

In This Issue

Even the Most Trained.....	1
Note from CERT Manager.....	3
CERT 151 Final Exercise.....	4
Adopt-A-Hydrant.....	5
If You Sign Up - Show Up!.....	5
American Red Cross.....	6
Fire Station Open House.....	9
Emergency Contact Info.....	9
CERT Marketing.....	10
Winter Cancellation Policy.....	10
CERTCON 2019 (DC).....	11
WMATA Safety Training.....	11
Neighbors Helping Neighbors.....	13
Outreach and Recognition.....	14
Fairfax CERT Association.....	15
National CERT Association.....	17
Know Your CERT Acronyms.....	18
Calendar.....	19
Leadership Contact Info.....	21

Even the Most Trained have Lessons to Learn

The Importance of Individual Preparedness

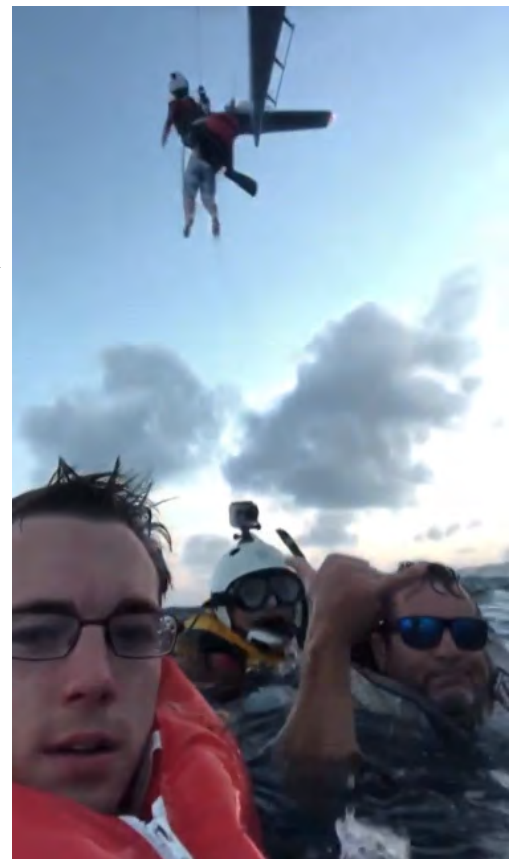
Rachael N.



Rachael N., a recent CERT 149 graduate, experienced first-hand the importance of individual preparedness. Traveling with her boyfriend and friends, Rachael was enjoying a boat excursion off the island of Okinawa, Japan. At the end of a long day swimming and snorkeling, the group prepared to head back to the main island when suddenly the weather changed for the worst. The boat was quickly overcome by high-seas and all eight passengers were forced to abandon ship. As she jumped ship Rachael grabbed two things: her life vest and her "go bag" – a small duffel bag with her cell phone and other light weight items, including cash and life safety equipment. As the sun was setting over the Pacific

horizon, Rachael and her friends found themselves helplessly floating, miles away from civilization, with their fate in someone else's hands.

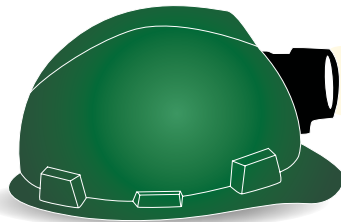
As Rachael and her friends watch their boat sink to the bottom of the ocean, she tried to gather herself and the others to develop a plan. She went to zip her life vest, but the zipper was broken making the vest fit incorrectly. Surveying the group, at least she had a life vest, as some of her friends were not as lucky. After the initial shock, Rachael remembered the water proof cellphones in her go-bag. She tried calling the emergency number from her boyfriend's cell phone, but it was water-logged. Luckily, her phone was water-proof and the group was able to send a message for help. As a best practice, Rachael and her boyfriend always look up emergency service numbers before they travel and store them in their phones. In doing so, she was able to contact the Japanese emergency maritime call center and despite the language barrier, gave the group's coordinates to the responders. After floating for many hours, all passengers were rescued. Rachael and her boyfriend were airlifted out by helicopter to safety.



Sponsored by Fairfax
County Fire & Rescue



This remarkable story was recently shared by Rachael at the October Fairfax County CERT meeting. At the meeting, Rachael emphasized the importance of knowing the international emergency service number(s) when traveling outside the domestic United States. Many times, those number(s) are different than our own 911. Had she not known the emergency



number to call, the outcome of this story could have been very different. Additionally, knowing your cell-phone's capabilities is equally important. Signing up for alert and warning notifications is an easy way to keep yourself informed when you're visiting new places. Also, how to operate and call emergency services with no cell service is a phone capability that is often overlooked.

Rachael is a graduate of University of Maryland, College Park and is currently a Program Analyst with FEMA. In her role with FEMA she has both a day-to-day job implementing Agency-wide policy; and disaster role, managing a staff of 40+ people in developing and maintaining disaster situational awareness to inform leadership decision making. Both on and off duty, she is a firm believer in the importance of individual preparedness and training to enhance personal safety and self-sustainment.

So, What is a "Go-Bag"?

A go-bag is a very simple backpack or duffel bag that you assemble for a particular occasion or purpose. For Rachael, she customizes a go-bag for each of her trips and configures them to suit that particular adventure. Having a go-bag for your car or at your house are also good ideas. For recommendations on what to pack in your go-bag, you can visit [Ready.gov/kit](https://www.ready.gov/kit).

But Rachael says the best thing you can do to help enhance your level of preparedness is by simply starting the conversation. Talking to your friends and family about your emergency plan – whether that's running a family fire drill, identifying a family communication and reunification plan, or practicing how to use a fire extinguisher – simply talking about it is a good start.

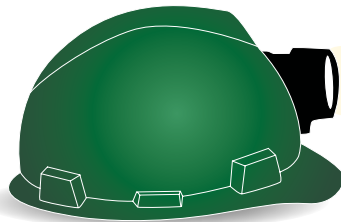
For a great tool to help start those conversations, visit [FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov) for the "12 Ways to Prepare" postcard.



