

CERT Auxiliary Working Group

[Saturday, February 14, 2026](#)

In attendance: Catherine L. Green, JoMarie Faulkerson, Lynn Gainey, Roberta Joiner, Liz Taylor-Selling, Dan Selling, Chris Jong, Mark Van Meter, Lila Jones, Shaidu Kiven, Joyce Smith and Mary Edmund

○ Welcome & Announcements:

- Unexpected death of Mario Ernesto Zunigas Merlos in a truck accident. He was the Pajaro Team Leader and committed to helping his Team be prepared for emergencies.
- Monterey Peninsula Foundation donated 10 tickets to the AT&T Pro Am in recognition of our partnership and our impactful work in the community.

○ Old Business:

- Refresher Training (Dangers in Paradise) Event – Committee **lead by Mark with support by Lynn and Liz** to research ideas and report to group. Likely in May.
 - Location in Watsonville, Cabrillo College campus
 - Remember to keep John Collins in the loop
- Crowd and Traffic Management Course:
 - Mary and Roberta working on curriculum to send to CA Highway Patrol
 - Planned for Fall for 2 days with an evening lecture at Live Oak and hand-on at Cabrillo College parking lot in 2 sessions (only need to attend one)

○ Ongoing Training:

- Basic Training:
 - Weekend Warrior class on 3 consecutive Saturdays starting on March 7 .
- Continuing Education
 - **John Collins** is working on Sheriff's Hints on Interfacing with Public
 - Possible Exercise at Live Oak in Spring
 - Need date
 - Look at supplies
 - Rescheduled Utility Safety class Sat, Feb 28 9-12:30 at Live Oak
 - Advanced Training Module 1 Tuesday, March 3 6:30pm on zoom
 - Triage Game — Available to Team Leaders contact Mary at certainauxiliary@gmail.com
 - Successful Intermediate Radio Communication class
 - Were some people who were new to the radio – took time to review basics – the hands-on component of the class was shorter then desired so all future classes will 2 1/2 hours long.

○ Team Leader Reports

- Felton: Had a successful radio exercise, will be busy in May with 3 events.
- Santa Cruz City: Planning the triage game for the next meeting
- Loma Prieta: Tabling at Craft Fair giving out emergency blankets and triangle bandages—was surprised that most middle school children attending were unable to give their address, set up a firefighter visit talking about preparedness at the school (K-2) on Feb 27, and speaking to 2 Firewise communities in March.
 - Note emergency blanket are available free to Team Leaders for use at tabling events. Will also order triangle bandages —contact Mary at certainauxiliary@gmail.com

- New Business
 - Possible UCSC Grant with augmented reality hazard preparedness subjects
 - Doreen O'Donovn to act as consultant over 3 years, if approved
 - National Science Foundation should respond in 6-7 months.
 - Update on Volunteer Organizations Assisting in Disaster (VOAD)
 - Emphasizing the importance of coordination and resource sharing
 - Includes 25 organizations to date
 - Plan a data base with information on all organizations to share with group
 - National CERT Conference
 - *August 24 - 29, 2026* in Irvine, California
 - With three days of pre-conference training followed by three full days of conference programming.
 - This event will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the CERT program, highlighting its evolution and future in community preparedness.
- Suggestions for Future Agenda Items: none
- Staff Roundtable:
 - JoMarie: CERT member expressed concern over lack of certificates of attendance for activations and exercises. Group agreed CERTs should keep track of their own activation hours.
 - Joyce: Suggested WG members prepare an emergency list of contacts to place in their wallets — will check next month
 - Lynn: The Bay Area CERT Coalition is updating contact information and coverage areas on their website. Request all Team Leaders provided updated team information at lgainey921@gmail.com Information should also be shared with Ken Braly for the website at ken@ken.com

NEXT MEETING Saturday, March 14 on zoom starting at 10am