

Volcano Community Emergency Response Team

March 2, 2019 meeting minutes

Associate Team Leader Carole Slattery convened the regular monthly meeting at 9 a.m. at Cooper Center. Team Leader Nancy Lakin is on Oahu, helping her daughter and son-in-law welcome their new daughter into the world. Also present: Richard Turner, Larry Roy, Teresa Evangelista, Hank Schultz, Duane Nakanishi, Bea Nakanishi, Patti Pinto, Sharon and Dennis McCartin, Doug Wilson, Jesse Thornton, Lee Pennington, Angela Nickell, Sher Glass, Tony Moorehead, Marc Bender, Balmore Vasquez, Ting Ortiz, Leigh Critchlow, Paul Lakin, Bob Becker, Ellen O'Dunn and Alexandra Haban.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as circulated.

Patti noted upcoming training sessions: Residential damage disaster assessment in Waimea on March 16; Formidable Footprint mock hurricane exercise at 7 a.m. Saturday, March 30, at Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency Hilo EOC office (register as a student on Formidable Footprint website); IS700 class at 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 20, at Hilo EOC (IS100 is prerequisite; email Patti to sign up).

Doug encourages all CERTs with amateur radio licenses to participate in the monthly practice net he opens from 8:30-9 a.m. prior to each meeting on the Volcano repeater. He suggested we hold a special session during a meeting so he can help CERT hams with programming our radios.

Doug said the new Volcano Emergency Response Team held its first training for its communications center, which will be in the Carlson Court, makai of the main parking lot at Cooper Center. To date, 39 area residents have signed on to do size-up and communications during an emergency. From their respective locations, they'll report in to emcomms via telephone, radio, etc., at the center. Our Volcano CERT team also will play a major role.

Paul, the Volcano Volunteer Fire Department captain, discussed the importance of practicing the "close before you doze" mantra, in case a house fire starts at night when a family is sleeping. Today's open-concept homes and modern materials make houses burn faster than in previous eras, he noted. Therefore, a closed bedroom door provides a barrier from a fire starting elsewhere in a house. Paul also put in another plug for family "preparedness," in order to focus on helping one's household meet future challenges.

Carole spoke of the upcoming March 9 initial fun fundraiser for VERT and encouraged all to attend. She said she and Ellen also are thinking ahead to what types of fundraising CERT could do, because: "Fundraising can be anything you want it to be."

Patti noted that the FEMA funds for CERT have been decreasing yearly. Right now, County officials and Civil Defense are working on protocols to govern CERT fundraising. Therefore, she advises that any CERT money-raising, for now, be done under the auspices of a team's supporting community group.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Critchlow, secretary