When traveling outside the US, visit the state department site for a listing of safe travel areas, needed documents, and other useful information well as letting your local embassy know you are traveling and the time you will be there. www.state.gov/travelers/



To view the rescue of the boating incident, visit the [Today Show's website](https://www.today.com).



Note from the Fairfax County CERT Manager

Opportunities for the New Year

Jeffrey K.



While 60% of Americans say preparation for natural or man-made disasters is very important to them, only a staggering 17 percent of Americans claim to be very prepared for an emergency situation. If you have taken the CERT class, you are now better prepared in case of an incident or disaster, both large and small. It's just not about the training, but about the mindset of being prepared. If you encounter something you have trained for, you are ready, but based on the mindset, if you encounter something different, you should be able to calmly work through it.

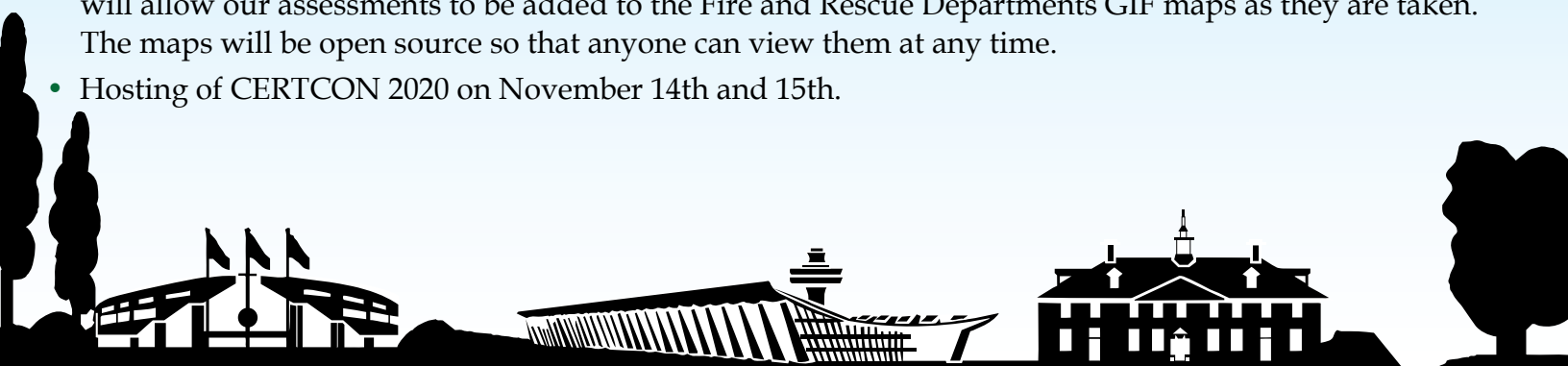
For all 5,000 who have taken the Fairfax County CERT training, we thank you. In the event of an incident, it has been proven that you will be at a lower risk of becoming a victim, and requiring the assistance of the first responders. If you are content with the basic CERT training and do not want to do more, that is perfectly fine. Thank you for participating in the program.

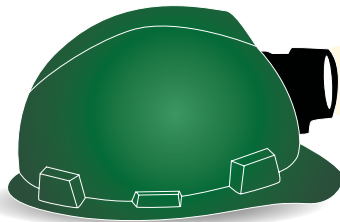
If you are interested in doing more, to be better prepared, to give back to your community, to be more of an integral part of the first responder community, then read on.

At several of the monthly CERT program meetings, I have stated that the program has grown, and that it is time to take it to the next level. Last week, I met with Fire and Rescue Chief, John S. Butler, for a year-end review, and he was very pleased with the accomplishments of the program in 2019. We discussed many of my ideas for the future, and he is 100% on board with the growing role of the program and had several suggestions for future roles and responsibilities.

Here are Some of the Projects Already in the Works:

- We are modifying the structure and workflow of the CERT program to allow for the increased responsibilities and roles of the program, and to assist with continuity, as opposed to relying on just one individual for a task. We will actively be seeking "deputies" to help the leads on the many branches and, to train them for future lead positions.
- We will continue to foster relationships between the teams and the local fire stations.
- We are modifying the Community Assessment Program (CAP) to include a new mapping program that will allow our assessments to be added to the Fire and Rescue Departments GIF maps as they are taken. The maps will be open source so that anyone can view them at any time.
- Hosting of CERTCON 2020 on November 14th and 15th.





Here are Some of the New Initiatives that We will Work on in 2020.

- Community Outreach through the smoke alarm distribution and installation program in conjunction with the local stations.
- Increased specialized classes like: Lifting and Cribbing, Pet preparedness, Knots and Ropes, Children During a Disaster, Sign Language Classes, Wilderness Survival, Teen CERT classes and more.

If you want to participate at more than the CERT Trained level, and take advantage of the new initiatives, you must have a Fairfax CERT background check.

And finally, if there are additional roles for CERT that you think would be appropriate, or if there are additional classes that you would like to see, please send me an email.

CERT 151 Final Exercise

As Viewed by an 8-Year-Old

Gale B.



CERT class 151 had their final exercise at Fort Belvoir on October 24th in a movie theatre, which was a different type of location for us. Gale B. (CERT 139) helped with moulage and volunteered to be an actor. She was given the identity of an eight-year-old for the exercise and played her part well. Here are her observations.

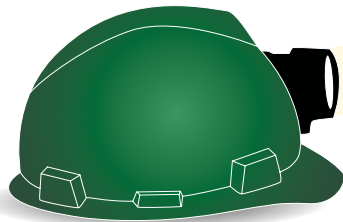
CERT class 151 had their hands full with eight-year-old Meg. She was hiding in the middle of the movie theater seat row, waiting for her best friend and the friend's dad, Mr. Gary, to show up.

