

**Minutes**  
**Volcano Community Emergency Response Team**  
**April 6, 2019**

Team Leader Nancy Lakin convened the regular monthly meeting shortly after 9 a.m. at Cooper Center. Also present: Assistant Team Leader Carole Slattery, Sher Glass, Medical Lead Teresa Evangelista, Debra Chaffin, Communications Lead Doug Wilson, Ting Ortiz, Jimmy Love, Lee Pennington, Kat Archer, Angela Key, Hank Schultz, Rhonda Beatty, Tony Moorehead, Marc Bender, Richard Turner, Volcano Volunteer Fire Capt. Paul Lakin and Leigh Critchlow, secretary.

Nancy noted that the team has 79 members on the books. Because of various work, travel and personal timing conflicts, not every member can attend every meeting. But that's okay. In an emergency, as we have been trained: reporting for CERT duty during or following an emergency means that a team member has already "taken care of yourself, family, pets ..." When a CERT's family and neighbors are in good shape, then, and only then, come and help the team help the community, Nancy stressed.

Nancy said the next opportunities for recertification will be April 13 at the Discovery Harbor Community Center and May 18 in Waimea.

Doug reported a "good radio check-in" practice net, with five team members with amateur radio licenses checking in between 8:30 and 9 a.m. It's a good opportunity to practice operating skills, check radio functioning and to keep tabs on signal strength and communications possibilities within the greater Volcano area. Any hams needing help with their radios are invited to talk to Doug. He said the next Technician (basic) licensing training will start April 19 in Discovery Harbor. The free Tech-prep courses are held around the Big Island each year. Five once-a-week sessions are followed by testing on week six. (Folks wanting to take the Technician test, or advanced-level tests, are invited to the next monthly meeting of the Big Island Amateur Radio Club. It will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 13, at Puna Covenant Church in Keaau. The testing fee is \$15.)

Doug also reported on the recent inaugural fund-raiser for the Volcano Emergency Response Team. The fun event – with a lot of help from VERT's friends – netted \$1,600 for emergency equipment for VERT. Other money-raising efforts are in the works. VERT now has 46 community volunteers signed up to do size-up and communications between their respective neighborhoods and Incident Command during a crisis.

Doug said the Hawaii County Office of Aging is compiling a list of homebound residents and VERT will work with the office to confirm and coordinate the Volcano-area roster and to kokua such community members needing special assistance. Also of note: VERT has recruited two good cooks who have promised to feed VERT and CERT volunteers activated in a crisis.

Under the Volcano Emergency Response Plan, which established the VERT, our CERT team is charged with responsibility for two components: medical and search-and-rescue.

Carole suggested that at an upcoming CERT meeting, we host a demonstration of search-and-rescue dogs, since Jimmy has two federally certified S&R dogs, and there also are others in the community with dogs certified to perform search-and-rescue missions. Everyone thought it to be a terrific idea!

Several special CERT/VERT training sessions are in the works. Both groups will fully participate in a live exercise Saturday, September 21, headquartered at Cooper Center.

On the subject of basic CERT training, several members called for a session to be held in Volcano,

thereby potentially attracting new folks perhaps put off by the long drives to class sessions. We'd need to have at least 10 persons who will commit to four Saturdays in a row, and we'd need to find a facility we could reserve for the requisite four Saturdays in a row. Cooper Center can't be scheduled for four weekends straight. We'd also need to find out how to pay for the Fire Department personnel required to serve as instructors. (FEMA funds to Civil Defense have been curtailed.)

Other suggested sites: Volcano firehouse, the national park, and the county-run Mountain View Gym. Other related questions and suggestions: Can qualified, but not Fire Department-employed, instructors make up part of the list of trainers? How much money would we need to pay instructors? Also noted: It's vital to get both recruits and venues who can commit to four consecutive Saturdays, and to give enough lead time to ensure both. Paul will investigate pertinent matters and report back at May meeting.

Our next regular meeting will be Saturday, May 4, at 9 a.m. at Cooper Center. The agenda will include prepping for upcoming tabletop exercises and, possibly, a dog demo. Afterward, any hams wanting help in programming their radios are invited to hang around for assistance from Doug.

Respectfully submitted,  
Leigh Critchlow, secretary