

CERT Auxiliary Working Group  
Saturday, September 12, 2020, ZOOM

**Attendance:**

*Liz Taylor-Selling – TL Felton, Dan Selling – Felton (ARES), Ed Spurr – TL Capitola, Bill Fitler - Felton, Bill Monroe – TL Boulder Creek, Joyce Smith – Santa Cruz, Catherine L. Green – TL Santa Cruz, David Dean – TL Live Oak, Doreen O'Donovan TL Aptos, Susan Marx - La Selva Beach, Ken Braly - Aptos, Webmaster, David Sonnenberg – TL Live Oak, , John Collins – TL Scotts Valley/Branciforte, Chris Jong -- Santa Cruz, Jennifer Carr, TL Sunset Beach, Jim Nelson – Scotts Valley, Mary Edmund – Aptos*

**Announcements**

September is National Preparedness Month – a link with information is at [www.ready.gov/kit](http://www.ready.gov/kit) and [ready.gov/plan](http://ready.gov/plan)

**September 21-27** is CERT Week, flyer attached.

**CERT Training**

CERT Crowd and Traffic Management Class offered by the Safety Center will again be offered on November 6 & 7<sup>th</sup> (both days am only) Sign up on website “SantaCruzCountyCERT.org”.

Continuing Education Classes on zoom having good attendance. Map Your Neighborhood Workshop and Activation classes are filled but will be recorded and placed on the website under Training.

**Activation**

Thank you all for your participation the past three weeks. CERTs proved to be a valuable resource for the County. Estimates are at over 2000 hours of CERTs participation. CERTs were acknowledged as professional and able to respond to the needs quickly with teamwork and skill.

Those in attendance reflected on their participation in the activation. The CERTs activity included traffic, donation and communication assistance at the County Fairgrounds for the evacuation shelter, managing the RV side of the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventists Shelter, COVID-19 screening at the Fire Resource Recover Center, going door-door providing fire mitigation and go bag information in Santa Cruz, establishing and answering calls at the CalFire call center, radio communication assistance for animal rescue, water distribution for the mountain communities, and participation at the EOC. These were County and 3 Branch activations.

### **What went well**

- CERTs training program was validated. Were able to be flexible and had experience, skills to adapt, and a willingness to do whatever was necessary
- Sized-up scene and kept things organized
- Helped humanized a system for communicating in an incident and caring for evacuees
- Leads friendly and welcoming gave good verbal briefings
- Radios made a big difference
- Knowing ICS was important, as well as emphasis on team and self-care
- Understood COVID-19 procedures
- Disaster psychology played an important role
- Working in pairs, critical
- Operation at RRC email updates to Leads and Team very useful

### **What may CERTs do better**

- Need for activation kit with forms, PPE, hand sanitizer, clipboards, pens pencils, and extra radios
- Remembering to sign-in and out for protection
- Better knowledge of volunteers and their personal skills
- Improved call-out process
- More CERTs trained in Traffic Management

- Work with NextDoor/FEMA
- Continuing Education in areas such as: Crisis Intervention, expanded Disaster Psychology, Answering Calls in a Disaster, Spontaneous Volunteer Training, Evacuation Shelter Training, Situational Awareness, and Team Lead Training,
- Building team camaraderie, CERTs know team members before activation
- CERT structure and training focused on individual and neighborhood emergency response now include changes to better prepare CERTs for regional and community emergencies recently experienced (wildfire and pandemic)
- Keep shifts shorter no more than 5 hours including training times
- More emphasis on ability to do contact tracing by documenting people who are at a specific site for later use, if necessary
- More written instructions for reference
- Better recognition of COVID-19 precautions—especially distancing
- Communicate that CERTs are volunteers

Thanks to David Sonnenberg for taking the minutes of this meeting

Next Meeting – SATURDAY, *October 10th*, 10-noon, ZOOM



**The Listos California Emergency Preparedness Campaign in partnership with the National CERT Association presents**

# #CERTweek

**September 21 - 27, 2020**

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program has been a crucial part of making local communities more resilient since 1986. Join the Listos California Emergency Preparedness Campaign and the National CERT Association as we celebrate the CERT program during National Preparedness Month. We are asking CERT programs all over the world to share their memories during #CERTweek, September 21-27, 2020. Post your photos, videos, testimonies, milestones, etc. on twitter and use #CERTweek and @NationalCERT1 so that we can retweet you. You can also share the links to your social media accounts.