From the pitch dark, faint moans were the only thing she could discern from the few conscious folks nearby. Then a bright light blinded her, and hands started reaching out to touch her. She backed up into another team of CERTs quietly approaching from the opposite side, also reaching out. It sent Meg into a panic, not having a clear sense of who was trying to grab her.

She already knew that her mom would be mad that she was separated from her friend and Mr. Gary, and now kidnappers were trying to steal her. It took a few minutes for her to realize the CERT team was there to help. Meg wouldn't allow anyone to touch her in the theater, but agreed to walk to the entrance to wait for her party. No one took her vitals, and finally she had to ask for the "silver stickers" everyone else got.

After a while, she decided to go looking for her party since all the adults were busy talking to themselves. The building was a wreck, she walked by several bodies as she walked to find Mr. Gary's car, making sure he hadn't left without her.

Upon her return, a CERT always kept an eye on Meg, even laughing at a joke about the acorns falling from the tree overhead. As the tarps became populated with other rescued people, Meg transitioned from red to yellow to green, eventually bonding with a grandpa and his infant granddaughter, waiting for help to come. She showed everyone pictures of her friend and Mr. Gary that were on her phone, so everyone would keep looking for them, too. Thank you for letting me play today. It was an interesting perspective from which to study the CERT process. I'm glad CERT 150 has the tools to help the Megs of the world when disaster strikes.



Adopt-A-Hydrant

Pledge to Keep it Clear for Firefighters

Jeffrey K.

Here is something that you can do whether you are CERT trained or not, because the firefighters need your help to potentially save lives.

The "Adopt-A-Hydrant" program helps combat obstacles created by snow, ice and winter weather, or weeds, leaves, and shrubs in warmer weather. It's simple: If you're a resident and business owner, then consider adopting a fire hydrant close to your home or business and pledge to keep it clear for firefighters to access in case of. Immediate access to a water supply helps to swiftly extinguish the fire and prevent loss of life and property. In the event of winter weather, you are asked to clear a three-foot area around the hydrant and ensure there is a path to the roadway so the hydrant is visible and easily accessible.



How to Adopt a Hydrant

To participate in the Adopt-A-Hydrant program, simply fill out and submit an online application at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire-ems/adoptahydrant.

After registering, a crew from the participant's closest fire station will deliver an "adoption certificate" identifying their hydrant. Important note: Fire hydrants are the property of the Fairfax Water Authority — so do not paint, personalize or change the appearance of the fire hydrant.

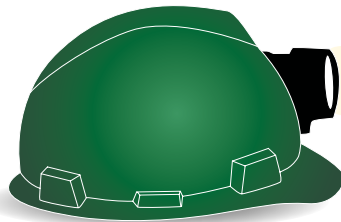
You are encouraged to take pictures with "your" hydrant and share them to Facebook or Twitter using the hashtag #FCFRDHydrant. You can also tag the Fire and Rescue Department at @ffxfirerescue on Twitter and @fairfaxcountyfirerescue on Facebook.

Additionally, You can help your community, after it snows , by clearing away snow from bus stops and handicap ramps!

If You Sign Up - Show Up!

An issue has come up with the CCE classes. There are a large number of no-shows for some of the classes. The Wide Area Search class recently held and there were approximately 25% no-shows. The no-shows not only hurt the overall numbers, but CERT may lose out on training offered by outside sources.





Partnership with the American Red Cross

A 2019 Retrospective / 2020 Perspective

Steve E.

The Fairfax County CERT program has gained local, nationwide and international recognition as a leader in community health and safety preparedness. When I first became a CERT in March 2011, I was trained at the Fire and Rescue Academy. Offsite CERT training at churches, HOAs, community centers and secondary schools/colleges was virtually non-existent. The training provided up until the last few years was primarily "train and release". CERT training today and likely in the future is becoming "train and participate". That's fantastic for Fairfax County and the DC/Maryland/Virginia area.



**American
Red Cross**

This new way of operating was never more apparent than what has happened since July 2019. For the first time in Fairfax County CERT history, we were invited by the American Red Cross-National Capital Region (ARC-NCR) to partner and support them in providing community preparedness and response as Go Teams

during the July 4th celebration on the National Mall in Washington DC.

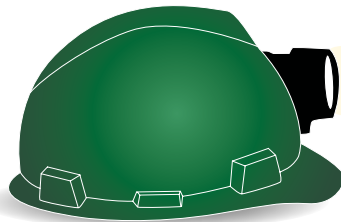
The CERT/ARC joint support event was repeated on October 27th with the 45th annual Marine Corps Marathon in Rosslyn. The ARC-NCR also accepted and implemented CERT recommendations during the MCM. Although the joint support mission also involved Go Team participation, we had different issues to address, which will be covered in more detail below.

What is a Go Team?

The Go Team is a unique phenomenon to the ARC-NCR. It was planned and designed by Red Cross volunteers Dave K. and Lee F., a CERT 141 graduate, but who focuses primarily on ARC operations. No other Red Cross organization in the US has implemented the Go Team concept at this time. During the July 4th celebration and the MCM, CERT members were teamed with Red Cross volunteers to form 2-person teams. Each team was assigned a mobile patrol area and was equipped with a Red Cross backpack carrying a radio and minor medical supplies to use during triage and to treat minor injuries among event visitors and participants. If an injury or a medical emergency could not be effectively treated by the team, they radioed a request for medical or 911 response to or through the ARC-NCR command post, also known as "Red Wolf", who in turn would request or monitor the higher level of the medical response.

Each CERT and Red Cross volunteer wore an ARC vest. However, CERTs also wore their green shirts under the vest and a CERT baseball cap. Other Go Team duties included serving as the eyes and ears for reporting law enforcement and emergency medical situations (See Something, Say Something), assisting with lost child/lost parent situations and providing information and directions as good will ambassadors and the public face of the Red Cross. We conducted these additional duties during both events.

