

Meeting Notes for Mount Rainier CERT, 6-26-23

The meeting was called to order by President Melissa at 7:33pm at the Police Department community room.

Attendees: Melissa, Tim, Mark

A quorum was not present; no votes were taken.

Notes from our Zoom meeting on 6-12-23 were reviewed.

Can our CERT operate in other towns? Yes, all municipalities served by the Fire Department located on Rte. 1 (including North Brentwood, Brentwood, Colmar Manor, Cottage City and Mount Rainier) have MOUs.

If deployed by the Police, Fire Department or City, local CERT members are covered by insurance, per a MOU among the local jurisdictions.

We discussed communications and tested our texting capabilities, which were up to par. Melissa is preparing a texting list of all qualified responders in our group. In the near future we'll test this.

Lt. Sims, our liason with the Police Dept., has left the force, unfortunately. We wish him well.

A replacement has not yet been named.

Background checks are mandatory for a CERT responder to be deployed by the County, because criminals take advantage of others's vulnerability. This was demonstrated during Hurricane Katrina and other disasters. Melissa, Mark and Tim have notified the County we are willing to do the background checks as soon as they can be arranged.

Notes from a meeting on 6-22-23 with Rasheed Plummer, Outreach Coordinator for the County, were reviewed.

This meeting was attended by Melissa (who hosted) and Mark and 14 other CERT members from neighboring towns. Melissa named several positive take-aways:

Staying in touch with and meeting members of other CERT teams.

Learning why the background checks are important.

Hearing that a County official is passionate about CERT and committed to its expansion.

Learning that the County plans to provide many training opportunities to improve her Super CERT status, such as Disaster Shelter Management and Traffic Control certifications.

Realizing that the County apparatus has a long way to go and needs our cooperation and help to achieve broad effectiveness.

The County is planning a Field training day for September 9th from 10 am -2 pm. Lunch is provided. Location is TBD. More details to follow.

A “Mass Casualty Exercise” is being planned for October. Details forthcoming.

A list of potential expenditures was made, for purchase during the current fiscal year (ending June 30).

It was agreed to test the new Walkie Talkies on Tuesday, June 27, and to purchase a Repeater (signal booster) if the test revealed the need for one.

The meeting adjourned at 8:41. Next meeting: 7:30 pm, 7-24-23.