

Arcata CERT Team Accomplishments, May 2018-December 2019

Arcata CERT activities in support of City goals and Priorities

Supporting Arcata 2018-2019 City Council Priority Projects

4. Develop a Crime Prevention Officer (non-sworn) to work on crime prevention strategies and disaster preparedness such as:

- a. Neighborhood and Business Watch
- d. Support Community Emergency Response Team development

5. Valley West Improvements. Staff will provide a list of potential enhancements through the budget process to include the development of a long-term comprehensive strategy for revitalization as well as short term that address:

- d. Ways to engage the businesses and residents

11. Update and further develop City-wide disaster preparedness and emergency response strategies.

Supporting Arcata's Hazard Mitigation Action Plan

- Action ARC14— Continue to support the development and ongoing training of Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)
- Action ARC5—Identify and pursue strategies to increase adaptive capacity to climate change including but not limited to the following: Public outreach and education regarding emergency preparedness and hazard risk awareness.
- Action ARC13— Develop detailed lists of existing and needed emergency resources (shelters, food sources, etc.).
- Action ARC15— Maintain updated Hazard and Emergency Preparedness information on the City's website with a link to the County's Website.
- Action ARC16—Develop Semi-annual City staff training in community emergency response.

PROJECTS: COMPLETED and ONGOING

- Redefined our newly enlarged CERT team; reorganized and identified our goals and roles
- Team and public website development (for collaboration and resources for team projects now; for emergency preparedness information and related resources for the public next; team collaboration side nearly complete as of December 2019)
- Formalized local-focus Work Groups and sub-Work Groups for CERT team projects (many had already been in progress); Work Group leaders appointed and members listed; first formal meetings of each Work Group have taken place:
 - Neighborhood Preparedness Work Group
 - Sunny Brae Neighborhood Preparedness Group has held several monthly planning meetings and created two radio range and clarity maps
 - Continuing: Lazy J Mobile Home Park

- Partial roll-out: Woodland Heights
 - Slated: Windsong neighborhood preparedness project
- Technology (collaborative website development, training, and support)
- Team Skills (see below)
- Funding
- Community Outreach and Education (3 sub-Work Groups)
 - Outreach Coordination
 - Writing Team (interviewing and writing CERT-related articles for the media)
 - Local Emergency Information Sources (radio, TV, print, apps, internet, etc.)
- Administrative Support (5-hour, all-team Visionary Strategic Planning meeting; end-of year administrative review and planning meeting)
- Critical Businesses and Services (to be reactivated in the spring)
- Post-disaster Pet Care (to be activated in spring 2020, possibly in coordination with Companion Animal Foundation and/or the County's newly forming DART team)
- Began "What is CERT" and disaster preparedness column in Mad River Union (5 articles to date); now broadening scope to include voluntary interviews of Arcata businesses, nonprofits, schools, agencies, etc., to share what preparedness measures each already has in place and what they plan next (interviewing, writing, and editing being done by the team's Writing Team work group)
- Acted as incubator and mentor for members of what has become the McKinleyville CERT team and for other unaffiliated CERT volunteers in nearby unincorporated areas
- Began developing plan for decentralized storage of emergency equipment throughout City; received supply of emergency equipment on long-term loan from Sheriff's Office (walkie-talkies, EZ-Up tent, generator, color-coded triage tarps); developed an inventory/check-out system for team emergency equipment and supplies
- Created forms for local use, which were shared with all Humboldt CERT teams
 - Neighborhood Ham Radio Operator Interview
 - Neighborhood Skills/Tools/Experience Survey
 - Volunteer Intake Form
 - Questionnaire and Planning List for CERT Team Skills Presenters
 - Team Equipment Inventory and Check-out Form
- Adapted Del Norte's "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" plan for local use and to reduce required number of in-person meetings.
- Obtained 700 copies of Living on Shaky Ground for use by Arcata CERT Neighborhood Preparedness Groups
- Developed a comprehensive first aid supplies and equipment list for use with future grant applications
- Changed meeting day to 3rd Thursday of the month, same time and place, to accommodate team members who would also like to be involved with the prospective County/AFD DART (Disaster Animal Response Team)
- Joined with other Humboldt CERT teams in staging "Fifteen Years of Humboldt CERT" display at the Clarke Museum

ADVANCED AND SPECIALIZED TRAINING

- *Four Arcata team members have become certified CERT Instructors after a three-day intensive training course (Chris Murphy, Lynn Sturgis, David Boyd, and Dawn Albrecht)*
- Asst. lead Lynn Sturgis attended the three-day May 2019 California for All CERT and LISTOS Preparedness Conference in San Diego, sponsored by CaliforniaVolunteers (Office of the Governor).
- FEMA (Earthquake) tabletop exercise: ICS /team organization, medical treatment set-up, size-up
- Six members attended 2-day Public-Private Partnerships workshop (RTIC)
- Various RTIC training courses, including a 2-day Search & Rescue class and the 2-day Volunteers and Donations Management classes
- PG&E Gas and Electricity Safety class
- Ham radio classes (currently 5 licensed ham radio operators on team)
- Active Shooter / Stop the Bleed training
- Emergency Communications for CERT (HBF CERT)