Our partnership allowed volunteers from both of our organizations to leverage our training strengths into a cohesive system to support the public. Red Cross volunteers are trained to provide end-loaded services in family reunification, infrastructure and restoration of services. Most Red Cross volunteers will admit that they most likely have not received the level of training that CERTs have. We are trained to front-load our skills and expertise during an emergency. Every basic graduate can assist in emergency first aid, search and



rescue, situational awareness and fire prevention/suppression. With advanced training in CPR/AED, Stop the Bleed, and traffic management. CERTs bring other skills into a major event. During both events CERTs were called upon to provide STaRT (Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment) to anyone who appeared to need medical assistance. If the team requested medical or 911 response, they remained with the victim ("Client" in Red Cross parlance) to support them until first responders arrived at the scene. The Go Team remained until they were released by the responders.

July 4, 2019 Celebration of the National Mall



During the 4th of July celebration, CERTs were quickly able to assess medical conditions and treat victims. If the Go Team noticed a serious medical condition, they were instructed to request a 911 response via their radio to Red Wolf. Due to the heat and humidity on this Independence Day, many spectators and the high school band members participating in the 4th of July parade suffered from the three heat injuries of cramps, exhaustion and potential heat strokes. Although the parade route extended from the Capital to Lincoln Memorial, about 3 miles, the Go Teams were responsible for the last one-half mile between Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. Not too surprisingly, this was the most crowded area and the area with the most heat injuries. A major contributing factor among the bands was the heavy uniforms and instruments that they carried. At the end of the parade route, Go Teams were inundated by those needing to be rehydrated. Several hundred bottles of water were handed out to spectators and band members. In many situations during the parade, spectators and band members were collapsing before they reached the end of the parade.

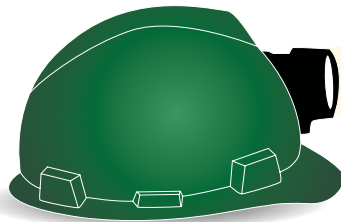
There were 411 basic first aid responses by the Go Teams, 37 medical referrals involving requests for medical and 911 responses, 1500 bottles of water distributed, 219 instances of providing information and directions to visitors, 16 Law Enforcement Official referrals, and 4 family reunifications.

Fifteen CERTs provided Go Team support. They included: Frank P. (CERT 137), Ross B. (CERT 101), Martin D. (136), Paul A. (87), Don M. (145), Man N. (122), Wayne M. (146), Kathleen C. (130), Kevin K. (129), Katherine M. (120), Phong N. (88), Jeff S. (132), JJ C. (146), Enna L. (128), and Steve E. (55).

Marine Corps Marathon

Based on the support issues found during the July 4th event, we had hoped that more CERTs would sign up allowing for 3-person teams and reserves. Unfortunately, there were not enough CERT volunteers to make the larger teams and reserves. Volunteers worked throughout a major rainstorm in the morning and a clear, sunny afternoon. Teams were assigned a patrol area concentrated around the USMC Iwo Jima Memorial. Some may wonder why Fairfax County CERT was supporting the Red Cross within the Arlington County CERT area. Arlington CERT did not conduct background checks on its CERTs. That was a requirement for volunteers supporting Red Cross operations. The CERT/Red Cross partnership functioned in the same type of Go Team effort, however they needed to assess runners suffering





from physical exhaustion rather than heat injuries. For this event the teams helped spectators to locate family members and children. First aid administered during this event involved treatment of foot injuries such as blisters and bloody skin chafing resulting from runners having to complete the race with wet socks and running shoes. Several had to be transported to aid stations operated by the Marines. From the command and control perspective, the ARC-NCR accepted a CERT recommendation to assign a CERT member as the Go Team Operational Accountability Lead, a "first" in the Red Cross command post staff positions. Denise D. volunteered to carry out this function and allowed the Red Cross incident commander, known as the Go Team Lead, to stay abreast of each team's status and location within their assigned zones. This allowed the Go Team Lead to quickly redeploy teams to support other teams who were being overwhelmed by crowds of runners and spectators. This was very important at the end of the race when runners were collapsing at the finish line and when families were looking for their runners. Another change in the CERT/Red Cross partnership during the MCM was the assignment of a CERT as a Deputy Go Team Lead who remained at the command post to assist in command and control functions. These positions are expected to be included in future joint support events between our organizations.

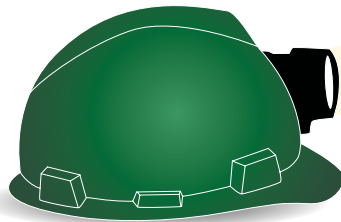
The CERTs who supported the MCM included: Enna L. (CERT 128), Julius C. (123), John D. (101), Denise D. (100), Andy D. (137), Faye H. (140), Justin K. (81), Kevin K. (129), Julia M. (149), Wayne M. (146), Phong N. (88), Jeff S. (132), Charles W. (146), and Steve E. (55).

Conclusion-The Way Forward

These two events demonstrated that Fairfax County CERT members are extremely qualified to successfully handle issues and problems that arise during any large public events. Although the basic CERT course provided the groundwork needed to support the CERT/Red Cross partnership, there are many other courses that can help build our effectiveness. These include CPR/AED certification, emergency first aid certification, Stop the Bleed training, and CERT traffic management. These are available to CERT graduates year-round. If you haven't completed any of these and haven't completed a CERT background check, which are prerequisites for joining our partnership with the Red Cross, sign up.

The CERT/Red Cross Go Team concept remains as a win-win partnership. Both organizations can exercise their basic Incident Command System training and lessons learned to improve coordination, command and control functions under mass casualty situations before more serious incidents occur in the DMV. CERTs can use their CERT training in real world support events involving STaRT, emergency first aid, and search and rescue.

