



# National NEWSLETTER

Vol. 3 – Issue 2

## Haiti CERT Mobilizes in Aftermath of Devastating Earthquake



Sorel Damour  
(Photo courtesy of Cathy Anthofer)

It was a typical afternoon in Léogâne, Haiti, when CERT member Sorel Damour first felt the vibrations and heard the rumblings around him. The date was January 12, 2010, and Damour had just

finished teaching a class in Léogâne. He was about to walk back to his home in Brossier, a small fishing village on the outskirts of Léogâne, when the quake began. As the shaking intensified and the destruction began around him, Damour ran toward his village. He knew exactly what he had to do: activate CERT.

In Brossier, Damour found that most of the village was destroyed. However, because there are few permanent structures in the village and most of the residents work in Léogâne, almost no one in Brossier was injured. With no electricity or phone service, the only way to activate the local CERT was manually. He grabbed his CERT bag and walked through the village, calling

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## CERT Behind Bars

As a disaster response training program, CERT is available for anyone who wants to prepare themselves and their community for a disaster. But does that really mean anyone? Even someone incarcerated? For the Matanuska Susitna CERT in Alaska, the answer was yes. In 2009, they became the first CERT in the country to offer training to prison inmates.

For 5 days in December, five CERT members taught basic training to 23 inmates at the medium-security Palmer Correctional Center (PCC) in Palmer, Alaska.

“Our city is a small community on a hill,” said PCC education coordinator Gary Olsen. “This training helps [the inmates] to connect to other people and help [the] community at large.”

Palmer is located in the Matanuska Susitna Borough, a largely rural area approximately the size of West Virginia with a population of around 86,000. The Matanuska Susitna CERT began in 2003 and has trained around 1,000 people.

The idea to bring CERT to the prison originated when Olsen learned of the basic training from a friend who had completed the course. Olsen saw it as a perfect opportunity to educate and prepare some of PCC’s inmates for a disaster. He took his idea to Bea Adler, Emergency Management Programs Coordinator for the

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<http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/>



# FEMA

## Not Your Average Snow Day in Charlottesville, Va.

For several days in early February, a massive snowstorm worked its way across the East Coast, grounding flights, rendering highways impassable, and closing schools and offices. Snowfall was measured in feet, not inches. Shoppers faced either bare grocery store shelves or lengthy checkout lines. The storm toppled trees and cut power on many neighborhood streets. Street plows and snow days became ubiquitous.

Charlottesville, Virginia — where the storm dropped more than a foot of snow — saw all of these issues and more. But not all residents were snowed in. For the Charlottesville-UVA Albemarle County CERT, the storm meant action.



*Snow pile from December 2009, the first of two major snowstorms in Charlottesville*

“We worked around the clock for the first 48 hours...then in 18-hour shifts for the next 3 days,” said CERT Coordinator Carol Hunt, who volunteers as coordinator in addition to her job as an accountant. “It is such a pleasure to work with so many dedicated volunteers whose only wish is to help their community,” she said.

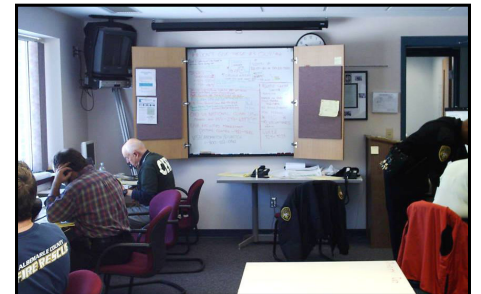
They began by staffing the county’s 979-INFO line. CERT members answered calls from citizens phoning with non-emergency questions, such as power outages and road closures. Emergency management coordinator Marge Thomas trained CERT members on the INFO line and has used them often in the past. The CERT members also coordinated drivers, drop-offs, and pick-ups for a shelter and a hospital. Drivers transported residents who had lost power to the shelter and emergency services personnel and dialysis patients to and from the hospital. “Individuals were out in the storm all night, making sure people got to where they needed to be,” said Hunt.

“ *Semper Gumby—always be flexible.* ”  
 – Carol Hunt, CERT Coordinator

After a request in the media resulted in more than 40 non-CERT drivers, CERT members focused on coordinating transportation and assisting law enforcement and fire rescue with any tasks that arose. “We had a great outpouring of community drivers [and] spontaneous volunteers,” said Hunt.

