

THE GREEN HELMET

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

April 2021

Fairfax County, VA

Green Shirt Social Activities Group

Enjoying the Outdoors with Your Fellow CERTs

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Don T.

Participation is Outside the CERT Program

In the interest of developing social and trusting relationships between Fairfax County CERTs, volunteers may, of their own volition, seek to initiate, or participate in social activities with other like-minded volunteers.

Please note: that such social activities fall outside the CERT program with regard to planning, oversight, and liability. All activities will follow current CDC COVID-19 recommended guidelines.

Monthly Local Activities

The Green Shirt Social Activities Group will strive to offer activities each month that will include hikes in the DC metropolitan area as well as other social activities initiated by individuals or sub groups. Any Fairfax CERT member and their guests may participate in the activities. The plan is to schedule activities on the weekend following the Fairfax CERT program monthly meeting. Activities will be advertised during the pre-program meeting slide show.



Recent Activities

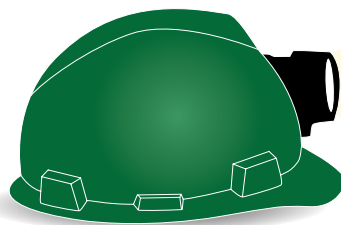
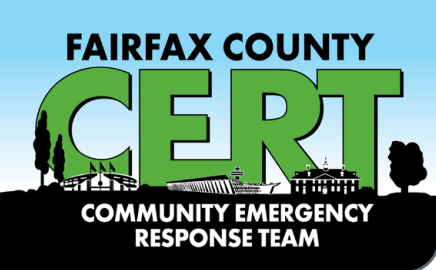
Our first activity was a hike around Burke Lake on January 23rd, which was attended by four CERTs and one spouse. The February hike on the Cross County Trail from Wakefield Park to Eakin Park was canceled due to subfreezing temperatures, and snow and ice on the trail. In March, a cherry blossom bike ride around East Potomac Park was planned.

Next Activity: April 24th - Hike at Manassas Battlefield!

To participate or get on the email list, RSVP to the event organizer at:
CERTSocialActivity@gmail.com

Sponsored by Fairfax
County Fire & Rescue





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Pulse Point Respond

Empowers Everyday Citizens to Provide Life-Saving Assistance



*FairfaxCounty.gov/fire-ems/
pulsepoint*

What is PulsePoint? PulsePoint is a 911-connected mobile phone application that allows users to view and receive alerts on calls being responded to by fire departments and emergency medical services. The app's main feature, and where its name comes from, is that it sends alerts to users while dispatchers are sending the call to emergency crews.

What is the goal of PulsePoint? PulsePoint is a 911-connected mobile phone application that allows users to view and receive alerts on calls being responded to by fire departments and emergency medical services. The app's main feature, and where its name comes from, is that it sends alerts to users while dispatchers are sending the call to emergency crews.

How does PulsePoint work? PulsePoint is integrated directly into the public safety communications center. When a call taker determines CPR may be needed, an alert is simultaneously sent to nearby app subscribers with the dispatch of emergency responders.

What is PulsePoint Respond? PulsePoint Respond informs the community of emergency activity in real-time. Alerting residents to traffic collisions, wildland fires, and other emergencies make PulsePoint a valued and trusted local resource. The routine use of the app helps build and sustain a reliable network of engaged citizens and CPR-trained individuals. PulsePoint Respond alerts community responders only if the cardiac emergency occurs in a public location.

Who can take part in PulsePoint? PulsePoint Respond empowers everyday citizens to provide life-saving assistance to victims of sudden cardiac arrest. App users who have indicated they are trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and willing to assist in case of an emergency can be notified if someone nearby is having a cardiac emergency and may require CPR.

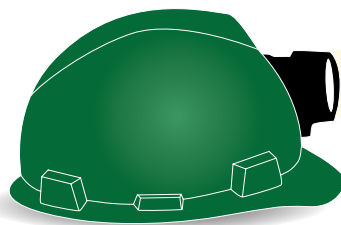
Why should I take part in PulsePoint? Sudden cardiac arrest can happen to anyone, at any time, but PulsePoint Respond empowers CPR-trained citizens to help improve patient outcomes and save lives by reducing collapse-to-CPR and collapse-to-defibrillation times. And when citizens are more aware of and engaged with the health of their community, they become better partners with your agency – and a stronger link in your response efforts.