The Independence Day and MCM Events are already scheduled for 2020. The 4th of July parade is on a Saturday and the Marine Corps Marathon launches October 20th. Please mark these on your calendars and register to join Fairfax County CERT and the Red Cross partnership when it is announced. Several CERTs who participated in the support expressed interest in participating in future joint events. However, CERT can use many other volunteers. The plan is to have enough CERT and Red Cross volunteers to develop three-person active patrolling teams and have reserve teams who can help to relieve active teams for rest and recuperation.



Fire Station Open House 2019

*"Not all Heroes Wear a Cape.
Plan and Practice Your Escape. Fire can Happen Anywhere."*

Kathy J.

CERTs spoke with visitors about having two ways out of every room and working smoke alarms and answered questions from the public.

CERTs covered 13 fire stations and gave close to 160 volunteer hours between the event and the conference call preparing for it. CERT volunteers interacted with 1,564 visitors and developed relationships with their local fire houses. The photos show some of the participation.



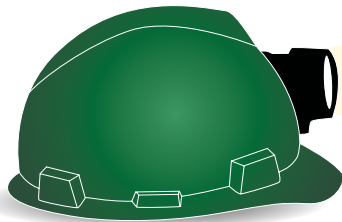
Emergency Contact Information (ICE)

Keeping Your File of Life Information on You at All Times

Kelly O.

We keep our file of life information duct taped inside of our CERT helmets. However we do not walk around with our helmets on everywhere we go. It is important that we have this information on us, at all times, in case we have a real world emergency. Here are some suggestions:

- Type up your emergency contacts, create in a size so that it fits in your wallet, print it out, use self adhesive laminating pouches (business card size) and keep in your wallet
- Use the American Red Cross [Emergency Contact Card](#)
- Add "ICE" before names in your contact list, in your cell phone, for emergency contacts. i.e "ICE - Kelly"
- Make a note if you have a pet at home that may need help if you are incapacitated
- Make sure anyone you are using as contacts knows your medical information
- Purchase wearable ICE tags (dog tags, key chains, bracelets, etc.) from sites such as:
www.crashtag.me or icoebracelets.com



Kelly O.

A New Marketing Committee is Being Formed and We Need You!

The Marketing Committee will work closely with and support the Outreach, Website, Newsletter, & Social Media Committees to:

- Promote awareness and excitement about CERT, as well as Fairfax CERT Association
- Update all of our branding materials so that we have a more professional look
- Maintain continuous, clear, cohesive, and engaging communications with the public and CERT members via social media, website, advertising, and outreach
- Create an elevator speech to easily educate about and bring interest to CERT
- Use visual story telling using photos, graphics, videos, and testimonials to educate the public on the importance of preparedness
- Establish a means for recruiting new CERTs and for encouraging established CERTs to be more engaged in CERT committees and administrative support needs
- And so much more!

Interested in joining?

Please Contact Kelly O. at: Marketing@FairfaxCountyCERT.org

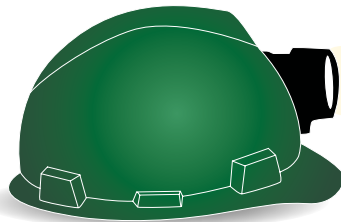
CERT Winter Cancellation Policy

Kelly O.



Fairfax County CERT follows the Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus' class cancellation decisions due to inclement weather.

This winter, if the weather looks suspicious, keep an eye on the community college's announcements. If they are closed, our CERT classes will be canceled without email notifications being sent out to you.



CERTCON 2019

The Bullhorn Passes to Fairfax County for CERTCON 2020

Ron P.



CERTCON 2019 was held on October 19, at the Ron Brown High School in the District. Hosted by DC CERT, CERTCON featured equipment/mobile command center displays by the DC Fire Department, the Metropolitan Police Department and FEMA as well as education sessions. CERTCON 2019 opened with a panel discussion on the Past, Present and Future of CERT and volunteer services, including the need to incorporate young persons (e.g., college/university students, Scouts, etc.) as well as those with access and functional needs into CERT and other public service programs.

Among the education sessions was one on incident meal preparation, complete with a competition for best "field" dish. Another well attended session covered Incident Communications given by a Metropolitan Police officer who leveraged his street experience to pass along important techniques useful in de-escalating situations in which CERTs may find themselves (e.g., traffic and crowd management and public outreach events). Among the important considerations taught were: the need to assess the situation, overcome personal biases in communicating, maintain personal and situational control and useful de-escalation techniques such as modeling the other person's stance/behavior or "para-language."

CERTCON 2019 also featured the opportunity to meet and have breakfast/lunch with CERTs from other jurisdictions as well as members of the Metropolitan Police Department. But for the Fairfax County delegation, the most important part of the program was the passing of the Bullhorn (and the responsibility for next year's CERTCON) to Fairfax County!

WMATA

Safety Training for CERT

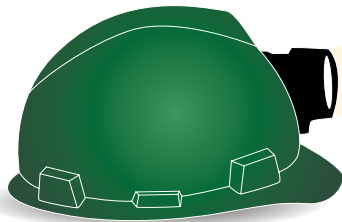
Ron P.

On Saturday, October 5 the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority (WMATA) hosted a training session for Fairfax County CERTs. The program featured an overview of WMATA's Metrobus and Metrorail transportation and safety systems including a tour of WMATA's training facility in Landover, MD, complete with a light stick lit walk-through of a "smoked filled Metro tunnel."