The CERT had gained experience from a similar snowstorm 2 months earlier, in December 2009. Hunt considers the first storm more

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*CERT members coordinating drivers and staffing the INFO line.*

## Ready for the Big One: Hawaii CERTs Prepare for Tsunami

Residents of Hawaii awoke February 27, 2010, on what should have been a peaceful Saturday, to the unmistakable blast of civil defense sirens. An 8.8 earthquake, 7,000 miles away in Chile, triggered fears of a tsunami across the Pacific Rim. Mandatory evacuation orders radiated across Hawaii and required the coordination and activation of a variety of emergency management agencies and volunteers.

Before sunrise, CERTs on four of the state’s seven inhabited islands were aware of the threat and prepared for action. With counties spread across islands and multiple CERTs in each county, activations can be logistically complicated. “We have certain challenges out here because we’re the only state where every county is separated by the Pacific Ocean,” said Marsha Tamura, who

coordinates CERT for the state of Hawaii. While CERT duties varied by county and need, their organized responses reflected their CERT training.

In Honolulu County, CERT members are part of the Department of Emergency Management’s Reserve Corps. CERT members and reservists alerted

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## Passaic Valley, N.J. CERT Responds to Flooding



*Submerged car in Little Falls (Photo courtesy of Mario Burger)*

It wasn't supposed to happen again so soon. Three years after the Passaic River and its tributaries last rose above the flood stage, it happened again. In March a period of heavy rainfall washed out bridges, downed trees, and caused massive flooding throughout northern New Jersey. But this time, CERT was there to help.

The Passaic Valley CERT covers the towns of Totowa, Little Falls, and Woodland Park. The 50-member team serves the towns' combined population of around 35,000. The March floods were some of the worst in the area's history, said Detective Alfred Batelli of the Little Falls Police Department. "Flooding is probably one of the most recurring types of situation that we have in our particular area."

The CERT was first activated to distribute early alert cards to residents before the flooding began. The cards gave residents information on evacuating — how they would be notified, what they should do, where they should go, which precautions to take, and where shelters were located.

**“That's why we're happy to say that there's something for everyone, no matter how old you are, to [contribute] to your CERT.”**

*– Det. Alfred Batelli, Little Falls Police Department*

Once flooding began, CERT members staffed the Red Cross shelter. "The CERT maintained the shelter from Monday to Saturday, 24/7," said Batelli. CERT members registered evacuees and made sure that they were comfortable and that all their needs were met. The maximum number of shelter residents at any time was 21, and while staffing numbers varied, the least they ever had was two. "It was an extensive deployment of manpower," said Batelli.

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## Not Your Average Snow Day in Charlottesville, Va.

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severe since more than 100 motorists were trapped in their cars. The CERT assisted the National Guard and state police in helping the stranded individuals. "With the February storm, more people knew to stay home," said Hunt.

But CERT members also knew not to get complacent during the February storm. No two deployments are the same and flexibility is important. "We were developing procedures as we went," said Hunt. "New technology is great. You can always put a new procedure in place, but you always have to tweak. You can exercise a plan but it takes a real deployment to put the plans in place."

Hunt sums it up with what she jokes is the state CERT motto: Semper Gumby — always be flexible.

She is pleased with the activation and the CERT's ability to work together as a group. "[It's] horrible that we have these events...but something good should come out of it...and handling it well is a good result. You can train and you can exercise, but to be able to work with people in a real situation really meshes a group."

For more information, please contact Carol Hunt ([48moose@atxl.net](mailto:48moose@atxl.net)).

## Ready for the Big One: Hawaii CERTs Prepare for Tsunami *(Continued from page 2)*

beachgoers and community members to the threat, assisted in traffic control, and staffed road blocks. In Maui County, CERT members assisted the Salvation Army and were stationed in different communities, ready to respond when necessary.

“*[The activations of CERTs across counties] showcased a successful collaboration between county emergency [offices] and CERT volunteers in all counties.*”

– Marsha Tamura

Kauai County CERTs were activated for the first time. CERTs were placed on standby to assist the Kauai Police Department when needed with traffic control and staffing barricades. The Princeville CERT activated their phone tree and had 13 members report to stations at police department road blocks. “Kauai’s first CERT activation put their phone tree to the test for an actual emergency and they came through with flying colors,” said Tamura.