How much is PulsePoint? There is never a charge to use any aspect of the PulsePoint registry. PulsePoint is a public, non-profit organization providing the app and hosted AED registry for free as part of its core mission to improve cardiac arrest survival. **Learn more at:** [PulsePoint.org](https://www.pulsepoint.org)

Video Links:

Respond Overview
[Vimeo.com/157539251](https://vimeo.com/157539251)

PSA Respond to Community Store Event
[Vimeo.com/110900496](https://vimeo.com/110900496)



Safety Corner

Safety Tips & Resources

Ginny K.

Are You or Someone You know Experiencing a Mental Health Crisis?

"A mental health crisis is a situation in which a person's thoughts, emotions, and behaviors can put them in jeopardy of harming themselves or others and/or put them at risk of being unable to care for themselves or access food, clothing, and shelter." - [psychiatrictimes.com](https://www.psychiatrictimes.com)

Help is Just a Phone Call Away, 24 Hours a Day

Resources:

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

800-273-8255 | [SuicidePreventionLifeline.org](https://www.SuicidePreventionLifeline.org)

Alcoholics Anonymous

800-839-1686 | [AA.org](https://www.AA.org)

Fairfax County Community Services Board (CSB)

703-573-5679 | [FairfaxCounty.gov/Community-Services-Board](https://www.FairfaxCounty.gov/Community-Services-Board)

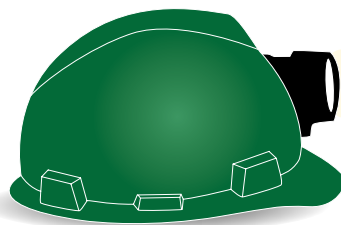
CrisisLink Hotline

703-527-4077 | Livein Chat: [SuicidePreventionLifeline.org/Chat](https://www.SuicidePreventionLifeline.org/Chat)

Text "CONNECT" to 85511 | If you use TTY, please dial 711

SAMHSA Disaster Distress Helpline

800-985-5990



The Green Machine

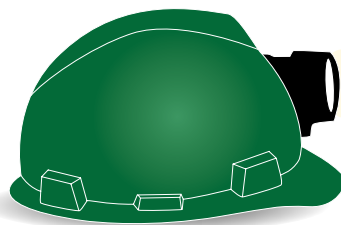
Former Centreville VFD, Station 417's Canteen

Julie T.

A New Life - A New Purpose

The CERT Green Machine is the former Centreville Canteen. We currently have the vehicle for a test year to see if it right for us and cost effective. Wayne V. and crew have been refitting it to our needs, including rewiring, adding a backup camera, and coming up with CERT appropriate missions. The missions include outreach, training, and operations support, as well as a canteen. Watch for the CGM at your next CERT event, or contact Wayne V. (vp@fairfaxcertassociation.org) to find out how you can become involved.





Kathy Jones & the Best Kept Secret In Fairfax – CERT

This Article is Part of the Golden Gazette Monthly Newsletter (March 2021)



*Tanya Erway,
Vol. Solutions Recruitment Coordinator,
Golden Gazette*



The icon of kindness, Fred Rogers, once said, "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" Helpers can be anyone – you, me, first responders, or volunteers like Fairfax County resident Kathy Jones.

As with "Mister Rogers," Kathy exudes kindness and warmth. Throughout her life, she has cared for others in many ways. To those who know her, it came as no surprise when she decided to learn life-saving techniques from the free Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program.

The program is operated by Fairfax County's Fire and Rescue Department using federal and local funds. According to Kathy, it should no longer be the best kept secret in Fairfax.

Kathy spent her first 24 years in Bronx, New York. She grew up with four siblings, her parents, and maternal grandparents. Her younger brother, Tom, is retired from the New York City Fire Department and one of the heroes of 9/11. His career, in part, inspired Kathy to join CERT.

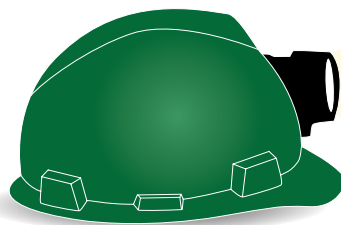
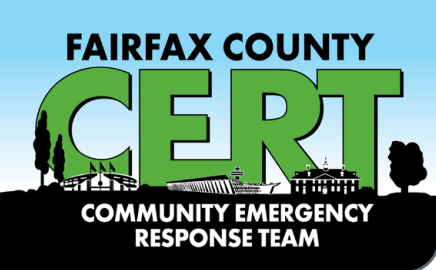
In 1971, Kathy's husband was drafted into the army, and they moved to Fauquier County, Virginia. She recalls comical interactions that occurred when she and the locals had trouble understanding each other due to her thick New York accent and their southern drawls. Later, they moved to Fairfax County and she's been here so long that her accent is hardly detectable.