Among the Interesting Facts about WMATA's Bus and Metrorail System:

- As of today (not counting the Silver Line expansion), Metrorail has 118 miles of track (aerial, surface and subsurface), 6 lines, and 91 stations serving some 800,000 riders each weekday
- Metrobus operates 1500 buses 24/7
- The Forest Glen Metrorail station is about 20 stories below ground and the only exit is by elevator (too deep for an escalator and the station is closed if the elevator is not operational)
- WMATA's Operations Central Control Center tracks the location of every



bus and rail car in the system and generally oversees operations and safety; Metrorail train operators are in constant contact with Central Control

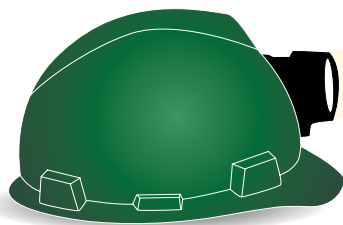
- Metrorail cars are about 75' long and 10' wide, run in pairs, and are heavy (39-42 tons each; the 7000 series cars are the heaviest); each car can hold up to 200 passengers; and trains are always either 6 or 8 cars long.

Important Safety Matters:

- The third rail carries 6000 amps of current at 750 volts but is shielded on top (with plastic, for weather); if required to evacuate, don't use the third rail as a step and ALWAYS ASSUME THE THIRD RAIL IS ENERGIZED
- Emergency call boxes (marked by blue lights) are located at the far end of station platforms and every 800 feet along the track; these boxes have a hotline into Central Control and a button to cut third rail power in extreme emergencies
- Metrorail stations each have an EMS cabinet (containing light sticks and medical supplies) as well as Emergency Tunnel Evacuation Carts (ETEC) that can be used by firefighters (e.g., to haul equipment victims into/out of tunnels)
- AEDs are located in Metrorail stations (not on Metrorail cars)
- Evacuation doors (which don't need power to operate) are located in the center of the car; there is a step for each as well as a step at the front/rear of each car (it's along way down to the track)
- Each car has a call box (push to talk but release to listen) but it's LOUD; text to Metro Transit Police at MyMTPD or 696873 to communicate sensitive information
- Safety walks are narrow (about 24" wide) and can be located on either side of the car
- Metro tunnels have emergency exit shafts and station platforms have refuge areas below (but you'll get plenty dirty from brake dust).

The tour/training ended outside of the WMATA facility where CERT participants had the opportunity to walk through a tilt-able Metrorail car to demonstrate how difficult it may be to evacuate. The trainers also advised that the best service CERTs can render in an emergency is to help keep passengers calm.





Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Team Reston Invites Neighbors – Holds Interactive Work shop!

Becky L.

The Reston Team's October meeting was open to neighbors. The team held a fun and information packed workshop educating neighbors on Family Emergency Preparedness!

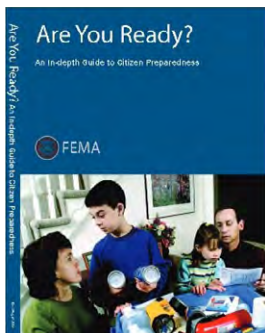
It was a total success with great feedback. Many thanks to Team Members: Charlie H., Susan S., Lani Y., Michael B., and Katie B. for helping to set up and Joe L., Steve M., and Corey S. for their participation. Special Thanks to the Herndon Team Members who joined in!



Are You Ready?

For Any Man-Made or Natural Disaster?

Educating and empowering neighbors and families to prepare for, respond to and mitigate emergencies, including natural and man-made disasters. This interactive workshop shared tips/strategies from the FEMA's: "Are You Ready?" Program.



Bug Out and Disaster Kits

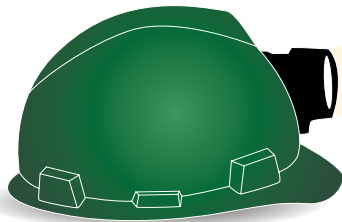
Among the many other topics such as Bug Out and Disaster kits, neighbors and team members were informed about:

- How to prepare for and be ready for the many natural or man-made disasters that effect your community
- Stay connected with separated love ones even when all phone lines are down or all circuits busy
- How Virginia ranks among the nation in number of disasters, and much more.

Slow Down

Marty D, a Fairfax county Cert member and team lead for the Reston, VA teams, went a step beyond his normal daily activities when he decided to help keep his neighborhood safe by placing "slow down" signs in his community. The activity caught the attention of a regional news team who aired the story





Outreach and Recognition

What You Provide to the Community Makes a Difference and it is Noticed

Kelly O.



Clifton Day



Fire Station Open House



Chestnut Grove Cemetery's Wreaths Across America



Out of the Darkness

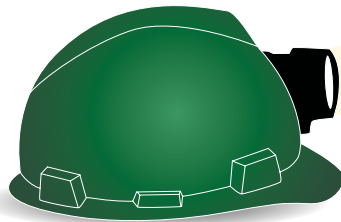


Recognition for National Preparedness



Moulage Team Received Recognition from the Region IV Director Expeditionary Medical Facility





Fairfax County CERT Association

How You Can Support

*Jeffrey K.
Kelly O.*



You shop. Amazon gives.

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support your charitable organizations by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com. You can search from over a million local and national charities, like animal shelters, school groups, and religious organizations.

For example, if you wanted to have your donations go to the Fairfax County CERT Volunteer Association, you could put in the search box, the following: **Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Team Volunteer Assoc.**

[Learn more about AmazonSmile here.](#)

Other Ways to Donate

Send a Check: We accept donations by check sent to Fairfax CERT Association
Attn: Jeffrey Katz, F&R Liaison, 12099 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035

On Website: fairfaxcertassociation.org Scroll down and click "Donate"

The Association Needs You!

Our Purpose: The mission of the Association is to support the Fairfax County CERT Program in leading our community toward preparedness and resiliency from threats of emergencies of all kinds by empowering every individual through education, training, response and volunteer service.

Our Members: Our members are leaders among the most dedicated volunteers found in Fairfax County. They willingly giving of their time to support our many communities in advancing the cause of preparedness, responsiveness and recovery from unexpected events through focused service.

Our Donors: Our generous donors are among the most focused corporations, foundations, families and individuals supporting charitable causes across the country. Donations large or small, we appreciate you and invite you to donate and help us support our award winning volunteers of the County's CERT program.

