

Volcano Community Emergency Response Team
Sept. 1, 2018 minutes

Team Leader Nancy Lakin convened the regular monthly meeting at 9 a.m. at Cooper Center. Also present: Snookie Mello, Teresa Evangelista, Hank Schultz, Norman Walcott, Angela Key, Bob Becker, Carole Slattery, Ting Ortiz, Ellen O'Dunn, Sher Glass, Chris Corley, Debra Chaffin, Leigh Critchlow and Paul Lakin.

Nancy thanked all who helped with CERT callup missions in the wake of recent disasters. Lots of volunteer hours were contributed during house-to-house damage assessment and storm sit-rep situation analysis.

She reported that Patti Pinto of CERT Admin said the administration team is working on developing the 2019 Hawaii County CERT calendar.

The next basic training for new CERTs is tentatively planned to start the last Saturday in September and run for the next three Saturdays. A second session will overlap, beginning one week later on the first Saturday in October. Two venues are planned: Hilo and either Keaau or Pahoa. There are 80-plus volunteers who are awaiting the training throughout this section of the Big Island. Bob explained that instructors prefer to work with classes no larger than 40 students. Otherwise, things get unwieldy and training efforts and practice sessions are hampered.

Discussion followed, relating to our request for a training session to be held in Volcano, especially for volunteers working on, or gearing up for, the new Volcano Emergency Response Team sponsored by a planning group made up of representatives of key community stakeholders such as the Volcano Community Association, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, service organizations such as Rotary and area churches, local businesses and other entities.

Components of discussion: Cooper Center is busy and it would be difficult to book for four eight-hour Saturday sessions in a row; trying to hold training there for a class of 40 would be a tight squeeze, because the hands-on training means a lot more space is needed than just tables and chairs; Sunday afternoons at Cooper Center usually are wide open; the national park and Kilauea Military Camp have nice, larger facilities and are scheduled to reopen Sept. 22; shortened training, without CERT certification, might suffice for VERT volunteers and those wanting certification could attend the more structured training in Hilo or Keaau/Pahoa; funding and personnel are tight, putting constraints on scheduling because certain components of the CERT training mandate instructors be paid, trained Fire Department employees.

Bob said the Volcano community has enough trained, experienced volunteer instructors to offer the abbreviated, non-certified CERT training sessions for the VERT volunteers.

Nancy passed out copies of the Code of Conduct for CERTs for each of us to sign. Chris also will distribute the form via email for CERTs to sign and return electronically. If you cannot print out a copy of the document you signed, and want one for your files, let Nancy know and she'll get you a copy. She'll also have extra unsigned copies of the form available at the next Volcano CERT meeting.

Nancy showed the results of her recent shirt-shopping trip in Hilo: a "safety green" long-sleeved shirt for less than \$6 at Walmart; a similar shirt for \$22.99 and a true green short-sleeved shirt with pocket for \$24.99, both at HPM. Sher pointed out that we can put in an order and have

it delivered for pick-up at Walmart. An order sheet was circulated, and will again be available later. Still to be researched: the printing of our team name, etc. There might be a T-shirt printer in the area who doesn't require a big order in order to order an order.

Teresa reported that she and Debra and Ting ventured into our CERT container on a recent hot, muggy day to sort our supplies and create three Go Buckets, each with a field first-aid kit, for CERT teams to take with them when deployed. Also, there are bins with more extensive supplies of equipment and materials ready for use in our medical tent. Teresa said we need to get directive from Civil Defense EOC regarding our inventory and what we might need to augment it. One thing we need now is triage tape, especially green, of which we have none.

Nancy said she is contacting former team members no longer active in CERT to ask them to return their PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) bags (property of Civil Defense) and Field Operating Guides (which were purchased by the Volcano Community Association) so the equipment can be reassigned to active-duty CERTs.

Other discussion points:

Our team needs to obtain some write-in-the-rain equipment (paper, pens/pencils...).

Volunteers are needed to help Volcano CERT participate in the Health and Safety Fair from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 7, at Cooper Center. The fair is being coordinated and chaired by Sher. If you want to sign up to help, please let Nancy know.

We need to keep track of our CERT volunteer hours to help Nancy compile our efforts on behalf of the community (to prove our worth).

Paul gave a brief update on potential hurricanes-as-coming-events.

Chris discussed recent experiences helping out with the sit-rep online notifications during Hurricane Lane. She will create a PowerPoint presentation to post on our website.

Ting and Nancy recounted experiences with the new "collector" app used by teams helping with door-to-door notifications and post-disaster assessment. The app has good points as well as features that either don't work or are difficult to use. Training is needed prior to being assigned to use the app. Information collected via the app assists in locating addresses and in record-keeping for government data bases connected to disaster assistance quotas and funding.

Respectfully submitted,
Leigh Critchlow, secretary