

## **CERT Auxiliary Working Group**

Saturday, June 13, 2020

Minutes

Scribe: David Sonnenberg

### ***Announcements***

- Website: “[www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus](http://www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus)” has useful information, current county statistics on cases, current policies, trends analysis etc.
- CERT is activating for Sgt. Gutzwiller’s memorial. Currently, plans are very fluid. (Logistics Lead -- Bill Monroe contact at [wkmunro@comcast.net](mailto:wkmunro@comcast.net) for updated information). Conditions for activation, include PPE, masks, temperature taking and physical distancing. County Search and Rescue will be the incident command.
- Change in FEMA classes:
  - IS 315a (CERT and the Incident Command System) - this course includes more content on how Sponsoring Organizations may use CERT in innovative ways and integrating CERT programs into a response framework.
  - 317 (Introduction to CERT) – this course now takes less time to complete; includes revised practices that cover the fundamentals of CERT; and various ways CERTs may contribute to communities before, during and after a disaster.
- Correct *misinformation*: All beaches are closed from 11-5pm daily, this will be reassessed on July 6<sup>th</sup>.

***CERT Auxiliary Conversion to ICS Model*** Working committee to formulate a draft plan for converting the CERT Auxiliary into an ICS-like organization, creating job descriptions, duties and responsibilities of each area and recruiting individuals for the positions. Committee members – Ken Braly, Liz Taylor-Selling, Bill Monroe, Dawn Mackey and Mary Edmund will present draft plan at the September 12<sup>th</sup> Working Group Meeting. Anyone interested in participating contact [certauxiliary@gmail.com](mailto:certauxiliary@gmail.com).

## ***Demobilization***

Group discussed demobilizing the Covid-19 operations as the County is beginning Phase 2 openings. There was consensus to demobilize but maintain standby readiness in case of need to reactivate.

Benefits of the COVID-19 operation include:

- Using ICS was educational and good practice for the future
- Challenging pulling objectives together but showed expertise and teamwork
- Supporting the utility of using software like MERIT for having a census ready
- Showing the importance of flexibility and being adaptable in a unknown and changing environment
- Forming levels of participation for reporting CERT inventory
- Organizing a county-wide communication plan for CERT
- Exposed new members to the organization
- Functioning more on the County-wide level and gained insight on other Teams

Special thanks to Ed Spurr, Bill Monroe, Bill Fitler, Doreen O'Donovan, Catherine L. Green, Joyce Smith, Liz Taylor-Selling, Ken Braly, and John Hanley, who stepped up and for their willingness in providing leadership and in mentoring others. A job well done.

## ***CERT Training***

- MERIT -- Dawn Mackey is lead at [dawnmackey411@gmail.com](mailto:dawnmackey411@gmail.com)  
There are two parts of the software, the check in (invites, attendance) and the actual program which can import files in CSV format, useful for taking files from other programs (i.e., excel) and move the information into Merit without total data entry. There are some privacy concerns about personal identification information(PII) like phone numbers, e-mails and addresses but these issues are being resolved.
- New FEMA Basic Training course modules have been edited and updated with local information by an Instructor committee. Once all instructors have reviewed them, they will be finalized (in September).

- Continuing Education Training: Promote classes scheduled for June and July.
  - This Thursday 6:30-8:30PM Intermediate MURS Radio class
  - Crowd and Traffic Management Course has 3 sessions the morning of 7/24 -- video conference didactic with 30 attendees and 7/25 -- 2 hands-on sessions with 15 students in each. Attendees will be required to wear PPE including masks and gloves, having temperature taken and observing physical distancing.

### ***Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS)***

PG&E held a meeting about its response to the 2020 fire season and PSPS. Information at [www.pge.com/wildfiresafety](http://www.pge.com/wildfiresafety) about a public webinar on June 24<sup>th</sup> – flyer attached. One of the approaches is to re-design the power grid so that they don't have to disable large portions of the grid at once. They also have set up weather stations and cameras to monitor the fire risk and community resource centers. These centers will provide basics like water, heat, wi-fi, etc. CERT's role will be to communicate to Teams about impending PSPS and where the centers will be located.

