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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Emergency Management surveys to be conducted *Teams will be in neighborhoods on Sept. 24*

LITTLE ELM (September 14, 2016) On Saturday, Sept. 24, selected residents in Little Elm will be asked to undergo a voluntary face-to-face survey that will help gauge their level of emergency preparedness.

“The interviews are part of a training exercise that will assist area emergency response organizations in the event of a disaster,” said Little Elm Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator Travis Calendine. “When a real emergency strikes, a quick assessment of the conditions in a populated area has to be conducted, and this exercise will help get us ready for that possibility.”

Survey personnel will be conducting the training exercise between 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The assessment tool being tested is called CASPER, an acronym for Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response. Also participating in the exercise are members of the Denton County Public Health Department and the Denton County Medical Reserve Corps.

“We’ll be conducting the exercise by using a real-world scenario,” added Calendine. “During the interviews, we will survey residents on the measures they have taken to prepare for emergencies.”

Questions will cover items such as how much, if any, food, water, and medications have been stockpiled, and whether or not preparations have been made for contacting relatives or meeting pets’ needs during emergencies.

In a true emergency, the CASPER method can rapidly give emergency responders the information they need to make critical decisions on what and where to deploy emergency resources. The assessment is used to quickly guide responders to where the needs are greatest.

Survey takers will wear yellow vests and identifying badges and will take about 10 minutes to complete their work. Participating residents will receive public health and emergency management educational information.

“This kind of information-gathering can prove lifesaving in the event of an emergency, and can direct the right resources to the right locations without wasting time or exerting unproductive effort,” he said.

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ABOUT LITTLE ELM – Little Elm is one of the state’s fastest growing communities. Nestled on the shores of Lake Lewisville, the Town was incorporated in 1966, adopting the Council/Manager form of government. The population increased dramatically over the last several years, growing from under 4,000 in 2000 to over 30,000 today. Little Elm’s population exceeds the state average in education and income, and is increasingly trending younger and technologically proficient. The Town’s footprint is just over 21 square miles and boasts some 66 linear miles of shoreline within its boundaries.