Hawaii County CERTs were placed on standby to assist the American Red Cross with mass sheltering. The threat

of a tsunami allowed for use of the county’s new mass notification system. All Hawaii County CERT members, and many residents, are registered to receive emergency notices via phone or e-mail. This reduces the time it takes to notify all CERT members.

“[It] helps them get the information as quickly as possible,” said Tamura. “Once the decision is made to activate the CERT, the CERT points of contact utilize individual team phone trees to provide CERT-specific instructions.” By the time that call comes, CERT members have had an initial warning from the notification system and are prepared for the next step.



*Receiving instructions from the police*

While there was a small tsunami on February 27 after the earthquake, the threat of a more devastating tsunami impacting Hawaii is very real.

“Residents are very much aware of tsunamis,” said Tamura. “We’ve had other tsunami warnings but this one certainly caught the attention of the entire state.”

The activations of CERTs across counties “showcased a successful collaboration between county emergency [offices] and CERT volunteers in all counties,” said Tamura. Hawaii’s response to the tsunami threat shows that despite differences in location and topography, the CERT fundamentals never waver. “I just thought it was really well done by each county,” she said. “Each county is different...what they did was different. But this was a really good opportunity for CERTs...to utilize their skills in different ways.”

For more information, please contact Marsha Tamura ([mtamura@scd.hawaii.gov](mailto:mtamura@scd.hawaii.gov)).

## Haiti CERT Mobilizes in Aftermath of Devastating Earthquake *(Continued from page 1)*

for CERT members as he passed the shattered homes. In this way, Damour was able to mobilize 14 CERT members who then walked 3 miles back to Léogâne. It was in Léogâne, Damour knew, that the greatest destruction had occurred.

Located 18 miles west of Port-au-Prince, Léogâne was the epicenter of the 7.0 earthquake. The aftermath left the city without government infrastructure, 95% of their buildings destroyed, and between 20,000 and 30,000 of their approximately 120,000 residents dead.

Once there, the CERT worked with the city’s lone doctor to tend to the victims. CERT members triaged victims and kept meticulous notes of names and/or physical descriptions of everyone they classified and treated. The team worked until 3:00 a.m. the first night participating in search and rescue, providing first aid, and bringing seriously injured victims to the city’s only hospital.

CERT members worked around the clock for several days until exhaustion set in and they were forced to stop and care for themselves. International help did not arrive until 5 days after the earthquake. Up until that time, the only responders in Léogâne were CERT members and the city doctor. By their records, CERT members assisted 300 individuals in the first 48 hours of the disaster and more than 1,000 in the first week.

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## Haiti CERT Mobilizes in Aftermath of Devastating Earthquake *(Continued from page 4)*

Damour recently related his experience to CERT trainer Cathy Anthofer, currently Director of Campus Safety and Security at Earlham College in Indiana. Anthofer helped conduct the first Haiti CERT course in 2004; Damour was a member of the original CERT Train-the-Trainer course. CERT targeted teachers at the Soleil Foundation’s primary school in Brossier because they held leadership roles in the community and already knew how to teach. “We trained the teachers to be CERT trainers because we didn’t know if we’d get back there again,” said Anthofer. The teachers were receptive and eager to become trainers.

Anthofer returned to Léogâne in June 2010, almost 6 months after the earthquake. “I was shocked,” she said. “Everything is really gone. Conditions are much worse now than they were in 2004. The devastation is worse [in Léogâne] than in Port-au-Prince. Imagine a three-story cinderblock building, and it is destroyed and the rubble is still there.” There are no



*Damage in Port-au-Prince  
(Photo by Rebekah Runner, courtesy of U.S. Coast Guard)*

businesses open in Léogâne and many people are unemployed as a result. The city’s homeless have gathered in squatter camps.

Anthofer spent 2 weeks in Léogâne providing continuing education to CERT members. Training included swift water rescue and long-distance patient transport. She also conducted a basic first aid course for 12- to 14-year-olds.

When Anthofer finally had the opportunity to sit down and talk to Damour about CERT efforts during the earthquake, it was difficult for him to recount the experience because of the



*Damage in Port-au-Prince  
(Photo by Rebekah Runner, courtesy of U.S. Coast Guard)*

devastation he and his team encountered. In the course of their duties, CERT members saw many people who lost limbs or who were decapitated. “The community was desperate for help,” said Anthofer. “Since there is only one doctor for the whole city, CERT members were seen as medical professionals.”

