

CERT Auxiliary Working Group

Summary

Saturday, February 12, 2022

Attendees: Dawn Mackey, Dan Selling, Bill Monroe, Liz Taylor-Selling, Ken Braly, Catherine L. Green, Jamshid Kiani, Chris Jong, Sharon Spence, Doreen O'Donovan, Jo Marie Faulkerson, Susan Marx, David Sonnenberg, Rosemary Anderson, John Hanley, Ed Spurr, and Mary Edmund

- Deputy – Rosemary Anderson
 - Very productive Council Meeting this month discussing activation policies, and relationships with Fire, Law and OR3.
 - John Collins, Planning Chief, presented a training plan for CERTs beyond basic training including the value of safety, good assessment and clear communication. Requested input from Council members so training may meet needs of the County and maximize the CERT Program's effectiveness
 - The first meeting with OR3 and the CERT Auxiliary Staff happened in January. Meeting face to face on zoom helped with acknowledging the staff and starting the process of defining our specific roles and partnership in disaster planning, training and emergency response.
 - Discussed need for mapping program for tracking Team members, communication groups, MTN areas, etc. **ACTION:** *Rosemary Anderson will form group and review Google maps and Survey 123 and make recommendation to WG including what information is needed on the maps.*
- Operations/Logistics – Bill Monroe
 - Activation for COVID Testing at Fairgrounds – CERTs provided 553 hours of support over 127 shifts, 9 Teams were represented.
 - Safety briefing at beginning of each shift would be helpful, remember to bring all activation bins and sign-out equipment as it is released. Good radio practice and worked as teams using ICS training.
 - Briefed activation binder – checklists for Command, Operations, Planning and Logistics. Will also include specific info on each Teams personnel, and various maps assembled by Team Leaders. A google document with the draft binder information will be sent to WG members and Team Leaders.
 - Identified need for procedure for purchasing equipment and supplies during an activation. **ACTION:** *David Sonnenberg will compile draft policy and present at April WG meeting.*
 - Also need for organizational chart for activation **ACTION:** *Liz Taylor-Selling will create draft and present to WG.*
- Planning/Intelligence – Dawn Mackey, Deputy,
 - Working on plan for active CERTs beyond basic training. Components include the value of safety, good assessment and clear communication.
 - Communication Exercise planned for April 3, 1-3 pm. Exercise is meant to stimulate the actions that would be taken immediately after an emergency or disaster and prior to an official activation.
 - Looking for people who want to participate in a newly formed group for planning County-wide CERT exercise this summer. The first meeting will be Tuesday, March 1 at 6:30 for identifying possible dates and content.
- Website – Ken Braly
 - No report
- Public Information Officer (PIO) -- Traci Takeuchi -- Not in attendance
 - Photo policy deferred to April.

- Safety Officer – John Hanley
 - Updated COVID policy incorporating new County policy lifting the indoor mask requirement for those fully vaccinated (this includes booster). Unvaccinated individuals must still wear masks indoors. (attached)
 - Omicron, though highly transmissible is not as virulent as the Delta variant but may still make people very sick. Keep washing your hands and wear a mask if you feel the need.
 - “Fully vaccinated” is the term used for those who received the proper vaccinations and booster.
- Training – Joyce Smith – Not in attendance
- Reports/Ongoing Discussion
 - CERT Communications –presented listing of CERT hams assigned to Teams and will update twice a year. (attached)
 - Red Cross has new pilot program for creating a category of volunteers, who would be CERTs with access to RED Cross training and may also work as Red Cross volunteers. (attached) Still working out specific details.
- Team Leader reports deferred

Saturday, March 12, 10-noon Team Leader Meeting

Next Meeting Working Group Saturday, April 9, 10am-noon on Zoom

3 Enclosures:
Communications Report
Updated COVID Policy
Red Cross Training

COVID-19 Policy

In the CERT program, we strive to do the greatest good for the greatest number of people. In that spirit it is incumbent upon the CERT leadership to keep our volunteer community safe. Concerning COVID19, the CERT Auxiliary aligns itself with the Santa Cruz County Department of Health and California Department of Public Health and their policies.

