Community Emergency Response Team

LAMORINDA COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Introduction

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Welcome

Welcome to Lamorinda CERT basic training

We are not here to teach about disasters but about how to be ***ready for*** disasters and how to ***respond*** following one



- *Get involved during class and hands-on drills*
- There are no tests
- Do not do anything you are not comfortable doing
- Share what you have learned with family, friends and neighbors
- You must attend all classes to graduate

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Etiquette

- Please arrive 15 minutes early to sign in
- Class starts promptly at 1830 (6:30 p.m.)
- The Final Exercise will start at 1800 (6:00 p.m.)
- Sign class roster each session
- Pick up handouts at the registration desk
- Please do not wear strong fragrances to class
- Questions will be answered or put into a 'parking lot' for later discussion

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Introductions

- Who are you?
  - Please tell us a little about yourself:
    - Name, including what you like to be called
    - Where you live - city and neighborhood
    - What you do – occupation
    - What you bring to a preparedness team

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Community Emergency Response Team

- Personal safety is ALWAYS the number one priority
- Show up prepared
  - Wear appropriate clothing and footwear, have WATER
  - Wear PPE – your personal protective equipment …gloves, helmet, goggles, mask, boots, etc.
  - Have at least one communications device: cell, radio, etc.
- Work as a team
- Size-up - maintain situational awareness
- The CERT goal is to do the **Greatest Good for the Greatest Number**
- *Hope for the best but plan for the worst!*

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Lamorinda CERT & You

- Lamorinda CERT is sponsored by the Moraga-Orinda Fire District
- Lamorinda CERT is guided by a Steering Committee made up of residents from each city and officials from our local fire and police departments
- The majority of our instructors are volunteers supplemented by subject matter experts from our Police Departments and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District. All of our instructors have gone through a FEMA-based train-the-trainer class
- All CERT-trained residents *operate as individuals* until they are called upon by the city during a disaster and are sworn in as a "Volunteer Disaster Service Worker"

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Basic CERT Course Overview

The Lamorinda CERT Basic class series presents 10 units, 8 of which are localized versions of FEMA modules. Communications and Pets are locally produced modules.

- Introduction
- Preparedness
- CERT Organization
- Radio Communications
- Utilities, Hazardous Materials & Fire Safety
- Disaster Medical Operations Part I, Triage
- Disaster Medical Operations Part II, Treatment
- Light Search and Rescue
- Disaster Psychology
- Terrorism
- Pet Preparedness
- Final Exercise



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Classroom Materials

- Handouts will be provided in many classes
- FEMA CERT Participant's Manual and additional materials are available under the Resources tab at: https://lamorindacert.org
- Any vendors, products, or websites referred to in this presentation series or by any instructors are for informational purposes only
- Lamorinda CERT does not endorse any specific brands or commercial organizations

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Lamorinda CERT Foundation

- Lamorinda CERT does not receive any funds from the State or Federal governments
- Our sponsor, Moraga-Orinda Fire District has a very limited budget for CERT
- Lamorinda CERT Foundation, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation sells items and receives donations to fund the operations of Lamorinda CERT
- Go to http://lamorindacert.org/events/ to sign up to help

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CERT History

- Idea for CERT came from Mexico City earthquake of 1985
  - Volunteers are credited with more than 800 successful rescues. Unfortunately, more than 100 untrained volunteers died during the 15-day rescue operation
- CERT was created by LAFD in 1986
- FEMA adopted and expanded this program into a national program
- All 50 states, 3 territories and many foreign countries have adopted CERT as their training standard

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Setting the Stage

- CERTs are able to:
  - Assist emergency services personnel when requested in accordance with standard operating procedures (SOPs) developed by the sponsoring agency and by area of training
  - Assume some of the same functions as emergency services personnel following a disaster
  - Prepare families and communities prior to emergencies and assist neighbors during an emergency when first responders are not immediately available

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CERT in the Community

- **CERT** members provide services to the community throughout the year
- Each fall we provide traffic control and parking direction for the Lafayette Art & Wine Festival
- In October we provide traffic control and communications for the Lafayette Reservoir Run
- Several times throughout the year we staff informational tables at community events

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Perishability of Abilities

- *Several of the skills that will be presented have details that are easily forgotten.* This perishability of abilities means that when a disaster occurs, if you have not practiced these skills, you may not remember the life saving details
- How to maintain your skills
  - Attend Monthly Meetings
  - Attend exercises regularly
  - Take additional training
  - Audit basic classes. You are always welcome to come back and sit in on these basic CERT classes

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Community Preparedness

- Community Preparedness is:
  - A key priority in lessening the impact of disasters
  - Effective when it addresses unique attributes of the community and engages the **whole community** which includes the private and nonprofit sectors, businesses, faith-based and disability organizations, and the general public, in conjunction with the participation of local, tribal, state, and Federal governmental partners
- Relationships and social connections are the foundation for a more resilient community that can bounce back after a disaster
- It is critical that all community members take steps to prepare

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Government

- Government has the responsibility to:
  - Develop, test, and refine emergency plans, the EOP, Hazard Plan, Evacuation Plan, and many more
  - Define and test the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) which is the jurisdiction's hub in times of disaster. All status reports go to the EOC and policy and response direction come from the EOC
  - The EOC will have an active radio communications section to communicate with all responders, including CERT members
  - Ensure emergency responders have adequate skills and resources
  - Provide services to protect and assist citizens

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Community Leaders

- Have a responsibility to participate in community preparedness:
  - Participate on local collaborative planning council
  - Identify and integrate appropriate resources into government plans
  - Ensure facilities, staff, and customers served are prepared

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The Public

- Has a responsibility to participate in community preparedness:
  - Learn about community alerts, warnings, and evacuation routes
  - Take training
  - Practice skills and personal plans
  - Network and help others
  - Provide feedback to community
  - Report suspicious activity
  - Volunteer

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Liability



Cover your Equus africanus asinus

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Liability

Act within the scope of your training in a prudent and reasonable manner.

"Good Samaritan Law"

Federal Volunteer Protection Act of 1997



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Liability

California AB83 of 2010 - Torts: personal liability immunity
HSC 1799.102 (b)(2)

"This bill provides that no person who in good faith, and not for compensation, renders emergency medical or nonmedical care or assistance at the scene of an emergency shall be liable for civil damages resulting from any act or omission other than an act or omission constituting gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct."

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Questions ?



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Takeaways

Volunteers don't get paid,
not because they're
worthless,
but because they're
priceless.

Sherry Anderson

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