Prior to retiring from Fairfax County in 2015 as a Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Kathy held other positions helping others – mostly related to housing. She was part of a unit which helped resettle 100 Hurricane Katrina victims. She is forever troubled when derechos and hurricanes affect older adults.

Kathy's work and life experiences led her to CERT in 2013. A few years later, she joined the board of Herndon Reston FISH, a community group that helps people in crisis. She also volunteers with Faith Communities in Action, which is part of the Community Resilience Group under Fairfax County's Office of Emergency Management.

CERT is a free program that prepares people to safely help themselves, their families, and their communities when first responders are delayed during major disasters. People of all





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ages can be trained on important topics, including: fire suppression, turning off the gas, applying first aid, assessing for medical shock and severity of injuries, light search and rescue, and disaster psychology for victims and rescuers.

Kathy has been a local CERT team lead for seven years. She also serves as the outreach lead for community fairs and festivals. During the pandemic, the shift has been to virtual presentations. In addition, she and other CERT volunteers have been working to collect and distribute food and masks. At times, they may be called on to help with traffic and crowd management. What a wonderful role model for her son, two daughters and three granddaughters and others who are fortunate to know her.

See Full Article here:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/older-adults/golden-gazette/2021-03-kathy-jones-and-the-best-kept-secret-in-fairfax-cert>

Panera Fundraiser

April 23rd - 24th, Fairfax CERT Association will get 20% of Sales

Julie T.



Eat at (or take out from) select Panera locations April 23rd and 24th and the Fairfax CERT Association will get 20% of sales. You need to have or show the flyer for your location (linked below) - Order online at PaneraBread.com and enter code PRFUND at checkout.

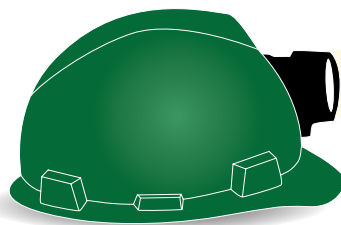
April 23rd 4-8PM

- ▶ 10702 Fairfax Blvd., Fairfax, VA 22030 | For Information: [Click Here](#)
- ▶ 460 Elden Street, Herndon, VA 20170 | For Information: [Click Here](#)
- ▶ 6230 W Rolling Road, West Springfield, VA 22152 | For Information: [Click Here](#)
- ▶ 5774 Union Mill Road, Clifton, VA 20124 | For Information: [Click Here](#)

April 24th 4-8PM

- ▶ 12120 Fairfax Towne Center, Fairfax, VA 22033 | For Information: [Click Here](#)
- ▶ 8191 Strawberry Lane, Merrifield, VA 22042 | For Information: [Click Here](#)
- ▶ 5926 Kingstowne Towne Center, Alexandria, VA 22315 | For Information: [Click Here](#)

These will also be posted to our Fairfax County CERT [Facebook Page](#)



Update Supplies

Spring Cleaning

Julie T.

Spring is Here. This is a good time to:

- ▶ Check out your packs
- ▶ Refresh your 72-hour kits
- ▶ Refresh emergency supplies
- ▶ Check expiration dates
- ▶ Charge batteries
- ▶ Make sure supplies for children are still age/size appropriate
- ▶ Make sure any documents are current
- ▶ Make sure you are signed up for [FairfaxCounty.gov/Alerts](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts)
- ▶ Update family emergency preparedness plans as necessary - Learn more at: [Ready.gov/plan](https://www.ready.gov/plan)



Fairfax County Covid-19 Vaccine Status

A Fairfax County Update

Julie T.

Fairfax County is Currently:

- ▶ Vaccinating stage 1C
- ▶ Registration for all adults (age 16 and older) will open April 18th
- ▶ As of April 1st more than 385,000 people in Fairfax County have received at least one vaccine dose

Visit these Resources for More Information:

- ▶ **Fairfax County.gov:** <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19/>
- ▶ **Fairfax County Department of health:** <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/novel-coronavirus>
- ▶ **Virginia Department of Health:** <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/>

Follow us on Social Media • Go to our Websites

Kelly O.

