

Volcano Community Emergency Response Team

Oct. 6, 2018 Minutes

Team Leader Nancy Lakin convened our regular monthly meeting shortly after 9 a.m. at Cooper Center. Also present: Chris Corley, Duane Nakanishi, Teresa Evangelista, Ellen Train, Claudia Zirolì, Hank Schultz, Bob Becker, Debra Chaffin, Doug Wilson, Carole Slattery, Sher Glass, Leigh Critchlow and Paul Lakin.

The primary meeting focus was on planning for our group's participation in the next day's health and safety fair at Cooper Center following the regular weekly farmer's market. The community is invited to the fair from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Among the activities available will be intros to first aid, cribbing methods to lift heavy objects off of victims, light search and rescue, healthy eating and cooking, creating personal and family "go buckets" to have ready at a moment's notice when an emergency occurs. Volunteers will help folks prepare advance care directives and introduce attendees to firewise and other fire safety knowledge and techniques. Various community groups will participate, including the Volcano Emergency Response Team launched by a group of area stakeholders, public and private, to provide an emergency plan for the community in the event of an emergency. Some of our CERT members have been active in this endeavor since the beginning.

Team Leader Dina Shisler from Discovery Harbor CERT will do a step-by-step demo on how to put together a go kit and Claudia will bring one of her family's kits to display. Claudia will instruct people on preparation of an ICE (In Case of Emergency) binder to have at the ready in case of a need to evacuate. An ICE binder includes copies of a person's or family's vital documents.

We'll staff a CERT table offering outreach and information. Nancy will provide beverages and Sher, the event chair, made her a donation jar. Sher also has tweaked the basic Big Island CERT logo to reflect Volcano's uniqueness in a special graphic to be used by our team (see current issue of Volcano community newsletter, where the new logo appears with our monthly column).

Claudia announced that the 501-c-3 nonprofit she and her sister, (CERT coordinator for Hawaii County) Patti Pinto have formed has received its final governmental approval. It is aptly named Puna Makaukau, which is Hawaiian for Puna, Are You Ready? Its focus, naturally, is on preparedness -- of the people, by the people and for the people. Congratulations to Claudia and Patti and their prepping ohana!

Here's Claudia's description of the mission of the new organization:

Puna Makaukau

Puna Community Preparedness and Response

A 501 (c) (3) Organization

Puna Makaukau provides education/instruction/resource management information for Puna emergency preparedness for both individual household preparedness and Community Association Emergency Preparedness activities.

Puna Makaukau assists households and community associations to prepare for the entire range of disasters possible in our area. These include hurricane, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, wild fire, flooding and other natural and man-made events.

Puna Makaukau works with Fern Acres Community Association and Emergency Response Team to facilitate and assist with post-event resource management and response.

Our next Volcano CERT meeting will be Saturday, Nov. 3, at 9 a.m. at Cooper Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Critchlow, secretary