

Volcano Community Emergency Response Team

March 3, 2018 minutes

We took our regular monthly meeting on the road in March, due to a special training held in Hilo at the exact same time. Bill Hanson of the Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency instructed a packed room full of CERTs gathered at Aupuni Center in Hilo. We learned how to provide Civil Defense an accurate Initial Damage Assessment Report on residential property in our respective communities within the first 24 hours of a disaster. The session ran from 9-11 a.m.

Those who weren't able to make it to the March session are invited to attend upcoming Saturday trainings. Sign up at <https://hilodamageassessment.eventbrite.com>. Next up, Waimea on April 14, and Puna on June 30.

After a short break, our Volcano team, including several new recruits, reconvened inside the Aupuni Center conference room to hold our monthly team meeting.

Team Leader Nancy Lakin convened the meeting at 11:45 a.m., with close to 30 CERTs on hand.

Also present: Ellen Train, Bob Becker, Sharon McCartin, Dennis McCartin, Leigh Critchlow, Doug Wilson, Linda Quarberg, Paul Lakin, Hank Schultz, Snookie Mello, Chris Corley, Patti Pinto, Carole Slattery, Sher Glass, Claudia Zirolì, Sami Hill, Francis Blas Jr., Duane Nakanishi, Napualani and Tearoarii Viritua, Arlene Miyazono, Ellen O'Dunn, Angela Key, Norman Walcott, Patricia Walters and Ting Ortiz.

Nancy presented CERT badges to the new graduates of Basic CERT Training held in Hilo.

Discussion included the topic of future training in 2018, including First Aid, CPR and AED classes scheduled for April 14 and 21 in Volcano; a proposed practice radio net and a possible simulated disaster exercise; planning for formation of our damage assessment team, and participation in the annual Volcano 4th of July Parade.

Paul, captain of the Volcano Volunteer Fire Department and a CERT trainer, encouraged everyone to treat the monthly meetings and various trainings as important.

"You have to know what you're going to do," he said, so as not to let ourselves and/or our team down.

Doug, our Volcano CERT communications chair, discussed a recent two-day Office of Homeland Security emergency communications course he attended on Oahu. And he gave us an update on the Volcano Emergency Response Plan, or VERP, for which he is a key coordinator. The first draft has been circulated for several weeks, and the second draft is due to be completed next week. It will be presented to the Volcano Community Association at its monthly meeting on March 19.

Doug emphasized that the Volcano CERT team will be a vital component in VERP.

Ellen O'Dunn will head up a committee for emergency response related to volcanic activity.

"We've all been very pleased with the positive response" to the formation of VERP, said Doug. The plan is extremely important for the health and safety of the community, because the chance of Volcano becoming isolated in an emergency is very real.

"We'll be on our own, and will have to self-activate," he stressed.

Nancy invited folks to discuss their experiences and thoughts during and after the false missile attack alert issued via cell phones across the state a few weeks ago. One new recruit said the incident spurred her to sign up for CERT training.

Our next CERT meeting will be at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 7, at Cooper Center on Wright Road.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Critchlow, secretary

As a reminder: Our American Red Cross First Aid/AED/CPR training session will be offered Saturday, April 21, at the Volcano Village Church on Wright Road. This date was preferred by the majority of those in attendance.

Nancy has arranged with Laurine Carvalho, our Volcano CERT veteran who does double duty as an American Red Cross instructor, to offer the training for folks needing to redo their certification as well as newbies. The cost will be \$30, a greatly reduced price. (Bring exact cash or your checkbook.)

Check-in will be at 8:15 a.m., with training starting at 9 a.m. There are a few slots left, so if you didn't sign up yet, email Nancy at flutterby22@gmail.com. CERTs from other area teams also have been invited to participate.

Nancy said Laurine also will present the training on April 14, at the same time and location. This session will be open to CERTs as well as the general public.

The training lasts four and a half to five hours. Bring your lunch, snacks and beverages. There will be no formal lunch break, so we can power through the training and finish as soon as possible. Dining will be informal, during video presentations and the like. There's a water cooler, and access to a refrigerator will be provided.

The Volcano Village Church is at 19-4276 Wright Road. It's about a mile and a half past Cooper Center on the right-hand side.