[FairfaxCountyCERT](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cert)

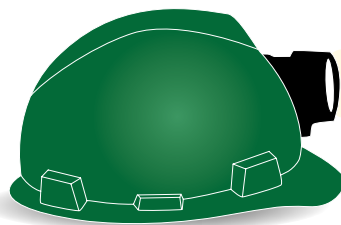
[FairfaxCountyCERT](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cert)

[@FairfaxCountyCERT](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cert)

[Fairfax County CERT](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cert)

Public Website
[FairfaxCountyCERT.org](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cert)

CERT Volunteer Website
[CERT.FairfaxCountyCERT.org](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cert)



UNDER THE GREEN HELMET

Julie T.

NEW Deputy Lead 2 Burke 22015 Team Lead Doug G. CERT #79



Green Helmet (GH): What do (did) you do outside of CERT (hobbies, job, etc.)?

Doug: I am employed full time with DOD, and enjoy family time at home and travel.

GH: Why did you join CERT?

Doug: Due to reorganized and new duties at work, I was no longer part of the safety team leaving a void. A co-worker told me about CERT to learn a different prospective and to learn new skills in emergency preparedness.

GH: Do you have any particular experience that has prepared you for CERT?

Doug: I worked for the Department of Army safety team at various levels

GH: What have you done in CERT?

Doug: Numerous of events, and roles: outreach events, lead for DOD outreach events, now Deputy Lead 2.

GH: What have you liked most?

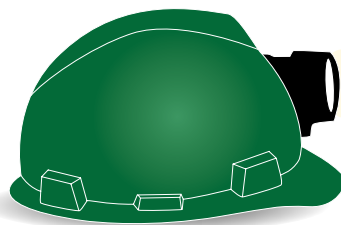
Doug: Outreach events -- talking to prospective new CERT members and working at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum.

GH: What would you like to do in CERT and/or where do you see CERT going?

Doug: I would like to continue to grow in my new duty and support the CERT mission. The future of CERT looks promising with new opportunities and better relationships within Fairfax County government agencies and local business.

GH: How has CERT affected you?

Doug: CERT training has provided skills to react and help family members in case of emergency. It has improved my skills in preparing for an emergency, and provided a better understanding of the county.



UNDER THE GREEN HELMET

Julie T.

NEW Deputy Lead 1 Tina S. CERT #149

Green Helmet (GH): Why did you join CERT? Do you have any particular experience that prepared you for CERT?

Tina: Prior to working for Fairfax County, I worked for several years for the Health Department as a state employee. While I did not work directly in the Emergency Preparedness and Response (EP&R) division, my management position required me to be trained in and knowledgeable of EP&R, FEMA, and Health Department Emergency Management responsibilities, activities, and procedures. From there, I became personally, incredibly interested in EP&R and Emergency Management. When I left the Health Department, I found CERT to join to be able to continue my involvement and training in EP&R subjects and activities. The more I learned and did with CERT, the more I wanted to continue my involvement in and contributions to CERT. Green Kool-Aid!!

GH: What have you done in CERT? What did you like most?

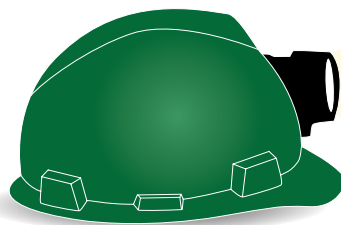
Tina: I try to take advantage of as many training and educational opportunities in CERT as I can. I have participated in ASL for Emergency Responders, HazMat in the Community, Traffic and Crowd Management, Incident Response for Terrorist Bombings, Forklift training, EVOC class and training, to name just a few continuing educational opportunities. I have also participated in some Food Distribution events, the Child Care Hygiene distribution event, assisted instruction cadre at 2020 CERT Basic classes, and a Hands Only CPR event for the community in Burke. I am also part of the Logistics Team under Don T., serve as Member at Large 2 on the CERT Association, and I am your Deputy Lead 1. I love everything I get to do with and for CERT, but the bee's knees for me is the boots on the ground, doing what CERT does stuff like Food Distribution events, EVOC training, and events in the community.

GH: What would you like to do in CERT and/or where do you see CERT going?

Tina: I have the ham radio license on my to do list. I am also excited to continue and grow with the EVOC training. Other than that, I wish I had more time to do more with CERT. I'm excited to be here for these growing and changing times with CERT.

GH: Anything else you would like to add?

