

# **Volcano Community Emergency Response Team**

**August 5, 2017 minutes**

Standing in for Team Leader Nancy Lakin, who was off-island, Secretary Leigh Critchlow convened the regular monthly meeting at 9 a.m. at Cooper Center. Also present: Doug Wilson, Paul Lakin, Teresa Evangelista, Patti Pinto, Claudia Zirolì, Chris Corley, Sher Glass, Sharon McCartin, Dennis McCartin and Snookie Mello.

## **Announcements:**

Patti noted that she has emailed out a flyer giving details of the Nov. 3-4 countywide CERT conference scheduled at the Keaukaha Military Reservation next to Hilo Airport. All CERT members are encouraged to make plans to attend. If you didn't receive the info, please let Patti know.

Doug said he's looking for four more ham radio operators to assist with communications for the Aug. 19 annual Volcano Rainforest Runs. He has 10 signed up so far, but welcomes a few more to help out with the fun community event that features three foot races following circuitous routes around and about Volcano Village.

Doug also reported that the committee of stakeholders formed to develop an emergency plan for Volcano recently held its first meeting. The group will be meeting every two weeks to develop an ICS model formal emergency plan.

"I'm really happy we're all on the same page," said Doug. Community members representing various facets of the population recognize the need for an emergency plan and how the group will approach the planning process. Community organizations and county, state and federal officials have signed on to draft a plan to serve the community if regular communications and services are down due to natural disaster or other major emergency.

"I'm very encouraged," said Doug.

## **Our August meeting program included:**

**1)** Formation of basic Volcano CERT organizational structure; **2)** Table Topics (monthly practice involving a mock disaster and the filling out of official forms documenting elements of the emergency and the needs and actions taken.

**1) Doug said he and Nancy met and analyzed our team, then assigned members to positions on the group's official team management structure.** He passed out copies of the list and facilitated discussion. Here is how he and Nancy break it down: Operations (Lead Patti Pinto, with members Nancy Lakin, Chris Corley, Claudia Zirolì-Coyl, Snookie Mello and Doug Wilson); Logistics (Lead Teresa Evangelista, with members Debra Chaffin, Steve Motherwell, Richard Turner and Doug Wilson); Administration (Lead Leigh Critchlow, with members Nancy Lakin, Sher Glass, Chris Corley and Hank Schultz); Finance (Lead Doug Wilson, assisted by Nancy Lakin); Alternate Team Lead Chain of Command: Nancy Lakin, Chris

Corley, Teresa Evangelista, Bob Becker and Doug Wilson.

These groups-within-our-group will help our team leader by spreading out responsibilities and work load. And ICS assignments are in effect, in case we get called up.

"We built in some redundancy," explained Doug. Then he laughed: "And a pecking order."

Sharon suggested we also assign scribes to assist team leads in documentation.

Snookie will develop a form our team members can fill out, listing our individual assets, both tools and equipment we could use in an emergency as well as our specific skill sets.

## **2) We worked on analyzing and filling out forms.**

### **Upcoming programs:**

**Our next Table Topics session will be in October.** Please bring the documents passed out at the August meeting. For those who missed the meeting, Doug will have copies for members new to the Table Topics activity.

**At the September meeting, Doug will conduct a communications workshop.** If you are a licensed amateur radio operator, please bring your radio and its operating manual. Focus will be on how to program your radio, radio protocols and the official communications route for exchanging info with Civil Defense during an emergency.

And, Doug will provide the team's radio operators with an up-close-and-personal introduction to our base radio to familiarize us with the radio and how to set it up and operate.

If you don't have an operating manual for your radio, they usually can be found, free for the downloading, online. Or, let Doug know.

Sher is coming up with an emergency communications outdoor sign ham operators can post in their yards during an emergency, letting neighbors know they have an alternate method of communications when Internet, electrical power and/or cell towers are down. She'll create a sample to show us.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m. Our next meeting will be at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 2, at Cooper Center.

Respectfully submitted,  
Leigh Critchlow, secretary