

Volcano Community Emergency Response Team
May 4, 2019 meeting minutes

Team Leader Nancy Lakin convened the regular monthly meeting shortly after 9 a.m. at The Village Church on Wright Road. Our regular venue, Cooper Center, was busy with folks preparing for the “fiesta” fundraising event set for that afternoon.

Also present: Teresa Evangelista, Richard Turner, Doug Wilson, Ray Burden, Hank Schultz, Marc Bender, Jesse Thornton, Lee Pennington, Kat Archer, Balmore Vasquez, Cody Cochran, Leigh Critchlow, Claudia Zirola, Patti Pinto, Carole Slattery, Ellen O’Dunn, Debra Chaffin and Larry Roy.

Jimmy Love’s rescue dog demonstration was postponed until our next meeting, which will be at Cooper Center. The exercise will begin at 9 a.m. sharp on Saturday, June 1, so we are all asked to show up a bit early that morning. The dogs have been extensively trained and they and Jimmy are certified. One of our CERTs has been cast to play the role of the “victim.”

Our training exercise for the May meeting was on triage: assessing condition of patients in accordance with written clues, then practicing filling out triage cards. Nancy distributed reusable triage cards she had made and explained how to use them. Our medical team lead, Teresa, offered a brief first-aid review and PPE (personal protective equipment) info along with tips on triage.

During the business portion of the meeting, Nancy checked out all-weather Field Operational Guides to the following: Larry Roy, Ray Burden, Marc Bender, Cody Cochran, Jesse Thornton, Balmore Vasquez and Richard Turner. The Volcano Community Association purchased the FEMA “FOGs” for Volcano CERT, as an entity, and they are to be returned in the future if a team member quits the team. The rule for returning CERT equipment also is the case with the PPE bags and the equipment therein, provided by Civil Defense. Nancy has been hitting a dead end many a time when she has attempted, often repeatedly, to get non-active former team members to return the equipment for use by others. She explained that as soon as she can get more of the equipment, she will be handing out the PPEs to those who have completed the mandatory ICS 100 and 700 online FEMA training courses. Nancy said federal funding for CERT operations has dried up.

Patti said the next recertification opportunity for CERTs whose credentials are due to expire will be May 19 in Waimea, on the fourth Saturday of the basic training session underway there. If you want to attend to re-CERT, please notify Patti.

In other housekeeping matters, Volcano team members still needing official CERT vests are Kat Archer and Lee Pennington of Fern Forest and Larry Roy of Fern Acres.

Doug, the team communications lead, reported that eight of our CERTs who are licensed amateur radio operators checked into the monthly 8:30-9 a.m. practice net this morning. He encourages all of the hams who are CERTs to participate. This helps us learn about our equipment and about propagation within the village environs. All of this practice and training will help us when a real emergency hits.

Doug has been asking for feedback on possibly reinstituting the weekly practice net, which has been inactive for the last half a year, or so. He’s seeking comments and suggestions for times, interest, etc.

He also gave a quick update on the Volcano Emergency Response Team. So far, 66 volunteers have signed onto the team rolls. VERT folks have been talking to the Hawaii Community Foundation about possibility of getting a grant of \$16,000 for equipment needed for VERT. Someone has donated a freezer to the team to store block ice for emergency needs.

Doug said the first of four tabletop disaster scenario exercises planned for VERT will be conducted on Saturday, May 11.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Leigh Critchlow, secretary