

Canberra Community Emergency Preparedness Programme

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Participants taking a group picture

A Community Emergency Preparedness Programme (CEPP) was conducted at The Jelutong Community Club on three separate sessions on 27th March, 6th April and 6th June 2008, with the aim of equipping the residents in the Canberra constituency with basic Civil Defence (CD) skills which would put them in good stead during emergencies. A joint training effort by the People's Association (PA) and 3rd CD Division, PA conducted the First Aid and CPR Certification courses, while 3rd CD Division conducted the Fire

Safety, Unconventional Threats and In Place Protection modules.

Officers and CD Auxilliary Units (AU) instructors conducted the Fire Safety and Emergency Procedures module to impart the basic knowledge on fire fighting, Public Warning System and stockpiling of essential food items during emergencies. For the Unconventional Threats module, the participants were given a sobering reminder of the global development in warfare where biological and chemical agents are used rampantly by terrorist organizations and religious cults. This highlighted the importance of the decontamination processes that will be facilitated by the SCDF during such an occurrence.

The final module with another practical session was the In Place Protection module. The participants were initially foreign to this concept, but after a practical session they became familiar with the basic principles



Briefing before a practical training session



Practicing the "Kiss of life"

of In Place Protection. The participants who completed these three training days would become members of the Community Emergency Response Team. With this training programme in place, the Canberra residents would have a newly trained response team that is equipped to handle any unforeseen incidents.