Providing care to the victims was not an easy task emotionally or physically, but Damour was proud of the work his team provided. Sorel acted as the team leader and asked the team for reports. “It’s a real achievement that CERT members kept such complete records considering the overall task they faced,” said Anthofer.

**“ Since there is only one doctor for the whole city, CERT members were seen as medical professionals. ”**

*– Cathy Anthofer*

It is now hurricane season in Haiti, and the team is ready to mobilize, if necessary. They are newly trained in long-distance patient transport because “there are no ambulances, and you can’t get a car down the road to Brossier,” said Anthofer. “In an emergency, they may have to carry someone over rough terrain.”

According to Damour, the community is very happy to have their assistance. “CERT members have already established themselves as a group who knows what they are doing, and they are trusted by the community,” said Anthofer.

## CERT Behind Bars

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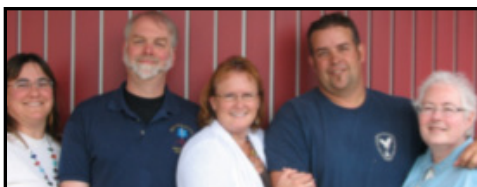
borough and the CERT coordinator. Adler was excited about the opportunity to contribute to the prison's proactive education program.

"I never turn down an opportunity to get the message out. Anytime there are any open ears or minds, I'm there," said Adler. The inmates come from across the state, and when they return to their homes, they will bring their CERT training and knowledge back, too. "I saw it as the opportunity to expose inmates to something they may not have thought about before," said Adler.

Olsen and Adler then pitched the idea to prison administrators. "The reaction was very positive," said Olsen. PCC already offers classes on CPR, and administrators saw this as an opportunity to further equip the inmates in the event of a disaster.

Before Adler and her team could teach the class, administrators reviewed the course, making some modifications and laying out several ground rules. (See sidebar.) Adler considered the changes just another part of being a volunteer. "One of the things that is important for a non-professional disaster responder is the ability to improvise. So teaching them to improvise was actually a good thing."

A class of 23 completed the training. Sign-up was open to those interested, while behavioral records and several other factors determined who could



*CERT instructor team - Left to right: Micheal Abe, Bill Mackreth, Sarah Sanderlin, Joe Sylvia, and Bea Adler*

participate. Administrators frequently sat in on the meetings and routinely interrupted class to do headcounts. "[There was] no moment where you could truly forget where you were," said Adler. However, there were no problems, and she didn't anticipate any problems.

"These are not career criminals," said Adler. Most were serving short sentences from 90 days to a few years. Both Adler and Olsen said the level of interest was very high, and participants were engaged and eager to learn. "Over the week we got to know them and they stopped being yellow jumpsuits and became individuals," said Adler.

Inmates who complete the CERT training could, in the event of a disaster and with strict supervision, "go out into the community and assist in doing the things they were taught to do," said Adler. "They could supplement basic emergency medical services."

Olsen believes the trained inmates could play an important role if a disaster strikes. "Natural disasters can happen to anyone," said Olsen. "If we have a disaster, we could get a couple officers and mobilize a team of inmates to help ourselves or [the] community."

Offering the CERT training at PCC goes beyond just preparing inmates for a disaster. "There is a larger picture," said Olsen. "The CERT Program helps them with social behavior, social connection, and also self-worth." Participants can put the training on their resumes and use it at job interviews once they are released. "It shows they didn't just come here and sit," said Olsen. "They were actively involved...in a positive way."

Adler agrees. "I think it did more than teach them to do triage. [CERT training] gave them more than practical disaster-related knowledge. [It] gave them human knowledge. [We were] meeting an emotional need. We were not expecting that," she stated.

Adler and her team taught the course at PCC again in June and trained an additional 30 inmates. They will also be conducting the training at a larger prison in the area. She and Olsen hope that other CERT programs follow their lead. "It's positive for the inmates and positive for the community," said Olsen. As one new graduate told Adler, "I'm in here because of my stupid and selfish behavior. This course showed me that I have the capacity to look beyond my own selfishness and reach out to help someone in need."

For more information, please contact Bea Adler ([badler@matsugov.us](mailto:badler@matsugov.us)) or Gary Olsen ([chris.olsen@alaska.gov](mailto:chris.olsen@alaska.gov)).

