

## **Dallas CERT Team Responds to Downtown Area Explosions**

On the morning of July 25, 2007 at about 9:30 a.m., gas explosions rocked the downtown area. Fiery debris was flying in all directions, often landing on or near heavily traveled roadways. The city's Office of Emergency Management placed phone calls and sent emails to the volunteer C.E.R.T. (Community Emergency Response Team) members, requesting assistance downtown. At least eight members showed up and met with Sgt. Bryan Cornish who directed the C.E.R.T. team from a command post set up about a quarter of a mile north of the explosion site. The team began assessing the conditions of eighteen citizens who had abandoned their vehicles on I-35. Once it was determined the citizens were uninjured, the volunteers began gathering information from them to ensure that their vehicles would be recovered and returned to their rightful owners. Members of the team also provided support for the police and fire departments by picking up and distributing food and water and doing many other tasks given to them. Emergency Management Specialist Tahira Ali thanked all of those members who responded to the call for assistance and was impressed by the dedication these C.E.R.T. team members showed. Doug Woodham, C.E.R.T. team member, stated he was "highly impressed with the reception that DPD officers gave us" and that the members performed "like a well-oiled machine."

If you would like to become a member of this important volunteer team, please contact Northeast ICP officer Jason Sibley at 214-670-7768 or [jason.sibley@dps.dallascityhall.com](mailto:jason.sibley@dps.dallascityhall.com).