

Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2018

Volcano Community Emergency Response Team

Team Leader Nancy Lakin convened our regular monthly meeting shortly after 9 a.m. at Cooper Center. Also present: Claudia Zioli, Sher Glass, Doug Wilson, Carole Slattery, Hank Schultz, Sami Hill, Wendy Rhodes, Patti Pinto, Leigh Critchlow, Paul Lakin, Teresa Evangelista, Chris Corley. Nancy noted that Bob Becker is attending today's graduation ceremonies for the Hawaii County Fire Department's new recruits.

Today is the third session of basic CERT training in Hilo. Nancy said about 8-10 of the current trainees are expected to affiliate with our Volcano group.

Discussion followed on recommended actions in the case of a nuclear attack. Patti said the first 48 hours following detonation of a nuclear device are the most important. Take cover in your safest room and have a 48-hour supply of whatever you'll need to stay put for that amount of time: health and hygiene, communication, food and drink, sleeping and living necessities for family members, including pets. Have plenty of water. Have iodine tablets to protect thyroid from radiation. Don't forget coffee, if it's vital.

We need to prepare in advance, not try to scurry around at the last minute. We need to have everything we need "while hunkered down in the bathroom or hall closet," said Patti. And the denser you can make the wall between the outside and the inside the better, whether using books, clothing, newspapers, etc. Protect your water tank. Take off the feeder pipe to stop irradiated water from running into the tank. Water supplies covered with the typical thick black mesh fabric will stay pretty clean, as will enclosed tanks.

Rig up a Faraday box (lots of ideas online) in which to place radios, laptops, phones, and the like to protect them from being fried from an electromagnetic pulse. Make a 72-hour bucket full of planned-out items, ready to grab and go. Have sheet plastic and tape, ready to seal windows, etc. Towels can be used to block cracks.

After notification, Hawaii residents would have only about 10-12 minutes to take cover from a rocket shot at us by North Korea.

All of the Citizens' Corps groups, including CERT, will offer information at the Kamehameha School prep fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, in Keaau. Among the things to learn: Patti will demonstrate what goes into a 72-hour bucket. Everyone is welcome.

Patti also gave an update on the previously discussed GIS mapping app for smart phones. The ARCGIS collector is in the app store, with GIS mapping for Hawaii County. Stand anywhere and click the "try it" button, then "addresses," and it will give you the tax map key number of the parcel on which you are located.

In other news:

The American Red Cross First Aid/CPR training sessions will be April 14 and April 21 from 8:15 a.m. to 1 or 2 p.m. at the Volcano Village Church, about a mile up the road from Cooper Center. Sign up in advance. Bring \$30 exact cash or blank check for registration on day of event. Nancy noted that the training is not a requirement for CERT. Knowledge and skills learned for the two-year certification can be a lifesaver, however, and registration has been brisk.

Doug reported on the status of the Volcano Emergency Response Plan. After six months of meetings and research and planning, the first VERP draft plan has been released. Under the plan, CERT's responsibilities will revolve around search and rescue, medical treatment and triage, and damage assessment. Under VERP, special "road clearing unit" and "security unit" groups are being formed to tackle those extremely important issues in the event of an emergency. Carlson Court at Cooper Center will serve as the EOC.

Following that, the group continued with its ongoing Table Topics exercise focusing on actions and documentation protocols in the aftermath of an emergency.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, March 3, in Hilo.

Patti, the Big Island volunteer CERT coordinator, earlier announced that countywide training in residential initial damage assessment was to start in West Hawaii at the end of January. On our side of the island, the training will be given March 3 at Aupuni Center in Hilo and June 30 at the Keaau Community Center. We'll learn how to judge the level of damage to a home and how to form and deploy damage assessment teams of at least three CERTS.

Earlier in the year, we had decided, as a team, to attend the March 3 training at Aupuni Center. The session will last a couple of hours and will get underway at 9 a.m. Bring a brown-bag or bento lunch. Following a break at the end of the training, we'll hold our regular monthly meeting at noon on nearby exterior benches.

Respectfully submitted,
Leigh Critchlow, secretary