

Rescue how-to taught in training

Students are learning safety techniques and survival skills with the help of a new class.

BY MARGARET BEHM

Do you know how to put out a fire, get out of a collapsed building or rescue people buried by debris?

A program is available that will teach anyone the necessary survival skills for a disaster.

Mike Burnett, a Community Emergency Response Team instructor, said the course teaches people how to live through a disaster.

"The class was originally designed to help the average citizen survive the first 72 hours of a major disaster without help from professionals," said Burnett, a liaison officer for the Lincoln-Lancaster County Department of Emergency Management.

Amy Olsen, who went through CERT training last fall, said she is glad she completed the training.

"The fact that you're just an ordinary citizen and knowing you could help in an emergency is amazing," said Olsen, a senior exercise science and athletic

training major.

Disaster training is especially important for areas such as college campuses, Burnett said.

"History has shown that in larger populated areas it could be several hours or days before help arrives," he said.

The focus is not just to teach participants how to help themselves but to help others, Burnett said.

"The emphasis for the class is doing the greatest good for the greatest number of people,"

The training for the program is 20 hours during one weekend. The date of this year's training course has not been set.

"The training was really intense, but it was really thorough," said Olsen. "It was really easy to learn."

Training includes search and rescue, fire suppression and medical training.

Disaster first aid is taught to participants along with disaster rescue techniques.

Participants also learn how to tag people for medical assistance as either immediate treatment, delayed treatment or dead.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation is not taught during the course because, during a disaster, there's not going to be time to perform CPR, Burnett

"If you're seeing pieces of people with guts hanging out, it's going to get to you."

Mike Burnett
Community Emergency Response Team instructor

said.

There also is training for participants dealing with the psychological aftermath of a disaster for victims and rescuers.

"If you're seeing pieces of people with guts hanging out, it's going to get to you," he said.

The best part of the weekend is on Sunday when a disaster is actually simulated, Olsen said.

"We got all dressed up in our gear and they set-up fake incidents, and that was really fun," she said. "It puts you in their shoes to see how you'll react."

Some communities, such as Grand Island, have an organized CERT team.

In a disaster, the team meets at a set location and organizes how it will disperse aide.

Even though Lincoln doesn't have an organized team, the training still is helpful, Burnett said.

"Even if they aren't a part of a

team, it's going to be a huge asset to responders," he said. "It's going to be one less family or group of people that the responders have to worry about."

There is no fee for participating in the program. But, participants must purchase the gear needed to complete the activities.

Gear includes safety glasses, a hard hat, leather gloves and leather boots. Everything but the boots can be purchased during the program for \$14.

Money for the course was provided by a grant to fight terrorism that was given to Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. The course costs \$1,300 to run.

Because of a lack of funding, the course will be taught only once this year. To sign up for the course call Mike Burnett at (402) 441-7441.

Norton stays at UNL

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didn't mean he would stay at UNL.

"He's a high-profile dean," Goff said. "This doesn't mean someone else won't want him. I'd suspect he'd be on three or four other lists."

Norton is president of the Journalism Education Association and has been involved with the Freedom Forum in Washington, D.C.

Despite the threat of Norton's leaving UNL, Goff said it was good he decided to stay.

"He's a tremendous leader," Goff said. "You'd be hard-pressed to find anyone who wouldn't want him to stay here."

"For the moment, we're happy. We want to keep him here."

News-Editorial Professor George Tuck agreed.

"I'm very pleased he's going to remain here," Tuck said. "He's done a lot for the college."

Tuck said Norton had been instrumental in raising money for the college and in helping move the school to its new building.

"He's pushed and pulled us along with that," Tuck said.

In September, Linda Shipley, associate dean of the College of Journalism and Mass Communications, said she was unsure how interested Norton would be in the position at South Carolina.

"My assumption is that it'll have to be a really good offer (for Norton to leave UNL)," she said.

Moore heads to Union Pacific

BY JOSH FUNK

After 20 years of working in the chambers and offices of Nebraska's state capitol, Secretary of State Scott Moore decided he was ready for a change of scenery.

Moore announced Thursday that he will resign Dec. 15 to become a lobbyist for Union Pacific Railroad.

"I've spent my entire life working in state government here," Moore said. "This will allow me to go to other states and learn how they work."

Moore said he will handle the company's government relations in Nebraska and the Western United States.

"Obviously, it's a decision that doesn't come lightly," Moore told a room packed with lobbyists, reporters, staff members and supporters.

"It's a proper career move for me, and I'm excited about the challenges."

The 40-year-old, two-term secretary of state has spent the past 20 years in politics and said he plans to spend the next 20 in the private sector.

"It's not a mid-life crisis by any means," he said.

The new job matches Moore's interests in government and history while giving him the opportunity to sample life in the private sector, he said.

"I'm someone that enjoys history, and the railroad is one of the few companies that has a history longer than the state's," Moore said.

Gov. Mike Johanns will appoint Moore's successor after he returns Nov. 21 from a trade mission to Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and Taiwan.

Moore said he told Johanns of his intentions Tuesday. He had made up his mind about leaving office during a vacation to Africa in August and after talking with Democratic U.S. Sen. Bob Kerrey about the two-term senator's decision to leave office.

In a statement, Johanns commended Moore and

thanked him for his service to the state.

"Scott Moore has served the citizens of Nebraska with dedication, integrity and class," Johanns said. "He is a trusted colleague and a good friend, and he will be missed by all those with whom he has worked."

Moore said losing last spring's Republican U.S. Senate primary to Don Stenberg - his first electoral loss - was a factor in his decision and said it was time for a change. Former Gov. Ben Nelson defeated Stenberg in a close race Tuesday.

Although Moore had been talking with Union Pacific about the job since September, he waited until after the election to announce his decision.

Moore said he wanted to fulfill his duties as the state's chief election official, and he did not want to overshadow any political races with his announcement.

Moore grew up in York and got his first taste for politics as a legislative errand boy 20 years ago while pursuing his political science degree at the University

of Nebraska-Lincoln.

He went on to serve as a legislative aide to Sen. Harold Sieck of Pleasant Dale and then for Sen. Rod Johnson of Sutton.

In 1986, at the age of 26, Moore decided to run for the Legislature while the state was suffering from a farm crisis.

He won the 24th District seat, representing York and Seward counties and part of Polk County, by beating businessman Bill Hartman with 57 percent of the vote.

Moore served two terms, fighting for property-tax breaks and leading an effort to increase state sales and income taxes to bolster funding for education.

When he left office in 1994, Moore had risen through the ranks to become chairman of the Appropriations Committee, which crafts the state budget.

He was elected secretary of state in 1994 with 63 percent of the vote.

He pondered running for governor in 1998, but instead ran for re-election and won with 65 percent of the vote.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.



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