

CERT Meeting Notes for April 24,2023

The meeting began via Zoom at 7:30 pm.

Attendees:

Melissa Barringer

Rachel Bush

Tim Jenkins

Jimmie Tarlau

Mark Grisar

Guest speakers from Fairfax County CERT:

Jeffrey Katz

Elvia Foil

The meeting began with introductions and a presentation/question & answer session with the Fairfax County CERT leaders, followed by a monthly Mount Rainier CERT meeting during which the following was discussed:

Contents and procurement methods for a give-away bag for Mount Rainier Day. We will try to get a local vendor to donate items for this bag. Melissa and Mark will fill the bags.

The need for our members to sign up for Mt. Rainier Day activities. The link to sign on up is below.

Stocking our storage closet, filling gaps, such as acquiring a heavy duty 50 foot extension cord and power strip.

A near future project of distributing 'Vial of Life' forms to the community. This form provides medical info of household members (e.g., medicines, ailments such as diabetes, etc.) so that in an emergency, EMT's will be alerted. The form is attached to the refrigerator in a plastic baggie with a sticker and a matching sticker is placed on the front door of the home. First responders are trained and know to look for this.

We have not yet heard whether our budget request has been approved. We have \$1,100.00 in our treasury currently, with plans to spend most of that on additional disaster and training material, as well as give-aways for local distribution.

Future training opportunities:

April 29 The University Park CERT will conduct a live training exercise Saturday, April 29, 2023 in support of the University Park Police and their activities related to the Azalea Classic, 1M and 5K races with a children's event. We extend an invitation to CERTs to join us in this effort. The increased participation in this fun race requires additional resources and serves as an ideal training opportunity for emergency response and emergency management. The exercise is designed to review techniques, procedures, and protocol for aiding in the deterrence of suspicious activity prior to, during and following this event in addition to traffic control and crowd safety techniques.

CERT volunteers will be tasked to control traffic at intersections, to provide support in first aid throughout the course, to assist in manning the medical treatment area, and will maintain visual review of runners who show fatigue. Treatment, disposition, and request for transport will be based on the Bib number of the runner. Additionally CERT volunteers will provide safety and security for participants, prior to, during and after the event. Looking for 15 - 20 CERTs. We hope to ensure a sunny day.

Contact: Ned Goldberg (ned.goldberg@gmail.com) for more details or to sign up to serve

May 11, a FEMA sponsored Disaster Exercise in Anne Arundel County that promises to be a great learning experience. Click the link for more information and to sign up.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/616471772667>

May 13

The Upper Marlboro CERT is requesting assistance with their Marlboro Day parade and festival events. These events will be held within the Town of Upper Marlboro from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Additional CERT volunteers are needed to fill the 1st shift (7:00 a.m. - 12 noon) and 2nd shift (12 noon - 4:00 p.m.). CERT volunteers will assist with traffic/pedestrian management and high visibility as CERT event ambassadors.

CERT volunteers are asked to wear their CERT shirts and a reflective vest. To volunteer, please contact Alonzo Joy, Upper Marlboro CERT, with your name, desired shift(s), CERT team you are representing, and contact information (email/cell). If you are available to assist, please confirm via email by April 30, 2023, so you can be added to the operations plan.

Point of Contact

Alonzo Joy

Upper Marlboro CERT

afjoyjr@comcast.net

May 20th Mount Rainier Day. Volunteers are needed to staff water stations as first aid providers during the 5K from 7:30 am - 10 am. Also needed are people to staff the table during the event from 11 am- 5 pm. These volunteers will have water and first aid available, be able to speak about what CERT is as well as speak about emergency preparedness. All volunteers should wear their CERT reflective vests and CERT shirt if you have one.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1UkLQXDuug9zqcfx9fPH8ZndNiZuDaU6i9ZrMJjE4p-U/edit?ts=643f4477>

Highlights of the Fairfax County CERT presentation:

The importance of nailing down what we can and cannot do as CERT members vis a vis insurance, i.e., what is covered and what is not.

In reaching out to the community it is imperative to go where the people are – churches, rec centers, schools, business associations, police and fire departments. Arrange for and conduct trainings at these locations.

Know your audience and modify your message accordingly. Hand out pertinent supplies & info. “People love getting free stuff.”

Align with other organizations.

Word of mouth is the best recruiting tool.

Volume is most important, in terms of reaching people. Only a small percentage of those hearing the message will become active so the more who hear the message the greater the number of new members acquired.

Increase the organizations visibility as much as possible.

Contact other CERT organizations, who will gladly offer assistance, answer questions, provide trainers; groups such as D.C. CERT (Frances Whalen), Montgomery County CERT, the CERT Consortium, TEEEX (Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service)

Prioritize your activities; don't over-extend. Make a plan for the year ahead.

5.

Have core members take the CERT Trainer class and the Program Manager class. Contact Emmitsburg CERT Trainer Training. Afterwards those trained can teach the CERT basic in their own neighborhood. Another education option is the University of Utah CERT online program.

Self-deploy in an emergency. First responders may be a long time in coming. CERTs can fill that early gap. Devise a map of our town and have members assigned to a block or two each, 'covering no more territory than they could push a wheelbarrow.'

Know what the most likely hazards are for our locale. Discuss/learn how to respond to these events.

Develop a plan for providing a 'canteen service' for first responders, providing food for them during an emergency (another way to spend our budget).

Keep track of the time spent volunteering. This translates into monetary assistance for the entities we assist.

Develop a phone tree. Use a system such as First Alert, VMS, Everbridge. We should ask Jeff about walkie-talkie use.

As we grow, develop our own Incident Command System, tailored to our situation.

Try to teach as many people as possible How To Take Care of Themselves in a disaster. Keep reminding people of the importance of readiness. "Try to make the learning 'fun.'"

The meeting adjourned at 9:33.