

CERT Auxiliary Working Group

Saturday, October 10, 2026

Summary

In attendance: Lynn Gainey, Catherine L. Green, JoMarie Faulkerson, Joyce Smith, Dan Selling, Liz Taylor-Selling, Chris Jong, Sharon Naraghi, John Hanley, Doreen O'Donovan, Ken Braly, Lila Jones, David Dean, and Mary Edmund

○ Welcome & Announcements:

- Holiday Party scheduled for December 12 at Cabrillo College Sesnon House. Please reserve the date; more information to follow.
- Discussion of recent National Weather Service briefing of El Nino weather event.
 - Presentation emphasized the importance of being prepared for potential storms while avoiding unnecessary panic.
 - Expect a wet winter with higher temperatures.
 - Ocean rise —already 12 inches higher than normal; Kelvin wave adding another 6 inches —without any storms or King tides .
 - Weather forecast at 14 days out - somewhat reliable but really unsure until only 2 days before.
- Neighborhood Communication Preparedness Exercise
 - Participation smaller but still healthy with some new neighborhoods joining.
 - Challenges with radio coverage; possible use of other ham radio operators for areas like Capitola where the current ham radio signal does not reach.

○ Old Business:

- Google Workspace
 - Jo Marie leading initiative
 - Encourages Team Leaders to transition to Google Workspace System for better organization and security; please initiate change before the second password sent out expires.
 - Planned to adopt common email sequence for Team name
 - Instructors will be next group for access
- Spontaneous Unaffiliated Volunteers (SUV)
 - Prepare for discussion at Saturday, November 14 WG Meeting
 - Concern policy unaligned with FEMA policy. Draft policy adopts more of a neighborhood approach while FEMA uses a formal management model
 - Doreen sent WG members document comparing both policies and their differences. Comments and edits through google docs.
- Possibility of video for website outlining contents of the Command, Medical, and Traffic bins in the Conex shed— Ken, JoMarie and Lynn will explore. (on hold until current activations and trainings are complete).

○ Ongoing Training:

- Basic Training:
 - Currently in Live Oak finishes November 7.
 - Mount Hermon in January
- Continuing Education
 - Advanced Training
 - Module 2—Understanding your Role as DSW
Oct 13, 6:30 - 8:30 pm at Central Fire, Live Oak
 - Module 3 —Effective Assessment and Communications – Nov 17, 6:30 Live Oak
 - Module 4 —Managing a Medical Emergency – Dec 8, 6:30 Live Oak
 - Stop the Bleed--Sunday, October 25, 10 – noon;
 - FEMA IS 100, Sunday, October 25, 1- 4:30 - New straightforward and less extensive version.
- OR3 and Sherriff's Office requested Knock & Talk flood preparedness activation
 - Half completed with over 300 contacts and leaving 518 packets.
 - Recently trained CERTs very enthusiastic .
 - *Team Leaders* are asked to spearhead local areas; personally invite Team members to participate in remaining activations - still need more individuals.

- Felton Grove
 - Capitola/Esplanade beach front residents and businesses
 - Rio Del Mar /Beach Flats
 - Soquel
 - Paradise Park
 - Interlaken/College Road
 - Pajaro Dunes
 - Tannery Area
 - Beach Flats (City SC)
- Residents and businesses very appreciative of information
- Distributing new evacuation hand tags for residents/businesses to place on front door knob if evacuated to let Law know no one is there and provide enhanced security of area; additionally providing flood information.
- Team Leader Reports – consider having a backup person to help with team leadership duties
 - *City of Santa Cruz, Catherine L. Green* — Set up workspace account; MURS radio training on October 22; Race the Flames on Saturday, Oct 17 City of Santa Cruz run and fire preparedness event).
 - *Felton Area, Liz Taylor-Selling* — Preparing for Halloween Parade in downtown Felton; tabling events focused on go-bags and radios; MURS radio training in December. Dan Selling being honored with the Green Heart Award at Mountain Community Resources Event.
 - *Paradis Park, Sharon Naraghi* – Shared positive feedback from her groups participation in the neighborhood communication event; Positive feedback from recent “Knock and Talk event visiting 89 homes and distributing 154 door hangers.
 - *Live Oak/Soquel, Davis Dean* — Introduced self to new trainees at Live Oak Basic Training. Meeting next week about next years’ plans and improving Team leadership; contact Roberta Joiner about possible ham radio operator to align with Team.
 - *Aptos/Capitola, Doreen O’Donovan* — Meeting later this month; to play “Jeopardy” includes the buttons for responses
 - *Loma Prieta, Lila Jones* — Assess Team needs for funds raised at the Fire Station event. Continuing with CERT talks at Firewise events. Plan creating a local listing of areas prone to washouts and mudslides to be published on a local forum and potentially in Mountain Network News.
- *Note:* emergency blankets, triangular bandages and disaster preparedness packs are available free for use at tabling events —contact Mary at certauxiliary@gmail.com
- Disasterville and Triage Games— Available to Team Leaders contact Mary at certauxiliary@gmail.com
- New Business
 - Retention of Volunteers
 - Much discussion; possibility of flatlands regional meetings; Mary to arrange zoom meeting with Catherine, Davids and Doreen to discuss comments, ideas, and possible implementation.
- Suggestions for Future Agenda Items - None
- Staff Roundtable:
 - Safety Officer, John Hanley* — Suggest all CERT member get annual flu vaccine and assure their COVID 19 vaccine is up to date. Review and refresh rain gear, footwear, headlamps, radio batteries and drinking water.
 - Training Manager, Joyce Smith* — New newsletter to be sent out in November; requests any announcements and articles. Sand bagging possible for next month; has video will send out to Sharon.

MEETING NEXT MONTH - Saturday, November 14 on zoom starting at 10am