Learn more at fairfaxcertassociation.org

*Join on the website or fill out form on next page and
bring to the next Monthly Program Meeting*

Fairfax CERT Association

12099 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia 22035

Membership Application Form

I want to join the **Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Team Volunteer Association (Fairfax CERT Association)** and support leading our communities toward preparedness and resiliency from emergencies by empowering every individual through education, training, response and volunteer service.

☐ **New Member** ☐ **Renewal** *** Please Print ***

Name: _____
Last Name First Name M.I.

Mailing Address:

Street or Box Nr.

Street Line 2 as appropriate

City

State

Zip

Email

Phone (Best number to reach you)

If renewal:

☐ **No Change**

Eligibility: To join the association I must have completed the CERT Basic course.

- If Fairfax County trained, please note the class # and Year below. We can confirm your eligibility with the county records.
- If trained by another jurisdiction, please present proof of completion (Certificate/Card) to the Association representative taking applications or a copy may be mailed with the application to the address above.

☐ **Fairfax County CERT Basic Class Number:** _____ **Year** _____

☐ **CERT Basic completed in another jurisdiction.**

Applicant's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Dues are currently \$15 per calendar year. Yes, you may pay for more than one year. Yes, you may donate as well.

Dues \$ _____ + Donation \$ _____ + Other \$ _____ (Add note below) **Total Paid: \$** _____

How paid: Cash _____ Check _____ Credit/Debit _____

Fairfax CERT Association (EIN 84-2083323) is an IRS-501(C)3 charitable organization. While membership is not tax deductible, donations are. Please request a receipt for donations made.

Note: _____

For internal Fairfax CERT Association use only:

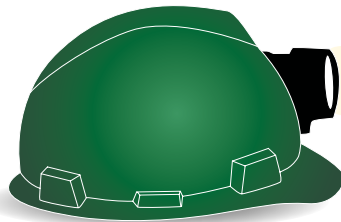
Application received: _____ Date: _____

Dues processed: _____ Date: _____

Qualifications verified: _____ Date: _____

Notified of Acceptance: _____ Date: _____

Membership Database: # _____ Date: _____



National CERT Association

National CERT

The National CERT Association (nationalcert.org) was recently formed to help support and promote CERT nationwide. One of the priorities of the NCA will be to collect and share information on CERT programs. Below are the current items of interest. If you have any questions regarding this request, please email us at info@nationalcert.org.

CERT Events: If your CERT program, region, or state is holding a special CERT event such as a training workshop, conference, preparedness event please share it with us (including a flyer if available).

CERT Deployments: Many CERT programs have deployed their CERT volunteers for local and statewide disasters. If you have deployed your CERT volunteers for an emergency or disaster response please send information on the deployment. Include information such as:

- Incident overview
- Number of volunteers deployed, deployment duration (from first volunteer deployed to last volunteer demobilized), total number of volunteer hours
- Tasks that the volunteers performed
- Any appreciation and/or acknowledgment of the deployment from local officials or community leaders

CERT Program Budgets: CERT programs that maintain a CERT volunteer cadre often utilize their volunteers to support their sponsoring organization as well as local community preparedness events. If your program has a report showing the cost of running the CERT program and the value returned (normally shown as volunteer hours given x local value of a volunteer hour), please send that report.

CERT in Emergency Plans: Many local jurisdictions have written CERT into their Emergency plan. This is a great validator of the value of CERT as a disaster response asset. If your CERT program is written into your Emergency Plan and you can share it please do so and include the page number where we can find your CERT program referenced.

Articles and Write-ups: Has your CERT program featured in any articles or videos? If so please send us the link.

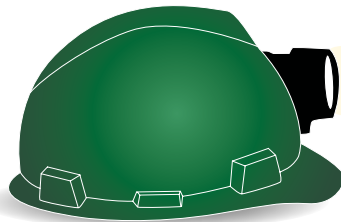
Anything Else?: If you can think of anything else worth sharing about your CERT program please send it.

Who Will get this Info and how will it be Shared?

Any information sent as a response to this request will be shared with:

- 1 - NCA members working on CERT program activities such as newsletters and the NCA website
- 2 - FEMA ICPD - The NCA will filter the information and forward the best items to share with FEMA for their awareness and possible use in their newsletter.

Please send all items to info@nationalcert.org and put "Newsletter" in the subject line along with your program name. Please be sure to include the contact information for the source of the material in case we need to follow up.



Know Your CERT Acronyms!

A Quick Refresher

Kelly O.

PETS

Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards

Require states seeking FEMA assistance to accommodate pets and service animals in their plans for evacuating residents facing disasters.

RAIN

Recognize Avoid Isolate Notify

Recognize the presence of a hazard, avoid dangerous areas or items, isolate hazards by securing the area, notify qualified personnel.