### Training Modifications

Instructors:

- Submitted a list of everything to be carried into the training and made sure they brought out the same.
- Removed scissors from medical kit.
- Used prison's fire extinguisher and had no live fire demonstration.
- Simulated leveraging and cribbing with an unsharpened pencil and paperback books and showed the CERT cribbing video.
- Kept lights on during final disaster stimulation.

### Ground Rules

Instructors were:

- Prohibited from bringing cameras and gum. (Gum is considered a reward.)
- Required to pass a background check.
- Required to leave keys and cell phones at guardhouse.

## Why I Got Involved With CERT

Empowering. Informative. Beneficial. Fun. These are some of the words members use to explain what drew them to CERT. As a nationwide program, CERT attracts members with diverse backgrounds, interests, and training. But there are also common threads, weaving their way from coast to coast, across urban and rural teams, through experienced and novice members.

These threads reveal why a Minnesota CERT member's reason for getting involved with the program is not so different from why a member in Texas joined. And the same goes for a member in Oregon or Tennessee or Nevada.

Yet, this is about more than why they got involved. It's about why they keep coming back, and how they use their dedication to the program to attract others. We spoke to CERT representatives around the country for answers.

### Joining for a Reason

First and foremost, all of the CERT members we spoke to came to the program because of a desire to protect themselves and their community in the event of a disaster. "Disasters can affect anyone, anywhere, at any time," said John Nelson of Elk River, Minn. He and

his wife, Anne, have been attending CERT meetings for the last year and just completed their basic training. John Nelson had helped with several disasters in his area and saw a need for additional training in order to better serve. "The better prepared that you are the better you, your family, a neighbor, or a friend will be," he said.

Bob Davis of Walden's Ridge, Tenn., came to CERT through a Neighborhood Watch group that formed out of the need for additional protection in their rural town, which can take 45 minutes for police to

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## Passaic Valley, N.J. CERT Responds to Flooding *(Continued from page 3)*

The shelter met all Red Cross guidelines and was inspected by the Red Cross, but was staffed solely by CERT members. "They give us the cots but we open the shelter and maintain the shelter," said Batelli. In order to staff the shelter, members took shelter management training offered by the Red Cross.



*Alfano Island Bridge over the Passaic River  
(Photo courtesy of Mario Burger)*

Newer CERT members were in the process of taking the training and preparing for setting up a mock shelter when the flooding began. Thus they got the experience of opening and running a fully operational shelter. "It really worked out well and was a true benefit to everyone," said Batelli.

But even as floodwaters began to recede, the CERT work was not finished. CERT members supported FEMA by distributing information to residents on registering with the

agency. Members also delivered supplies door-to-door to those in need throughout the community. Supplies were donated by various businesses and included clean-up supplies, water, and other necessities. "Usually we have people come to a pick-up point for the supplies," said Batelli. "But because of CERT volunteers we could bring it to them."

"It was a busy time for a lot of people," he said. CERT members put in close to 500 hours throughout the event. Since the activation occurred on weekdays, the CERT relied on some of their retired members for staffing. "That's why we're happy to say that there's something for everyone, no matter how old you are, to [contribute] to your CERT," said Batelli. "There's something for everybody to do."

Batelli credits the New Jersey Department of Emergency Management for the success of the Passaic Valley CERT. "We couldn't have done this without their support," he said. "It's through the continued support of the state and county that we've been so successful."

Batelli foresees continued successes for the CERT as he receives calls from community members interested in the program after seeing what was accomplished during the flooding. "They were elated by the fact that their neighbors were out there helping them," he said.

For more information, or if you are interested in joining the Passaic Valley CERT, please contact Detective Batelli at 973-464-2682.

## Why I Got Involved With CERT

*(Continued from page 7)*

reach. “Where we’re at, if something bad happens, you’re on your own for a long time,” he said. With CERT they are no longer on their own; they have established five teams in four counties and trained more than 100 people.

Many members also cited a background of service as their reason for joining CERT. “Getting involved and helping out is part of my DNA,” said Riley Davison, a former Boy Scout whose father was a member of the Marines and Air Force and whose mother was a Director of Nursing with the American Red Cross. Davison, from the Alamo Area CERT in Texas, is now passing down his history of service to his four sons, one of whom is already a trained CERT member. “The more-than-probability is that something will happen, and when it does, nothing will be able to replace education and preparation,” he said.

