



## Looking Back, Looking Forward

As another year is passing us by I'm reflecting on the many changes in the the CERT Program. We have moved from a grassroots start-up to a valued professional organization. You have met all the challenges with aplomb and commitment in serving our community. I am grateful for our CERTs and thank you for all that you do.

Expect more changes in the future as we continue to evolve. You will see less of me as the CERT Staff, the Fabulous 14, continue to grow in their roles and responsibilities. Letting go is difficult for me but having confidence in the CERT Staff's abilities and attitudes makes it easier.

During this Holiday Season and throughout the year may you all enjoy the deep pleasure of family, friendship, good food, and happy times.

— Mary Edmund, Director

Let me quickly introduce myself. A retired teacher, I first took CERT training over 20 years ago and again 6 years ago with the Auxiliary. I keep myself busy as a CERT instructor, member of the Working Group, and as a volunteer at Henry Cowell. I have now taken on our quarterly newsletters.



We have almost made it to the end of 2022, a happily quiet one for CERT activations. No big fires or debris flows, and only a few small quakes, tsunamis, and road collapses on West Cliff to remind us that we DO still live in the Disneyland of disasters.

It has, however, still been a busy year for CERT. We started the year doing no inside instruction at all, classes were all on Zoom or held outside, and masks were seen everywhere. Now, although Covid is still with us, thanks to a high vaccination rate, life is beginning to get back to a semblance of normalcy as are our classes and team meetings. We have held two rounds of full in-person CERT Basic classes as well as several advanced trainings including our newest addition, Stop the Bleed and a great class on portable solar power which we hope to repeat early in 2023. As part of that upcoming training, you will be introduced to the **CERT Program's 2 new portable solar power generators!** One will be for the new training site at Live Oak and the other will be part of CERT's South County Command Post equipment. Sweet!

Our other big news involves a move! Because of Central Fire's reorganization over the last few years, Station 5 in Aptos is busier than ever with ongoing training. The yard we have used for training is often unavailable to us. It also means that our storage area is needed for Central's Fire Academy. But never fear! Our partners at Central are setting up a Conex trailer for our use next to the Central Administration building on 17th in Live Oak. We will be using the classroom in the admin building for Basic and Advanced trainings, and the yard area near our storage for our outside training. And wait until you see the little house we will use for Search and Rescue! Thanks to all the staff at Central Fire for making this work, to the CERTs who have turned out to pack and move boxes, to Cabrillo for supplying us with surplus shelving to use, and to JoMarie for offering a huge amount of extra storage space in Ben Lomond.

CERTs - teamwork, flexibility, adaptability. And here's to a healthy, happy, and safe 2023.

Joyce Smith, Editor and Basic Training Manager

[Visit our Website](#)

## Congratulations to our 2022 new CERTs!



Hybrid Grads March 26



In-person Grads November 13



In-person Grads September 17



Hybrid Grads June 5th

### Upcoming CERT Basic Classes

The CERT Basic Training Course prepares you to help yourself and others at home and in your community in the event of a catastrophic disaster. Because first responders will not be able to help everyone immediately, CERT training can help you stay safe, save lives, and protect property. You will learn what to do on your own, in your neighborhood, and how to help others as part of a CERT team.

We have Phase 2 and Phase 3 of our hybrid class coming up in early January as well as a 20-hour fully in-person class starting Thursday, January 19th at Central Fire's Administration building in Live Oak. For more information about CERT Basic instruction, or to sign up to instruct, click on the appropriate link below.

[Click Here to Sign Up for CERT Basic](#)

[For CERT Instructors click here](#)



### Stop the Bleed Training



What about bleeding? In this STOP THE BLEED course, you'll learn three quick techniques to help save a life before someone bleeds out: (1) How to use your hands to apply pressure to a wound; (2) How to pack a wound to control bleeding; and (3) How to correctly apply a tourniquet. These three techniques learned with life-like training aids that "bleed" will empower you to assist in an emergency and potentially save a life. Class limited to 16 participants.

This class is open to CERTs and non-CERTs alike. Per [CERT Auxiliary policy](#), proof of Covid vaccination is required. Covid booster(s) required to remove mask inside.