In California, make sure to @ListosCA when sending out a tweet so that the Listos California Campaign can help share all your great work!

Follow us @NationalCERT1 on twitter with your CERT or Agency Account and we will follow you back. You can do this prior to CERT week.

CERT programs across the US and overseas are also be invited to participate.



<https://www.facebook.com/NationalCERT>



<https://twitter.com/NationalCERT1>



<https://www.instagram.com/NationalCERT>



<https://nationalcert.org>

<https://www.listoscalifornia.org>



# FEMA

## CERT

### ICPD

Individual and Community  
Preparedness Division

The national Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program trains volunteers to prepare for the types of disasters that their community may face. Through hands-on practice and realistic exercises, CERT members:

- Learn how to safely respond to man-made and natural hazards;
- Help organize basic disaster response; and
- Promote preparedness within their communities.

**CERT members aim to do the greatest good for the greatest number of people.**

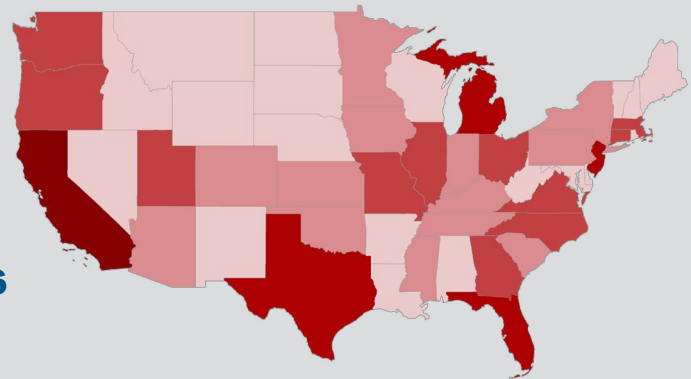
## RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES

Since 1986, **more than**

# 600,000

**Americans**

have completed **CERT training**.



# of CERTs 1-25 26-50 51-100 101-200 201-350

### Specialized CERT programs:

- Campus CERT
- Teen CERT
- Workplace CERT



### Members learn:

- Light search and rescue
- Disaster medical operations
- Fire safety and utility controls
- Leadership in disasters
- Traffic and crowd management



**There is a role for everyone in CERT.** Speak with your local **CERT Program Manager** to learn how to get involved.



**CERT members build preparedness** by organizing their communities before disasters.



Nationwide, there are more than **2,800+** **local CERT** programs.

## Prepared to Act

CERT offers a consistent, nationwide approach to volunteer training and organization that professional responders can rely on during disaster situations, which allows them to focus on more complex tasks.

## Trainings and Tools

Online and in-person courses, as well as other local training activities, help CERT members to be ready when disaster strikes.

### Full Courses

#### IS-317-Introduction to CERT (Online):

An independent study course that serves as an introduction to CERT.



#### CERT Basic:

Delivered in the community by a team of first responders and other qualified volunteers, this course is the foundation of the program.



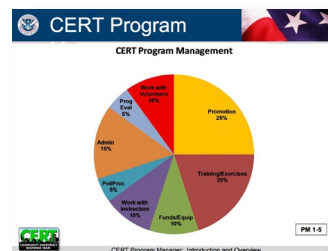
#### Train-the-Trainer:

Experienced CERT leaders teach new CERT trainers how to train their own teams.



#### Program Manager:

New CERT leaders learn how to start, develop, and sustain local CERT programs.



### Additional Resources



#### Hazard-Specific Training

Additional training modules allow communities to provide more in-depth training on the hazards they are most likely to face.



#### Specialized Modules

CERT members build robust skill sets through trainings on advanced topics such as emergency communications and animal response.



#### Inclusive Training

Accommodations to make CERT training accessible for people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs.



#### Community-Based Trainings

Many CERT training materials and program management tools are available free of charge.

Get more information at [ready.gov/CERT](https://ready.gov/CERT).