

October meeting reminder

Aloha, CERT members:

The Volcano Community Emergency Response Team will meet at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 5, at Cooper Center. On tap: reports from the Sept. 21 emergency response exercise staged by the Volcano Emergency Response Team (VERT), with our CERT team functioning in supporting roles. Duane Nakanishi, who served as CERT Team Leader for the exercise, will facilitate.

One of the main topics will be the many various paper forms volunteers are expected to fill out for assorted functions, actions and use of materials during a time of emergency response. Trying to keep up with the assorted paperwork easily can get in the way of us accomplishing our primary mission: To help people who need help in a crisis. We found this to be a big problem during the Sept. 21 exercise. Especially when a skeleton crew is trying to respond to a multifaceted crisis, this is crucial, as first priority is the victims.

At the November meeting, Sharon McCartin of the Orchidland CERT team will offer tips on form-filling-out and explain and hand out copies of the new CERT forms which will be used in all future training and actual events.

Again: Nancy reminds team members not able to continue on the team to return their PPE (personal protective equipment) backpacks, as the packs and the contents are needed by new, incoming CERTs.

For Team Leader Nancy

Lakin,

Leigh Critchlow, secretary

Volcano Community Emergency Response Team Minutes Sept. 7, 2019 regular monthly meeting

Team Leader-elect Richard Turner convened the meeting at 9 a.m. at Cooper Center. Also in attendance: Team Leader Nancy Lakin, Hank Schultz, Sher Glass, Balmore Vasquez, Doug Wilson, Sharon and Dennis McCartin, Marc Bender, Ellen O'Dunn, Angela Nickell, Teresa Evangelista, Jimmy Love and Leigh Critchlow, with guests Paul Lakin and Joseph Rosenbaum. Excused in advance for work/health reasons: Claudia Ziroli, Debra Chaffin, Tony Moorehead, Duane and Beatrice Nakanishi.

Richard circulated membership data sheets for each team member to update his or her personal info. He and Nancy asked us to inventory our PPEs, something we should do at least once a year, so we are ready and able to jump into action when needed, with our personal gear at the ready.

He and Nancy are still awaiting commitments from additional CERT folks to participate in the Saturday, Sept. 21, emergency response exercise to be staged at Cooper Center's Carlson Court by the Volcano Emergency Response Team (VERT). CERT will play a major supporting

role, with medical and SAR teams. Participants should wear comfortable clothes (long pants and covered shoes) and come prepared for rain, heat, etc. Some of us might wind up out in the bushes on Search-and-Rescue missions. Those with ham radios: bring them.

"We need to take it seriously, like this is a real disaster," said Richard.

How you train, is how you'll act in real life, he stressed. And, as Big Island residents, we are subject to just about any type of disaster possible.

"We might be called on to do just about anything."

Nancy said 90-100 volunteers are expected to participate. Doug said general and emergency communication will be done on the Volcano repeater at frequency 146.260. He suggests that 146.490 simplex be used for transmissions between CERT Logistics at the container, field ops and CERT team leader and ops at Carlson Court. He reminded us to say "exercise, exercise, exercise" at the start and finish of each transmission to keep from alarming someone outside the operation who might be listening to these frequencies during the five-hour exercise.

Dennis announced that on Oct. 25, a tri-annual Hilo Airport disaster exercise will be staged and CERT is invited to participate.

Sharon discussed Civil Defense Agency supplies for CERT PPEs.

Doug reported there were six check-ins on the morning's pre-meeting ham radio practice net. His next series of basic ham radio instruction sessions (to prepare for the entry-level Technician amateur radio license) will begin at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17, at the Keaau Community Center. Interested? Contact Doug. He's planning to offer the classes later on in Volcano for the convenience of area residents. Details will be announced.

The meeting was adjourned at about 10:30.

Our next Volcano CERT meeting will be at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 5, at Cooper Center.

*Respectfully submitted,
Leigh Critchlow, secretary*