### ***Re-opening, Phase 2***

As a part of Phase 2 re-opening lodging, movie theaters, museums, gyms, fitness centers, swimming pools, bars, salons, restaurants, tasting rooms, camp grounds and RV parks will open. All have specific County and State guidelines for safety.

Reviewed Centers for Disease control (CDC) guidelines which consider the numbers and density of gatherings. Six feet is a *minimum* separation for social distancing, and the amount of time spent in a group setting should be considered. Monitor exposure accumulation. Masks usage with either paper as single use or cloth masks as multiple uses but washed and dried and sit for a day. Research is showing the likelihood that that people with blood type A are the most susceptible, while those with type O the least. No one knows why. CDC website <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/activities.html>. Bottom line, limit exposure, wash hands frequently, and wear a mask.

### ***Team Leader Reports***

**Bill Monroe, Boulder Creek:** Debated contact tracing privacy issues

**David Dean, and David Sonnenberg, Live Oak:** 2<sup>nd</sup> week of July meeting on fire evacuation

**Liz Taylor-Selling, Felton Area:** Coordinating with CalFire and testing MURS radio from home coverages; other Teams are welcome to Felton Team meetings

**Catherine L. Green, Santa Cruz:** Trying to get a meeting scheduled

**Doreen O'Donovan, Aptos/LaSelva:** Working to get meetings going again

**Dawn Mackey, Bonnie Doon:** Had regularly scheduled meeting by Zoom, promoted continuing education trainings, MURS testing

**Jim Nelson, Scott's Valley/Branciforte:** no meetings since February, working on trainings

**Ed Spurr, Capitola:** Reported on COVID team operations, asked for invitations to neighboring Team meetings

**Dick Lovelace, Paradise Park:** still not responding to medical emergencies

**Dan Selling, ARES, San Lorenzo Valley:** Discussing PSPS and stationing ARES people at strategic locations for optimal communications. Still working out plan.

**Jamshid Kiani Red Cross:** Will be holding a training session for congregate sheltering

**John Hanley, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC):** Nothing to report, haven't met in over a month

**Dawn Mackey, Equine Evacuation:** Working on equine evac, to help owners to evacuate their own animals. County may help with transportation, if necessary

**Susan Marx, Neighborhood La Selva Beach:** Organized another group MURS radio buy, tested MURS range in area, approximately ¼ mile. Looking at locations for emergency helicopter landings. (15 active members, 60 possible)

**Next Meeting July 11<sup>th</sup>, 10-noon by Zoom**



## Regional Wildfire Safety Webinar

You're invited to learn more about our  
**Community Wildfire Safety Program (CWSP)**

June 24 | 5:30-7:00 p.m.

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San Benito, Santa Cruz & Monterey Counties

[Learn more »](#)

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As we all work to fight coronavirus (COVID-19), we also know wildfire season is around the corner. PG&E is working to prevent wildfires and reduce the impact of Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events. Our essential work for the safety of customers and communities will continue as long as we can perform it safely for both employees and customers. The focus of these efforts, and the sole purpose of a PSPS event, is to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires during severe fire-risk weather.

We invite you to join us for an interactive webinar with details about our plans for this year. You will hear about work in your community, have the opportunity to ask questions of PG&E subject matter experts and share your feedback.

## Topics include:



Making PSPPS events smaller in size, shorter in duration and smarter for customers



PG&E's wildfire prevention plans



Progress on key safety initiatives in your community



Resources to prepare for wildfire season

For a list of all the webinars that we have planned -- and to learn more about our wildfire safety efforts and how you can prepare, visit [pge.com/wildfiresafety](https://www.pge.com/wildfiresafety) »

## Event notes

- While this event will focus on regional work in the identified counties, any PG&E customers are welcome to join.
- Closed captioning will be available in English, Spanish and Chinese; related information in these and other languages is available on PG&E's website at [www.pge.com/wildfiresafety](https://www.pge.com/wildfiresafety) »
- The Webinar is being streamed. It is recommended that you listen via your computer speakers.



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Following the wildfires in 2017 and 2018, some of the changes included in this email are contemplated as additional precautionary measures intended to further reduce future wildfire risk.

For inquiries, please do not reply to this email. Submit feedback via [Contact Us](#).  
"PG&E" refers to Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation 77 Beale St. San Francisco, CA 94105.

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