[Sign Up for Training Here](#)

## WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT WILDFIRES

**Tuesday, January 17, 2023, from 7-8:30 PM**  
**Zoom Presentation**

The CZU Lightning Complex Fire changed the landscape here in Santa Cruz County in more ways than one.

Communities all over the county are now taking proactive steps to be better prepared for wildfires. With your CERT training in preparedness, your skill set makes you an ideal partner to help others get ready for the coming wildfire season.

Did you know that some of the most important work you and your community can do is in the rainy winter months?

Please join us for an introduction to the Firewise Program and to learn practical steps you can take now to prepare yourself and your neighborhood for the inevitable wildfires coming our way.

Course presenters:

Lynn Sestak, the Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County (FSCSCC)'s Firewise Liaison  
LizAnne Jensen, CERT, and former FSCSCC Board Member

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

## Always Preparing

On January 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 am we will be sending out a Text-em-all text to all of our Active CERT DSW family. This is a test to make sure the text is delivered in an expedient manner. Last August we had a county-wide callout exercise and the Text-em-all application failed to send out the texts to the majority of those on the active list. This was due to a recent change in the application. The Logistics team of the CERT Auxiliary worked with the company to have the Text-em-all application corrected. This is one of the redundant systems for notifying you in case of a disaster activation.

## 2023 CERT National Conference

Did you know there is a [National CERT Association](#) AND a National CERT Conference every year? Next year's conference will be held during summer 2023 somewhere in the Bay Area! The location has not yet been announced, but we hope many of our local CERTs will be able to attend. There are wonderful classes and trainings including FEMS's Train the Trainer classes usually held during the week prior to the conference. If interested in becoming a Trainer, please [let Joyce know](#).

We will keep you informed as we hear more details, but many volunteers will be needed to help at the conference. Hopefully we will see you there.

## Quarterly Newsletters

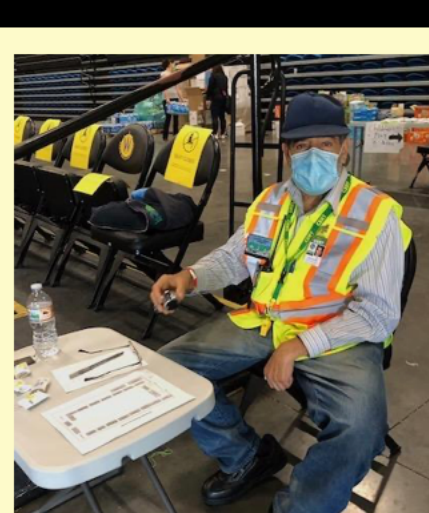
We hope to get a newsletter out every quarter. March, June, September, and December. If you have items of interest, perhaps for a Tech Tips article, What's in MyPack? article, or a summary of what your team has been doing, please [send them](#) no later than Mid February, May, August, and November. Thanks!

## In Memorium

With great sadness we announce the death of Seacliff CERT Frank LeoNetti. Affable and easy going, he was quick to volunteer for activations and showed us how to meet life challenges.

After the CZU fire, Frank joined us day after day in Watsonville to assist with traffic flow. He then joined us for two weeks in Santa Cruz at the Fire Recovery Center. Even with his Covid mask, you knew there was a smile on his face as he passed out food and drinks to all who needed it.

We will miss him.



## Last Minute CERT Holiday Shopping

Mary Edmund has arranged to get both MURS radios and CERT ball caps at greatly reduced prices for CERTs. If interested in either, read on.



The MURS, which are all programmed for CERT use, are \$70 on Amazon OR only \$55 from Mary. The ball caps we are making available for \$20! Please email [CERT Auxiliary](#) or call Mary if interested.

**amazonsmile**  
You shop. Amazon gives.

Did you know that every time you shop at Amazon you can also support your favorite non-profit? And of course, that is the CERT Auxiliary of Santa Cruz County!

**PayPal**  
Donate Now

We are dependent on grants and donations to keep the program running. Please consider a donation to wrap up 2022! We thank you in advance.