, Emergency Management Section, and the Radiological Emergency Planning Section.

The EOC 911 Center handles all emergency calls for the county. When you place an emergency call, it goes directly to the EOC 911 Center in Lecanto. Dispatchers route these calls to the appropriate service: law enforcement (Sheriff's Office), Fire Department, and EMS. Using an enhanced 911 system, communications officers are able to determine the address and phone number of the caller. The Citrus County EOC is one of the few 911 centers across the state that effectively and efficiently houses all services together, ensuring that no time is lost in transferring calls.

Emergency management officials work year-round preparing residents for natural disasters, like hurricanes and flooding, as well as catastrophic events, like a terrorist attack or problems at the nuclear power plant. Any of these situations could mean some or all of Citrus County is without electrical power, water or other basic necessities. During this time period, it becomes critical that people understand how to take care of themselves for at least 72 hours and have a family disaster plan already in place. A radiological emergency planner also operates from the EOC. This person coordinates closely with staff at the Progress Energy complex and assists emergency management personnel.

When the EOC activates due to a pending threat, or a disaster strikes, Citizen Information Lines will be staffed. When necessary, these lines are open 24 hours a day.

Captain Eckstein will describe the overall operations of the Emergency Operations Center with a special focus on Hurricane Preparedness, Emergency Help Centers, and Distribution Centers and what we as residents can do to be better prepared in case a disaster strikes.

Following Captain Eckstein's presentation, **Gerry Brummer, Sugarmill Woods Community Emergency Response Team (SMW CERT)**, will give a brief overview of their organization's role in support of the Sheriff's Emergency Operations Center and what they do to support our community in the event of a major emergency. Following both presentations we will have a Q&A session for residents.

Please join us and invite your friends and neighbors in Sugarmill Woods to come with you to the meeting. All of us should know what to expect and what we need to do to get prepared before the 2010 Hurricane Season begins.

The Sugarmill Woods Civic Association is sponsoring this meeting as part of the Community Outreach Program.

Sincerely,

Duane Dueker, President, Sugarmill Woods Civic Association

cc: Cypress Village POA, Oak Village Association, Southern Woods POA