



## **BOARD MEETING AGENDA SUBMITTAL**

**TO:** GCSO Board of Directors

**FROM:** Peter Kampa, General Manager

**DATE:** November 10, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item 3Aii. General Manager's Report

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Staff recommends the following action:

*Discussion item only, no action required at this time.*

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Introduction Flyer for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
2. Tri Fold Flyer for the Groveland Area Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)



## About Community Emergency Response Team

### Introduction

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Following a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services will not be able to meet the demand for these services. Factors such as number of victims, communication failures and road blockages will prevent people from accessing emergency services they have come to expect at a moment's notice through 911. People will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate life saving and life sustaining needs.

One also expects that under these kinds of conditions, family members, fellow employees and neighbors will spontaneously try to help each other. This was the case following the Mexico City earthquake where untrained, spontaneous volunteers saved 800 people. However, 100 people lost their lives while attempting to save others. This is a high price to pay and is preventable through training.

If we can predict that emergency services will not meet immediate needs following a major disaster, especially if there is no warning as in an earthquake and people will spontaneously volunteer, what can government do to prepare citizens for this eventuality?

First, present citizens the facts about what to expect following a major disaster in terms of immediate services. Second, give the message about their responsibility for mitigation and preparedness. Third, train them in needed life saving skills with emphasis on decision making skills, rescuer safety and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. Fourth, organize teams so that they are an extension of first responder services offering immediate help to victims until professional services arrive.

### Background

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The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept was developed and implemented by the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) in 1985. The Whittier Narrows earthquake in 1987 underscored the area-wide threat of a major disaster in California. Further, it confirmed the need for training civilians to meet their immediate needs. As a result, the LAFD created the Disaster Preparedness Division with the purpose of training citizens and private and government employees.

The training program that LAFD initiated makes good sense and furthers the process of citizens understanding their responsibility in preparing for disaster. It also increases their ability to safely help themselves, their family and their neighbors. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recognizes the importance of preparing citizens. The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) and the

National Fire Academy adopted and expanded the CERT materials believing them applicable to all hazards.

The CERT course will benefit any citizen who takes it. This individual will be better prepared to respond to and cope with the aftermath of a disaster. These groups can provide immediate assistance to victims in their area, organize spontaneous volunteers who have not had the training and collect disaster intelligence that will assist professional responders with prioritization and allocation of resources following a disaster. Since 1993 when this training was made available nationally by FEMA, communities in 28 states and Puerto Rico have conducted CERT training.

## Delivery

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The CERT course is delivered in the community by a team of first responders who have the requisite knowledge and skills to instruct the sessions. The following sessions must all be covered in a basic CERT class taught by qualified instructors.

- Session I, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS: Addresses hazards to which people are vulnerable in their community. Materials cover actions that participants and their families take before, during and after a disaster. The CERT concept and organization are discussed as well as applicable laws governing volunteers in that jurisdiction.
- Session II, DISASTER FIRE SUPPRESSION: Briefly covers fire chemistry, hazardous materials, fire hazards and fire suppression strategies. However, the thrust of this session is the safe use of fire extinguishers, sizing up the situation, controlling utilities and extinguishing a small fire.
- Session III, DISASTER MEDICAL OPERATIONS PART I: Participants practice diagnosing and treating airway obstruction, bleeding and shock by using simple triage and rapid treatment techniques.
- Session IV, DISASTER MEDICAL OPERATIONS, PART II: Covers evaluating patients by doing a head to toe assessment, establishing a medical treatment area, performing basic first aid and practicing in a safe and sanitary manner.
- Session V, LIGHT SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS: Participants learn about search and rescue planning, size-up, search techniques, rescue techniques and, most important, rescuer safety.
- Session VI, DISASTER PSYCHOLOGY AND TEAM ORGANIZATION: Covers signs and symptoms that might be experienced by the disaster victim and worker. It addresses CERT organization and management principles and the need for documentation.
- Session VII, COURSE REVIEW AND DISASTER SIMULATION: Participants review their answers from a take home examination. Finally, they practice the skills that they have learned during the previous six sessions in disaster activity.

## Conclusion

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CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens will be initially on their own and their actions can make a difference. Through training, citizens can manage utilities and put out small fires; treat the three killers by opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock; provide basic medical aid; search for and rescue victims safely and organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective.

# WHY CERT?

- Learn skills to help others.
- Know how to protect yourself.
- Give back to your community.
- Be part of a team that cares.
- Be prepared!



## FIREFIGHTER REHAB

### Learn how to:

- Rehydrate our firefighters.
- Check their vitals.
- Cool them down/warm them up.
- Give them nutrition.



For more information visit:

[www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams](http://www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams)

Like us on Facebook



**CERT - Groveland Area**

(Groveland/Big Oak Flat/Moccasin)

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# ARE YOU READY?



# JOIN

## GROVELAND AREA



Serving Tuolumne County

# CERT IN ACTION

- Residential/Neighborhood checks
- Emergency Medical Triage & First Aid
- Evacuation of neighbors with disabilities & others with access & functional needs
- Staffing Emergency Operation Centers & Shelters
- General evacuations
- Debris removal
- Helicopter Landing Zone security
- Community Relations & distribution of emergency information to public
- Managing & processing supplies & donations
- Initial damage assessment
- Basic search & rescue
- Utilities control/shut-off
- Welfare checks
- Firefighter Rehabilitation

*When there is an emergency, regardless of your background or abilities, CERT has a job for anyone who wants to participate!*

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## PREPAREDNESS

CERT training prepares you for any incident, no matter where you are.

CERT stands for 'Community Emergency Response Team'. GCERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety and doing the greatest good for the greatest number.

## Free 20-Hour CERT Basic Training Class Includes:

- Disaster Preparedness
- Fire Suppression
- Medical Aid
- Light Search & Rescue
- Disaster Psychology
- CERT Team Organization
- Terrorism Response
- Disaster Simulation

This Nationally Certified Course teaches CERT teams to perform essential life-saving functions while awaiting the arrival of professional emergency responders following a disaster.



*Attending CERT Basic Training does not obligate you to join the team.*