TEAM TRAINING and SKILLS REVIEW AT MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETINGS

- Pressure points
- RPM (respiration, perfusion, mental status)
- Red Cross Safe and Well
- Triage presentation; triage follow-up tabletop exercise
- Working with unaffiliated volunteers in disasters
- Using the Volunteer Intake Form
- Stopping bleeding
- Head-to-toe assessment
- CERT backpack and neighborhood command post kit check and update
- Using the Arcata CERT Website: two training sessions for team members, APD personnel
- Adapted FEMA materials into 20-minute Team Skills activities for monthly meetings; shared with all Humboldt CERT teams
 - Four triage exercises
 - One ICS exercise

MEETINGS AND PRESENTATIONS MEMBERS HAVE ATTENDED

- Disaster Service Workers CalOES webinar
- Humboldt CERT Coalition meetings
- Humboldt VOAD/COAD
- Redwood Coast Tsunami Work Group
- McKinleyville Chamber of Commerce's Business Continuity presentation

EVENTS AT WHICH MEMBERS HAVE PARTICIPATED AS VOLUNTEERS

- Fields Landing 2019 tsunami drill
- Truckers Parade 2019
- Mad River Community Hospital nighttime drill: active shooter scenario

- Tabling: McKinleyville Pony Express Days, Arcata Fire open houses, Arcata Police Department open house
- August CERT Academy
- Arcata CERT team-building potluck get-together
- TV interview with Dave Silverbrand for Community Voices
- Public Safety Sunday
- Winship Middle School's active shooter drill
- Other outreach opportunities (preparedness speaker, etc.)

BUILDING BRIDGES WITH OTHER TEAMS

- FEMA (Earthquake) tabletop exercise for four local teams and other local CERT grads: Arcata, Blue Lake, HBF, and McKinleyville: ICS /team organization, medical treatment set-up, size-up)
- Co-hosted with Humboldt Bay Fire CERT: PG&E Gas and Electricity Safety Workshop, March 9 (for all Humboldt CERT teams + SCOP)
- Proposed and offered to coordinate a speakers bureau of certified CERT instructors and other local training resources that various CERT team leaders could call upon for review and/or advanced training at meetings
- Proposed a collaborative, multi-team project to collect, verify, rate, rank, and publish an up-to-date compendium of local emergency information sources (print, radio, TV, apps, websites, etc.)
- Eleven team members are signed up for the May 29 Active Shooter / Stop the Bleed class

IN PROGRESS

- ID cards for CERT members (in progress)
- Request for City sponsorship of two 23-hour Basic CERT Courses for Arcata residents and City employees

MISCELLANEOUS

- Prepared and sent yearly state-of-the-team packets to Chief of Police Brian Ahearn and City Manager Karen Diemer
- Met yearly with APD liaison, Sgt. Keith Altizer, to evaluate previous year's activities and progress and to coordinate on goals and activities for the upcoming year.

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Arcata CERT Team Accomplishments, May 2017-May 2018

(supporting Arcata City Council's 2017-2018 Priority Projects #24, #2 and #4)

- Significantly increased CERT team size, with a great variety of relevant expertise being brought to the table (a few more new members are expected after the upcoming August CERT Academy)
- Began redefining our team goals and team organization
- Adopted general guidelines for using guided neighborhood emergency preparedness as a vehicle for building bridges among diverse community members (see proposal)
- Began serving as an incubator and springboard for future County teams; many of our projects and organizational choices are being observed as innovations that could be adopted by other teams.
- Launched several neighborhood preparedness projects:
 - Lazy J Mobile Home Park
 - Sunny Brae
 - Woodland Heights
 - Fickle Hill (city/county; still under consideration)
- Began supporting projects:
 - Critical Businesses and Services (local post-disaster resources)
 - Emergency information resources list (alerts, print, radio, TV, internet (sites, apps), etc.)
 - Dedicated website for team collaboration between meetings
 - Assembly of “go kits” for use as neighborhood-level command posts in case of major event
 - Exploration of potential funding sources
 - Established a reference library for emergency management planning
- Represented the team at the following meetings:
 - Monthly Humboldt CERT Coalition meetings
 - Redwood Coast Tsunami Work Group
 - VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster)
- Did outreach tabling for CERT at the following events:
 - Mad River Community Hospital Disaster Fair
 - Sustainable Living & Preparedness Expo
 - Pony Express Days
- Team members have also
 - Attended the Arcata tabletop disaster exercise (Matthews Dam failure scenario)
 - Participated in the annual HSU disaster drill
 - Assisted as volunteers at the February CERT Academy
 - Participated in several MRCH disaster drills
 - Earned a ham radio license
 - Volunteered to speak on preparedness at an AAUW event next November.
 - Presented skills reviews and information updates at team meetings
 - Indicated an interest in becoming trained as CERT trainers