Tina: Just something additional to say about what I get from CERT above and beyond the training, education, activities, opportunities to serve the community, etc. is working and playing with all the wonderful, hardworking, dedicated, caring, awesome people I have the fortune to interact with in CERT. I appreciate and admire every one of you! You are what inspires me to be the best CERT I can be.



Fairfax CERT Association

Nutshell: CERT and the Fairfax County CERT Volunteer Association (FCCERTVA)

Gale B.



The origins of the CERT Program informs the birth of the Association. The Los Angeles City Fire Department, in 1985, recognized that citizens needed to meet their immediate needs in an area wide incident. Volunteers learned basic disaster responses such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

The Program Blossomed

FEMA founded the National CERT Program in 1993. The Program blossomed into all 50 states, many territories and tribal nations. The Fairfax County CERT Program, managed by the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, started in 2003 with the goal to prepare our community "to do the greatest good for the greatest number."

As the Program grew, a steering committee grew in 2008 to guide development. During the 9th CERT CON in 2016, Fairfax County CERT was selected to host the 10th convention. As grant funding dwindled and Program had no ability to accept funds needed to host this event, the volunteers considered forming a nonprofit association. In April 2019, a group of volunteers began the process of standing up the 501(c)(3) organization we now know as the Fairfax County CERT Volunteer Association.

Carrying the Program forward

Not only has FCCERTVA played a role in hosting CERT CON, but they have helped Program acquire training materials, volunteer support for the events such as the Farmers to Families Food Distributions hosted by Fairfax County Board Supervisors, and acquired the Green Machine, a canteen-cum-utility vehicle for training, special events and command post for exercises.

As we learned at last month's meeting, grant money for the Program will be spent by May. The Association is in place to carry the Program forward with your support. We improve our resilience together. Thank you for your time, talent and treasure which ensures that our community can prepare for a wide area challenge that may overwhelm emergency services.

As a community leader, your support as members of the Association lends strength to our donors. Donors add financial support for our work. Our work creates a better opportunity for strong ties in our neighborhoods that serve us all.

Please review our rating with GuideStar
[Guidestar.org/search](https://www.guidestar.org/search) and participate here: FairfaxCERTAssociation.org

Fairfax CERT Association
Attn Jeffrey Katz FRD Volunteer Liaison
12099 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
For info contact: Membership@FairfaxCERTAssociation.org

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:** _____

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

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

*Dues are waived for new CERT graduates who give a donation of \$15 or more.

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:

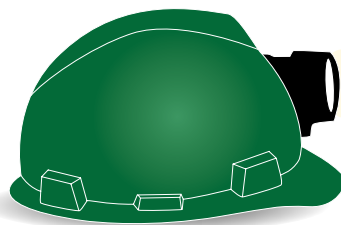
Application received: _____ Date: _____

Dues processed: _____ Date: _____

Qualifications verified: _____ Date: _____

Notified of Acceptance: _____ Date: _____

Membership Database: # _____ Date: _____



CERTCON 2021

Virtually • May 18th - 23rd

Kelly O.



Celebrating YOU
The Everyday CERT!

Virtually
May 18-23

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON! Keep up to date by following CERTCON 2021:

Website <https://CERTCON.org/>



[@CERTconference](#)



[@CERTCon](#)

What is CERTCON?

CERTCON is open to CERT-trained individuals, Campus CERT, Teen CERT, Emergency Management Professionals and Citizens interested in CERT and emergency preparedness.

About National Capital Region Emergency Response

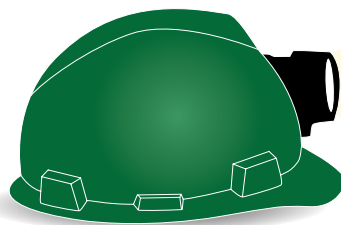
The National Capital Region is a collection of sovereign jurisdictions, including cities, counties, states and the District of Columbia. The NCR is not an operational entity because emergency response is a local function. The goal of the National Capital Region CERT Conference is to educate, and provide networking opportunities to enhance cooperation among the region's CERT teams and other organizations.

This Year's Theme: Celebrating YOU The Everyday CERT!

Being a CERT is not the shirt. It is who you are at all times. It shows in your instinct to help others without expecting anything in return. In the way you process your surroundings that allows you to quickly adapt to changing situations. In your desire to continually refine your skills and knowledge, as well as your need to grow beyond your comfort zone.

