

Note that Teresa Evangelista will be hosting this year's fun Christmas potluck at her home, just around the corner from Cooper Center (see details, below). Teresa asks that folks "bring a little something" for the holiday brunch.

Volcano Community Emergency Response Team Minutes for Nov. 2, 2019 meeting

Team Leader Nancy Lakin convened the regular monthly meeting of the team shortly after 9 a.m. at Cooper Center. Also present: Sher Glass, Ellen O'Dunn, Ray Burden, Teresa Evangelista, Doug and Frances Gonzaga, Marc Bender, Patti Pinto, Claudia Zioli, Jimmy Love, Bea Nakanishi, Duane Nakanishi, Sharon and Dennis McCartin, Richard Turner, Leigh Critchlow, Paul Lakin.

It was decided that our annual Christmas meeting/potluck party will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, at Teresa's home at 19-4075 Kilauea Place, about two blocks up and over from Cooper Center. Kilauea Place is mauka of Kilauea Street, which is the first lefthand turn from Wright Road, just past Cooper Center.

Nancy announced our three new team members: Joe Rosenbaum, Frances Gonzaga and Douglas Gonzaga and presented credentials to the Gonzagas. (see photo on the right)

Patti announced that CERT has been charged with helping with the county's hazard mitigation plan. Among our new responsibilities: 1) Door-to-door notification of the new Civil Defense warning system, Everbridge, distributing info on how residents can register for the up-to-the-minute emergency warnings; 2) updating 10-year-old tsunami alert calling list, also via door-to-door contacts; 3) enhance reporting on status of emergency sirens (ie: working or not working).

These will be "neighborhood and team-specific" assignments, said Patti. "And we need as many people as possible to make this work."

As part of this new, coordinated effort, Patti encouraged CERTs to participate in the Veterans Day Parade on June 9. Volunteers will walk alongside the Civil Defense van and hand out Everbridge info to folks along the parade route through downtown Hilo.

On Feb. 15, damage assessment training will be offered at Aupuni Center. We all need to renew our Hawaii County certification.

Dennis recapped the Oct. 25 Hilo Airport fire scenario exercise at which CERT volunteers acquitted themselves well, earning many compliments for a job (many jobs, actually) well done. When the county fire personnel got called out to a real emergency, CERT got assigned "primary triage" with 50-60 casualties.

Nineteen CERTs participated. They just jumped in and "did their jobs," said Dennis. "We've gotten lots of good feedback. CERTs really did a great job."

Our program for the November meeting was a tabletop re-enactment of the CERT role in the Sept. 21 disaster response scenario staged by the Volcano Emergency Response Team, VERT. Sharon McCartin coordinated the tabletop exercise, as we went over what we did, and what we learned.

Respectfully submitted,
Leigh Critchlow, secretary



L to R: Frances Gonzaga, Nancy Lakin & Doug Gonzaga. Congrats!



What's in that bucket? Let's see...