Santa Cruz County will lift universal mask requirements for most indoor public settings beginning Wednesday, February 16, 2022. Unvaccinated individuals over age 2 will continue to be required to wear masks in all indoor public settings. The change aligns with the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) decision to let expire the statewide indoor mask requirement, which was instated on December 15, 2021 during the latest COVID-19 surge. Indoor masking is still required by the State for everyone, regardless of vaccination status, in public transportation; health care settings; congregate settings like correctional facilities and homeless shelters; long term care facilities; and in K12 schools and childcare settings.

Therefore, prior to attending any CERT program (in-person training, exercises, activation, etc.) all persons wishing to attend must be vaccinated and show proof of full vaccine status, including booster when eligible. Indoor activities with fully vaccinated CERT members will ***NOT*** need to be masked. Masking is now optional for fully vaccinated CERT members. Proof of vaccination status need only be documented once as yes or no. This information is then kept in a secure file with limited access.

These requirements do not fall under HIPAA regulations as CERT Auxiliary is not a healthcare or a covered entity per definitions in the 1996 HIPAA law.

Updated February 9, 2022

Our goal is to develop a county-wide plan for coordinated CERT communications between various communications-related groups around the County, and train CERT Teams Radio Operators, both MURS and Ham, to participate in a coordinated communications network, with the goal of moving emergency communications, in times of need, from remote, or isolated parts of our county to the appropriate responding agencies, via the Office of Emergency Services.

Update on last CRO Report, 3/11/21:

CRO now meets Quarterly, on the last Monday of the month, Jan-April, July, & Oct.

CRO relationship with ARES continues to be strengthened. We have agreement as to terminology about Roles when we work together. A generic HAM will be anyone with an amateur radio and license to use it. If working communications with ARES and/or CERT, the Ham will be assigned a role, either ARES Ham, or CERT Ham, which is subject to change depending on the role assignment the Ham wishes to perform. Once a role is taken the Ham will stay in that role until relieved of duty by their assigned Lead.

A county wide MURs event is being planned currently by a sub-committee of CRO. It will focus on Team Radio activity, that results in messages going out from individual Teams, via MURS, to the CERT Team MURS/Ham, then relayed to the Branch Leader, and/or relayed to the ARES HAM support Net for communication to the Office of Emergency Services, as needed. More info soon!

As this communication network continues to be practiced, tested and honed, it strengthens, and refines into an efficient, robust system that will serve our county in times of disaster.

CERT Radio Operators Roster

as of this date, based upon attendance at the last 9 meetings, with a minimum of 3, unless new

Bill Tyler, Aptos/LSB CERT MURS	Ham &	Jim Wason, Aptos/LSB MURS	Ham &
Dan Selling, FACERT/ARES MURS	Ham &	JoMarie Faulkerson, FACERT/ARES MURS	Ham &
Dave Hood, Aptos/LSB CERT Murs	Ham &	Liz Taylor-Selling, FACERT/ARES Moderator,	-



**American
Red Cross**

Join Us!

Become a registered Red Cross CERT/County partner to be trained to help with community sheltering and feeding.



Who is eligible to be a Red Cross CERT/County Partner?

- Registered and active members of any CERT organization within the Northern California Coastal Region
- The Northern California Coastal Region includes the following counties:

○ Alameda	○ Napa	○ Santa Clara
○ Contra Costa	○ San Benito	○ Santa Cruz
○ Marin	○ San Francisco	○ Solano
○ Merced	○ San Joaquin	○ Stanislaus
○ Monterey	○ San Mateo	

Why register with Red Cross as a CERT/County Partner?

1. You will have access to Red Cross disaster trainings
2. Completed training will be recorded on your profile
3. During local disaster relief operations, you will be able to sign-up for volunteer shifts

How do I register and what should I expect?

1. Create an online application using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/NCCRCERT>.
2. Once the form is completed you will be asked to complete a background check.
3. Your profile will be identified as a CERT Partner
4. Your American Red Cross profile will be set up in our Volunteer Connection volunteer management system. You will be able to access classes and register for disaster shifts through your Volunteer Connection profile.

Start your profile today at

<https://tinyurl.com/NCCRCERT>

Questions email: VolunteerNCCR@redcross.org

Or call

Jamshid Kiani at, (831) 600-4911