

**City Of Margate**  
**Mayor** David McLean  
**Vice Mayor** Pam Donovan  
**Commissioner** Arthur J. Bross  
**Commissioner** Frank B. Talerico  
**Commissioner** Joseph Varsallone



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **First Margate Community Emergency Response Team to Graduate**

Margate, Fla., August 20, 2007 – On Thursday August 23, 2007 the first graduating class of the Margate Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will graduate. However, the ceremony will be without caps and gowns but instead consist of performing a mock disaster drill.

Those who graduate from the CERT program could be called upon to help the City in such roles as non-emergency safety projects as well as disaster response. These volunteers may provide a critical support to first responders. CERT volunteers are trained in disaster preparedness, medical operations team organization, terrorism awareness, fire suppression, light search and rescue, triage, stress management and more.

CERT coordinator Lloyd Kurtzman says, “Each graduating class will have their own scenario to experience during graduation.” On Thursday at 7:00 p.m. the first graduation class, consisting of 18 CERT members will arrive at the Margate Public Works compound. They will receive such orders as: *A tornado has just touched down in Margate; it has started several fires and has trapped residents. We have no idea how many are injured.* The CERT team will assist the Fire Department and Police Department in securing the scene.

CERT classes are nine weeks long and the second class has been scheduled. For those interested in joining the Margate CERT program, email [margatecert@yahoo.com](mailto:margatecert@yahoo.com) anytime. Classes will be ongoing and new volunteers are welcome.

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