Anne Nelson of Elk River, Minn., is an administrator for Hope Filled Hands, a local relief organization that helps communities rebuild after a disaster. After assisting in many disaster relief efforts, it was an apartment fire in her community that really drove home the importance of disaster training and preparation. “There were plenty of people that were willing to help, but we could have been more effective,” she said. “This in particular showed me that I wanted to be better educated and prepared to help the community in a disaster situation.”

**“ It was empowering that I could train to do this to first take care of myself, then family, then community. ”**

– Liz Johnston

For some, the chance to join CERT just happened at the right time in their lives when they were in the right place. Beverly Bishop, City of Las Vegas, Nev.

CERT, was a flight attendant with TWA for 20 years. During her last 10 years with the airline, she was involved with the emergency trauma response team. When her job with TWA ended, she wanted a way to stay involved and heard about CERT through a friend. “I love doing this. I think it’s such a benefit to the whole community. I think more people need to get involved.”

Liz Johnston, of the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) in Portland, Ore., was at a local farmer’s market when someone gave her information on the CERT program. “It was empowering that I could train to do this to first take care of myself, then family, then community,” she said — not to mention “the gear involved and then the



Anne and John Nelson of Elk River, Minn.  
*(Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Nelson)*

cool helmet [and] vest you get upon completion of the training.”

No matter why they came to CERT, all members agree that it requires effort to engage themselves and others to make a successful program.

### Staying Active

One of the most popular and beneficial ways members choose to stay active in their CERT is to take additional training. All those interviewed have taken extra training and are eager to take more. At the very least, all members had taken a basic First Aid and CPR class and recommend that all CERT members

do the same. Davis is a CERT instructor currently certified to teach eight FEMA courses. “I have attended every additional training course I could,” he said, which so far has amounted to around 30 courses with more to come this summer.

The type of CERT supplemental training varies according to community need. Johnston suggests members “read up on possible disaster scenarios in [their] geographic area and prepare accordingly.”

For Davis this means recommending that team members in Tennessee take a hunter safety course. Anne Nelson participated in flammable transportation and delivery training where she learned about various hazardous materials and how to protect herself and her community in case of a disaster. The training helped her to realize the threat that hazardous materials pose to her community.

“The leadership will tell you that the challenge is always to keep the motivated active, and the recalcitrant present,” said Davison. Supplemental training helps maintain an active team. Another way to engage members — and what keeps everyone coming back — are the meetings and events their teams hold.

Team meetings and events are vital to what Johnston sees as the success of her neighborhood team. This includes neighborhood outreach activities, team barbecues, triage and first aid drills, and “Review Your NET Pack” meetings to inventory their packs. “We have a philosophy that it’s critical that we know each other in normal social situations,” she said. “When we find ourselves in a real event, we’ll know if a team member is in stress or out of sorts because we know them at their normal operating levels.”

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## Why I Got Involved With CERT

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Anne Nelson thinks the fun and informative meetings their CERT puts together keeps members active. “We seem to have fun at every meeting,” she said. They also hold supplemental training meetings monthly, said John Nelson.

The Nelsons will also be participating in an airplane crash simulation. Bishop has participated in a CERT HazMat drill, where she played a victim. (The moulage was so convincing, the EMT thought she was actually hurt.) Training helps with “getting involved and being part of the community,” said Bishop. But it also helps members learn to assist themselves, “which is just as important as being able to assist others in a disaster emergency,” she said.



*Portland NET member Liz Johnston with fellow members Keith Carlson and Chris Boeh*

Mock disaster simulations and drills prepare CERTs for the real thing. The real thing — CERT activation to respond to an actual emergency — may be the single best way to ensure an active CERT, though no one wants them to happen regularly.

Davison and the Alamo Area CERT have been activated several times for hurricanes and have also provided first aid coverage for various community events. Johnston and the Beaumont-Wilshire NET have been activated numerous times, including for an

election rally and to staff warming centers in the winter. Davis and the Walden’s Ridge CERT are most often activated after a storm to help with damage to homes and trees from straight-line winds.

“The training is for more than catastrophic events,” reminds Johnston. From the smallest to the largest CERT, an active membership is prepared to assist their community whenever a need arises. And they stay active in the community by sharing what they learn.

