

Mr. Biastre,

As we discussed I have an opportunity for kids ages 14-18 in your scout troop to participate in an emergency preparedness activity as victims on April 25, 2009.

I am currently coordinating a program called Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). We teach our CERT students fire-suppression, first-aid and light search & rescue. Then we conduct drills at the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Training Academy. In order to conduct the drill we use community members to play the victims in the drill.

In talking it over with my advisors, we would be glad to have your scouts participate as patients for the CERT Disaster Drill. I would need to know how many scouts we are talking about. I would also have to set an age limit of 14-18 years of age. A Hold Harmless agreement must be signed by the scouts and counter-signed by one of their parents and/or legal guardians. I can get you the paperwork.

The rules for clothes for the scouts to wear are very specific. We will use the scouts as patients for our CERT students to simulate working on them in first-aid after a disaster. The scouts will need to wear very old clothes that they and their parents will not mind being ruined or stained. The clothes may be cut and or torn in the simulation of injuries. The make-believe patients will also be moulaged to simulate injuries or medical conditions. This makeup will permanently stain cloths. Participants in the drill are NOT allowed to wear open-toed shoes! This is a safety precaution for the JFRD Training Academy. If participants show up with open-toed shoes they will not be allowed to participate and will be sent home.

It is a very good idea that some type of seat cover be used to transport the scouts home. The scouts should start hydrating themselves the night before the drill. There will be rehab stations set up around the Training Academy with water available. There will be safety officers and instructors at the four different scenarios to ensure the safety of all participants. There will also be an on-duty JFRD rescue unit fully staffed with EMT and paramedics to monitor all participants.

The meeting time for the simulated patients will be 7am at the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Training Academy located at 2700 Firefighter Memorial Dr. This road runs off of Alden Rd. and can be reached going north on St. Johns Bluff Rd. from Beach Blvd. The drill runs until approx. 12p – 1p depending on how well the CERT students move from one scenario to the next.

If you would like to see more information about the CERT program please go to the following web site [www.JaxCERT.info](http://www.JaxCERT.info). If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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