

Volcano CERT Minutes

June 2, 2018

Team Leader Nancy Lakin convened the monthly team meeting at 9 a.m. at Cooper Center. Also present: Norman Walcott, Hank Schultz, Sher Glass, Sami Hill, Doug Wilson, Chris Corley, Ting Ortiz, Ellen O'Dunn, Teresa Evangelista, Patti Pinto, Paul Lakin, Leigh Critchlow.

Nancy thanked team members for their past, present and future efforts on behalf of folks who've lost their homes to lava. Paul announced that on Thursday, June 7, at 7 p.m., USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory reps will hold a community meeting to provide info about steam, ash and earthquakes connected with the current eruption of Kilauea Volcano. The meeting will be at Cooper Center, and all are welcome.

Patti said the Hawaii County website features updates on the eruption, with lava info maps showing the "exact lava footprint," including which houses and roads have been covered.

Nancy acknowledged CERTS for assisting with door-to-door notifications, mask distribution and other functions.

She reminded team members to always follow CERT protocol: Dress properly; be prepared for your own needs when out in the field; and follow directions and instructions "to the letter." It's vital to remember to be compassionate and to take extra precautions not to scare people when sharing information. We don't want to "create more fear" in others, Nancy stressed.

Paul said several area residents "have told me they felt really well taken care of."

Doug reported on the monthly pre-meeting radio check net, which was reinstituted prior to today's meeting. He had 7 check-ins today. All hams are encouraged to check in between 8:30 and 9 a.m. prior to each CERT meeting. This lets the communications team know which locations are more prone to good, or bad, propagation, and whether personal radios are working. It helps us develop radio skills, too, in accordance to one of the rules of amateur radio: Practice; practice; practice!!!!

Hank reported the sad news that because of ash fallout concentrating in his fishpond due to roof runoff, he lost all of his big, beautiful koi, who were nearly two decades old. He said he didn't disconnect the down pipe from his catchment system soon enough.

Ellen said she and others have observed ash accumulating in gutters and turning solid, peeling off like leather. Chris said she'll send out contact info relating to free water and soil testing being offered by the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources in Hilo.

It was decided that Volcano CERT will hold a "test run meeting" at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 30, at Cooper Center to do our final preparation for participation in the 4th of July parade and related activities. We'll be helping with radio comms, the parade and an informational booth near the Carlson Court. Sher will prepare some handouts for us. On The Fourth, we'll plan to set up next to the Volcano Emergency Response Plan group, since we overlap on just about everything concerning community welfare.

Respectfully submitted,
Leigh Critchlow, secretary