

East Lake CERT Participates In Universal Studios Emergency Drill

Universal Studios in Orlando was the setting for a disaster drill as "Hurricane Betty" struck on September 23rd. East Lake CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), was among 37 units from around the state that participated in the event sponsored by the Orlando Fire Department. In all, approximately 700 people took part as rescuers or "victims."

A darkened and empty amusement park was littered with debris and the "injured." Professional makeup was used and with sirens wailing and only flashlights for illumination, it was a chaotic scene as the screams of the "victims" filled the air.

The East Lake CERT conducted search and rescue, transport, and emergency medical care. The "victims" stayed in character as they exhib-



CERT Coordinator Mark Weinkrantz leans down to assist a "victim".



The CERT Team, L to R: Bonni Willett, Mark Weinkrantz, Sam Copenhaver, Clare Golle, Joanne Schulman, Barbara Cociatori, Melissa Hughes, Mary McNeice, and Frank McNeice.

ited limb and head injuries. One woman was assigned the role of being totally delusional as she ran in and out of the treatment area. "Finally we had to let her go," said East Lake CERT Coordinator Mark Weinkrantz. "She was distracting us from taking care of the more seriously injured and our job is to do the most good for the most people." Even though it was just a drill the reality of what could happen struck home. "To see some of the kids 'black-tagged' (beyond help and left for dead) had a great impact," Weinkrantz added.

Drills like these serve to prepare the CERT's in the event there is a true emergency. East Lake will conduct its next class the weekend of October 28th. For information contact Mark Weinkrantz at (727) 742-5280. Palm Harbor has a CERT program as well. Contact Kris Sholz at (727) 787-5974.

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