NGOs

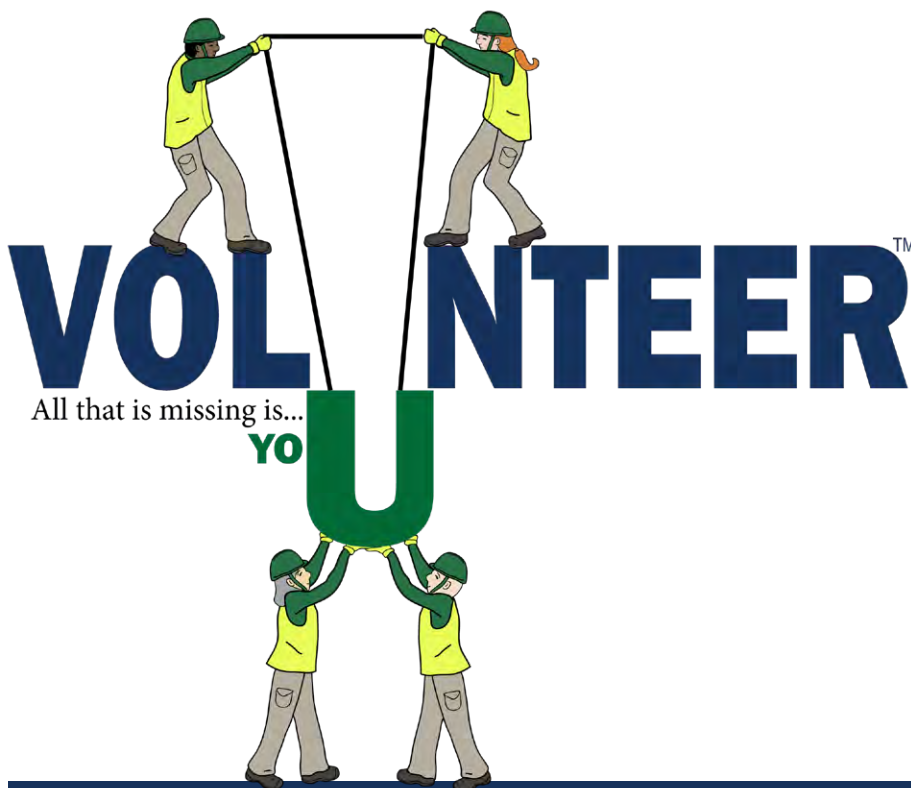
NonGovernmental Organizations

A wide range of organizations that engaged in supporting ongoing relief efforts.

NIMS

National Incident Management System

Guides government, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector to work together to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from incidents.



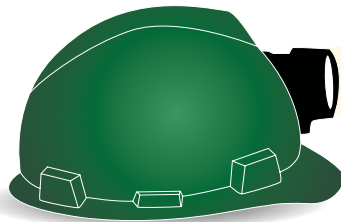
Do You Have Special Skills or Talents?

If you have vocational or recreational skills that might be useful

to CERT, contact

Jeff Katz at

Jeffrey.Katz@FairfaxCounty.gov



THE GREEN HELMET

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

January 2020

Fairfax County, VA

January 2020

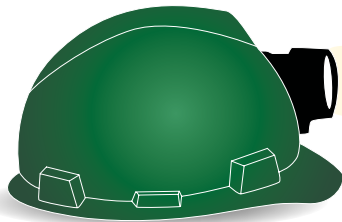
Save the Date

Classes Outreach Operations Meetings

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Outreach Team Meeting, 7PM Fairfax Wegmans	8 Stop the Bleed, FRA	9 CERT 154, McLean FS 40I	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 CERT 154, McLean FS 40I	17	18
19	20	21 New CERT Graduate Orientation, 6pm Monthly Program Meeting, 7pm	22	23 CERT 154, McLean FS 40I	24	25
26	27 Healthcare College & Career Fair, FCHS Tour of EOC	28	29	30 CERT 154, McLean FS 40I	31	

February 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
TBD: Mt. Vernon Town Meeting						1
2	3 CERT 160, MPSTOC	4 CERT 160, MPSTOC	5 CERT 160, MPSTOC	6 CERT 154, McLean FS 40I CERT 160, MPSTOC	7 Stop the Bleed, FEMA HQ	8
9	10 CERT 160, MPSTOC	11 CERT 160, MPSTOC	12	13 CERT 154, McLean FS 40I CERT 160, MPSTOC	14	15
16	17	18 CERT 160, MPSTOC New CERT Graduate Orientation, 6pm Monthly Program Meeting, 7pm	19	20 CERT 154, McLean FS 40I	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 CERT 154, McLean FS 40I	28	29 Stop the Bleed, Patrick Henry Library University of Scouting, Hayfield Secondary School



March 2020

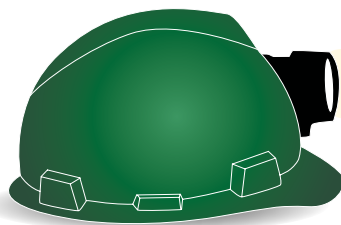
Save the Date

Classes Outreach Operations Meetings

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 New CERT Graduate Orientation, 6pm Monthly Program Meeting, 7pm	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				TBD: Maker Faire, George Mason University

April 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 New CERT Graduate Orientation, 6pm Monthly Program Meeting, 7pm	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		TBD: Maker Faire, George Mason University



FAIRFAX COUNTY CERT LEADERSHIP

NAME	CONTACT INFORMATION
Jeffrey Katz	Jeffrey.Katz@FairfaxCounty.gov
Dana Powers	Dana.Powers@FairfaxCounty.gov
Missy T.	Lead@FairfaxCountyCERT.org
Anita V.	DeputyLead@FairfaxCountyCERT.org
James S.	Training@FairfaxCountyCERT.org
Kathy J. and Ginny K.	Outreach@FairfaxCountyCERT.org
Ginny K.	Safety@FairfaxCountyCERT.org
Steve R.	Logistics@FairfaxCountyCERT.org
Joe L.	Blog@FairfaxCountyCERT.org
Roster Submissions	Rosters@FairfaxCountyCERT.org
Susy L.	Moulage@FairfaxCountyCERT.org
Jim M.	Teams@FairfaxCountyCERT.org
Nathan J.	Website@FairfaxCountyCERT.org
Kelly O.	Marketing@FairfaxCountyCERT.org
The Green Helmet	Newsletter@FairfaxCountyCERT.org

FROM THE NEWSLETTER TEAM

While we all wish we had journalism degrees to use in the production of this newsletter, we don't. We are volunteers just like you. We appreciate your feedback and input. Look for our upcoming newsletter in April!

Do you have any question you want answered? Have a story idea? Read a good CERT-related book you want to recommend? Want to contribute an item? Send them to us at Newsletter@FairfaxCountyCERT.org. Neighborhood teams - we'd love to hear what you are doing. Let us know!