

Volcano Community Emergency Response Team

April 7, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Team Leader Nancy Lakin convened the regular monthly meeting shortly after 9 a.m. at Cooper Center. Also present: Patti Pinto, Hank Schultz, Samantha Hill, Angela Key, Norman Walcott, Kaanohi Pe'a, Duane Nakanishi, Patricia Walters, Ting Ortiz, Claudia Zirolì, Doug Wilson, Chris Corley, Teresa Evangelista, Paul Lakin, Snookie Mello, Bob Becker and Leigh Critchlow.

"Thank you so much. It's very gratifying to see all of you come out in the rain," said Nancy.

She presented Kaanohi his new CERT badge and official PPE (personal protective equipment) backpack. Other new recruits have already received their credentials, but some of their PPEs are still in the process of being assembled. These bags will be distributed soon.

Nancy discussed the upcoming First Aid classes. Registration for the April 14 session has been confirmed. She asked if there were any more team members wanting to attend the April 21 training. The sessions will be at the Volcano Village Church, with registration at 8:15 a.m. and instruction starting as soon as possible thereafter. Bring something to eat and drink and we'll snack as we go, with no formal lunch break, so we can finish by 2 p.m., or earlier.

Nancy passed out CERT info sheets for team members to update their basic info for the team database.

In other business: The Discovery Harbor CERT team invites other CERT members to attend a special program from 4-6 p.m. Tuesday, April 24, at the Discovery Harbor Community Center. The topic "Fire management and ICS" will be the focus of a presentation by a representative of the National Park Service fire management team. Those wanting to attend are asked to let Nancy know by April 21. We'll plan to meet at Cooper Center at 2:30 p.m. to carpool to Discovery Harbor. DH Team Leader Dina Shisler is planning a potluck, so bring some food to share.

On behalf of the Hawaii County CERT volunteer administrative team, Patti discussed several upcoming opportunities for us to assist our community.

In June, the amazing "Tropic Care" 10-day series of free medical, dental and vision care will be sponsored once again by the State of

Hawaii Department of Health, the Army and the County of Hawaii. Coordinators hope this year to add psychological trauma referral.

Sessions will be June 18-20, June 22-23 and June 25-28, all at Keaau High School. CERTs are invited to assist with parking, directing clients to locations on the school campus set up for specific health care units, and helping patients in filling out forms.

They are scheduling 4 hour shift sign-ups for volunteers. Food trucks will be on site for food purchase throughout the event. There will be free food for ages 3-18. Breakfast is (7:45am-8:15am, M-F), Lunch (12pm-12:30pm M-F).

We also have been invited to serve as "victims" for the April 12 drill in Hilo staged by the 93rd Army Support Services and Hawaii County. The joint training will be relating to weapons of mass destruction, hazmat spills and burn injuries. An email has been sent to CERTs, asking for volunteers for the exercise at Edith Kanaka'ole Multipurpose Stadium, with parts of the exercise also scheduled at Hilo Medical Center.

"Wear your oldest weed-whacking outfit and your oldest shoes," instructed Patti. The drill will run from 7a.m. to noon.

On Saturday, June 30, from 9-11 a.m., the second East Hawaii "Damage Assessment Class for CERTS" will be offered at the Keaau Community Center. The training sessions are being offered at various venues throughout Hawaii County this year, following a special assignment from Mayor Harry Kim to CERT volunteers. Our new role: In the first 24 hours after a disaster causing structural damage, CERT teams will be dispatched to do residential assessments in their neighborhoods. In preparation for such deployment, CERTs need to attend one of these training classes. To register, visit <https://hilodamageassessment.eventbrite.com>.

And, said Patti: "Each of us is responsible to know our community like the back of our hand."

The CERT Admin Team also is preparing for a two-day exercise set for the third or fourth week in September. It will be patterned after the countywide CERT conference last year at the National Guard complex next to the Hilo Airport. Three of the two-day exercises will be held throughout the county.

The purpose is to train a core of experts to then run training classes within their respective CERT teams. If you'd like to

participate, contact Patti, or fellow Admin Team members Nancy and Paul Lakin, Joe Farias, Bob Becker and Doug Wilson. Prerequisites are the online Incident Command System courses 100, 700, 200 and 325.

Our May meeting will be held from 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, May 12, on a special day and at a special location, due to scheduling conflicts with Cooper Center as well as our second home, the Volcano Village Church. We will participate in a "radio field day" coordinated by Doug beside the CERT container at the bottom of the parking lot on the mauka side of the community center. If you are a licensed amateur radio operator, please bring your radio and its manual. If you're not a ham, no worry: There's still lots to learn and ways to participate. And please bring a chair, rain gear and any food and drink you'd like.

Doug asks radio operators to prepare for the radio day by programming in two frequencies: 147.260 megahertz, with a PL tone of 103.50 hertz, and 146.490, the Volcano CERT simplex setting, which doesn't need a PL tone.

"Give it a try," said Doug. "Go to your manual and try to figure it out."

This function is not always easily accomplished, he noted. So don't forget to bring your manual and we'll work on programming the settings at Radio Day.

Doug offered an update on the Volcano Emergency Response Plan, or VERP, which was recently approved by the Volcano Community Association.

"We've gotten good feedback from the community about the plan," he said. Because CERT will be involved in implementing the plan, he encourages us all to read the plan, which is posted on the VCA website, volcanocommunity.org. And, "there are lots of leadership positions available," he said, so take a look at the plan and see where you might want to be involved.

The VERP coordinating committee is currently working on a draft Memorandum of Understanding, or MOU, between VERP and Civil Defense, which will be in charge of approving the MOU. The agreement will outline responsibilities, as well as such things as liability, expense reimbursement protocols and what types of support to be provided by the county.

The community emergency response plan for Volcano will be "a living document, not a static document," evolving to meet the community's needs, said Doug.

Doug offered a synopsis of a recent training session he attended in Hilo, offered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control.

The "Crisis + Emergency Risk Communication" course offered many tips for (and reasoning in support of) communicating with the public during times of crisis. There are important ways to act, vital areas of focus, things to do (and not do) and things to say (and not say).

Of import: maintaining credibility, compassion and correct communication techniques to enable the two-way communication vital to emergency response.

Paul, who is the Volcano Volunteer Fire Department captain and a CERT trainer, closed the meeting by discussing and demonstrating the correct way to do "head-to-toe" assessment of an injured person following triage and assignment to the treatment center.

And, he tested his audience. "In triage," Paul asked, "what are the three killers to watch for?"

Shock, bleeding and airway obstruction, the room agreed.

Team Leader Nancy adjourned the meeting shortly before 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Critchlow, secretary