### Spreading the Message

Our CERT representatives consider it part of their role to share their knowledge and experience with others in their communities. This means talking about what CERT does, recruiting new members, and educating community members on disaster preparedness skills.

As they become more active with their CERTs, members have been able to see their local programs evolve and reach out to more people. Bishop has seen better training and lesson planning, with instructors making it “more interesting or understandable” for each group. Anne Nelson’s CERT has become “more active in community outreach programs.”

Davison has “seen some very fine and inspirational leaders step in to evolve and expand the program.” But they aren’t done yet. He urges all who can to get involved. “Earthquakes happen. So do floods, tornadoes, pandemics, etc.,” he said. “Then there are the everyday accidents. Give yourself, and your family, [a] chance. Then get on a wall, and trumpet the message to get others involved. You, and they, will be glad you did.”

Sounding the trumpet may become increasingly important as CERTs search for funding in this difficult

economy. Johnston cites lack of funding as the reason fewer advanced training courses are offered in her area.

While some counties near Davis receive funding, not all do. In Bledsoe County, where Davis’ Walden’s Ridge neighborhood is located, CERT members usually purchase



*Riley Davison of Alamo Area CERT prepares for a fire suppression drill with Explorer Scouts.*

their own gear and resources. But even with the challenges related to limited funding, the CERT members still strive to continue letting others know the importance of CERT and the preparedness skills they possess.

As programs grow, CERT will still be about working as a team to protect families, neighbors, coworkers, and community. “I think we all know that when the muck hits the fan, we will be there for each other and our families,” said Johnston. “I could never have imagined the level of support that I have received and continue to receive from our team.”

CERT members join to be of service to others and themselves. They seek out ways to keep members active. They let others know the importance of being ready. And they stay for the lessons learned, the people they meet, and the opportunity to help their communities.



## News from the National Office

The CERT National Program Office is pleased to announce the release of two new supplemental training modules: CERT Animal Response I and CERT Animal Response II. These new modules are the first in a series of supplemental training modules. The Animal Response modules — as well as other CERT supplemental training to be released in the future — are intended for those who have completed the CERT Basic Training course. The supplemental modules build on members' previous training, expand the skills of members and teams, and increase CERT's ability to support emergency response professionals.

The instructor-led Animal Response modules address pets, service animals, "for-profit" livestock, wildlife, exotic animals, and non-commercial livestock such as horses. The 3-hour CERT Animal Response I teaches CERT members emergency preparedness for animal owners, animal-related functions in emergency management, and

how to recognize specific animal behaviors. The 4-hour CERT Animal Response II teaches members their role in responding to animal issues and the skills needed when they encounter animals while performing their broader CERT response functions. As in all CERT training, these new supplemental modules also feature CERT responder safety.

The training materials for each module include an Instructor Guide, Participant Manual, and PowerPoint file. CERT instructors may download the materials from the National CERT website. Please go to Training Materials on the CERT home page and then select CERT Supplemental Training:

[http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/training\\_downloads.shtm#animal](http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/training_downloads.shtm#animal).

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to your community and to CERT!

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## Submitting Stories to the National CERT Newsletter

The National CERT Newsletter is published quarterly and welcomes stories from local, state, tribal, and territorial CERT Programs. For example:

- CERT in Action – Activations in actual emergencies
- CERT exercises you have conducted
- A CERT member who has gone above and beyond the call of duty
- Community awards/commendations your CERT Program/teams have received
- Innovative ways you have dealt with challenges in your CERT Program

When submitting a story, please include:

- City/state of event
- Names of people/organizations involved
- Date(s) of activity
- Author's contact information
- Other relevant information

Format: Articles should be between 50 and 150 words. Submit text as a Microsoft Word file or paste article text directly to e-mail. (PDF files cannot be used.)

Photos: Submit as an e-mail attachment in JPG or TIF file format. Include names of people in photo and a description of what they are doing and why. Please provide only photos approved for publication.

Deadline: Articles considered for the next publication must be received by October 15, 2010. Send your articles to [cert@dhs.gov](mailto:cert@dhs.gov). Include in subject line: "Submission for CERT Newsletter."

Note: CERT retains the right to edit all stories for length, clarity, and accuracy.

Acceptance: Publication of submitted materials is based on a variety of factors, including but not limited to timeliness, space available, completeness of information, and relevance.