

## **Volcano CERT minutes**

**December 2, 2017**

Team Leader Nancy Lakin convened our regular monthly meeting shortly after 9 a.m. at Cooper Center, with a roomful of veteran and brand-new CERTS on hand for our annual Christmas potluck and end-of-the-year gathering.

Also in attendance: Doug Wilson, Teresa Evangelista, Bill and Juanita Van Domburg, Sher Glass, Sami Hill, Stephanie and Roy Bath, Carole Slattery, Jett Adler, Thomas Cullio, Vermine Torres, Norman Walcott, Angela Key, Paul Lakin, Chris Corley and Leigh Critchlow.

Several of our CERT regulars were off-island or had conflicting family or work commitments, since “life happens,” Nancy noted. But we know they were with us in spirit as we celebrated a busy year and looked forward to 2018.

Various topics were discussed during a short business meeting: 1) expired Red Cross first-aid cards (Nancy will check to see when training can be done); 2) the next Basic CERT Training series is tentatively scheduled to start Jan. 20 in Hilo; 3) with Volcano CERT serving as the nucleus, as membership from other Puna neighborhoods has grown, new groups have been formed or are being planned, including Orchidland, where a viable CERT group has been active for a couple of years, and other subdivisions in the planning stages: Eden Roc, Aloha Estates, Fern Acres. Also, with kokua from Volcano, Discovery Harbor CERTs have launched their own entity. Three trained CERTs can start a group; 4) Hawaii County CERT administrators are still revising and working on the 2018 advanced training schedule for members around the island;

Nancy and Paul presented CERT ID badges and PPEs (Personal Protective Equipment backpacks) to our newly minted volunteers and congratulated them on their dedication to community service.

Paul reported on the Nov. 3-4 Hawaii County CERT Conference held at the National Guard Armory next to Hilo Airport. He was the logistics chief for the conference and for the Saturday exercise, which was a disaster response drill involving casualties, mock “victims” and all sorts of structural and related damage stemming from an earthquake. Noting that event planners attended “meetings ad nauseum” to prep for the prep drill, Paul said coordinators were impressed with the event.

He thanked the new CERTs for getting trained and involved. As a first-responder himself, as captain of the Volcano Volunteer Fire Department, Paul said it makes him happy to know there are folks like the CERTs in the community who are dedicated to helping to be part of the solution in times of crisis.

Nancy introduced our new members to our website ([www.volcanocert.org](http://www.volcanocert.org)) and shared the access password.

“Thank you, Volcano Community Association,” she said, noting that the VCA pays for the Internet domain and for hosting websites for its affiliated non-profits. Volcano CERT has non-profit status under the umbrella of the Volcano Health Collaborative.

Doug, the emergency communications chief for Volcano CERT, encourages new and old members alike to take the basic amateur radio class he coordinates. “It’s a real good tool,” he noted. Ham radio can be a life-saver when other forms of communications are out of commission. This is proven time and time again all around the world when cell towers and landlines fail.

He also discussed Project 360, an initiative of Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency. The key focus is to help 113 Big Island communities to each develop an emergency response plan. Work on the Volcano

plan is underway, and volunteers are welcome to join in the process. "If you are interested in helping with putting the Volcano Emergency Response Plan together, please let me know," said Doug.

Doug also distributed Table Topics materials to the new CERTs. At our monthly meetings, we have been practicing documenting our response to an earthquake aftermath in Volcano. Various official forms need to be filled out with pertinent info in a timely and procedural manner to allow for time-sensitive response where needed, communications and later tabulating of data vital to record-keeping and, perhaps, funding of post-disaster assistance.

He summarized our efforts, thus far, and said we will continue working on the Table Topics in January.

As for our next meeting: Nancy said Cooper Center is fully booked on our regular first-Saturday-of-the-month meeting day to serve as headquarters and finish line, etc., for the annual Hilo to Volcano Run. Therefore, she said: Volcano CERT will meet at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 6, at the Volcano Village Church at 19-4276 Wright Road. It's about a mile and a half past Cooper Center on the right-hand side.

See you there.

Respectfully submitted,  
Leigh Critchlow, secretary