Being a CERT is who you are, not a role you play when needed. And that is what makes you worth celebrating. **YOU, the everyday CERT!**

Want to Help by Donating to Cover Costs? Please Visit: <https://FairfaxCERTAssociation.org>



Know Your CERT Acronyms!

A Quick Refresher

Kelly O.

CISAR

Catastrophic Incident Search And Rescue

Search & rescue response to an incident involving extraordinary levels of mass casualties and damage

FAST

Face - Arm weakness - Speech difficulty - Time to call 9-1-1

Way to remember and identify the most common symptoms of a stroke.

ICP

Incident Command Post

Predesignated temporary facilities and signifies the physical location of the tactical-level, on-scene incident command and management organization.

SAR

Search And Rescue

The search for and provision of aid to those in distress or imminent



Do You Have Special Skills or Talents?

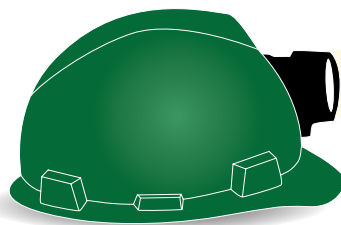
If you have vocational or recreational skills that might be useful to CERT, contact

Jeff Katz at
Jeffrey.Katz@FairfaxCounty.gov

Green Helmet Needs You!

Do you enjoy writing, research, photography, communications, PR? Then join the Green Helmet team. Your skills are needed.

Contact: Newsletter@FairfaxCountyCERT.org



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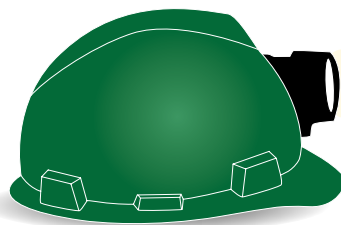
Save the Date

Training Outreach Operations Planning/Meeting Lead Meetings

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 "MINI" Food Distribution Hyland S. County Govt Ctr	2	3
4	5 "MINI" Food Distribution Sully Dist	6 EVOC II CERT Green Machine CERTCON Planning Leadership Business Meeting	7	8 EVOC II CERT Green Machine "MINI" Food Distribution Hyland S. County Govt Ctr	9	10
11	12 "MINI" Food Distribution Sully Dist CERT Basic Welcome Session	13 EVOC II CERT Green Machine CERTCON Planning Leadership Update	14 EVOC II CERT Green Machine	15 "MINI" Food Distribution Hyland S. County Govt Ctr	16	17 EVOC II CERT Green Machine
18	19 "MINI" Food Distribution Sully Dist CERT Orientation	20 CERTCON Planning Leadership Program Pre-Meeting Monthly Program Meeting	21	22 "MINI" Food Distribution Hyland S. County Govt Ctr	23	24
25 Amateur Radio Workshop	26 "MINI" Food Distribution Sully Dist	27 CERTCON Planning	28	29 Food Distribution - Journey Church Class #165 Ft. Belvoir	30	

May 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4 CERTCON Planning Leadership Business Meeting	5	6 Class #165 Ft. Belvoir	7	8
9	10	11 CERTCON Planning Leadership Update	12	13 Class #165 Ft. Belvoir	14	15
16	17	18 Monthly Program Meeting	19	20 Class #165 Ft. Belvoir	21	22
CERTCON 2021 MAY 18-23!						
23 Amateur Radio	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



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April 2021

Fairfax County, VA

FAIRFAX COUNTY CERT LEADERSHIP

NAME	CONTACT INFORMATION
Jeffrey Katz	Jeffrey.Katz@FairfaxCounty.gov
Dana Powers	Dana.Powers@FairfaxCounty.gov
Elvia F.	Lead@FairfaxCountyCERT.org
Tina S.	DeputyLead1@FairfaxCountyCERT.org
Doug G.	DeputyLead2@FairfaxCountyCERT.org
Anita VdM.	Anita.VanderMerwe2@FairfaxCounty.gov
James S.	Training@FairfaxCountyCERT.org
James S.	Operations@FairfaxCountyCERT.org
Kathy J.	Outreach@FairfaxCountyCERT.org
Ginny K.	Safety@FairfaxCountyCERT.org
Don T.	Logistics@FairfaxCountyCERT.org
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The Green Helmet	Newsletter@FairfaxCountyCERT.org
CERT Association President	President@FairfaxCERTAssociation.org
CERT Association Vice President	VP@FairfaxCERTAssociation.org
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CERT Association Secretary	Secretary@FairfaxCERTAssociation.org
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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 July 2021!

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!