

What it Means to be Green

Julie T., Sarah M., Don T., Susy L.

In This Issue

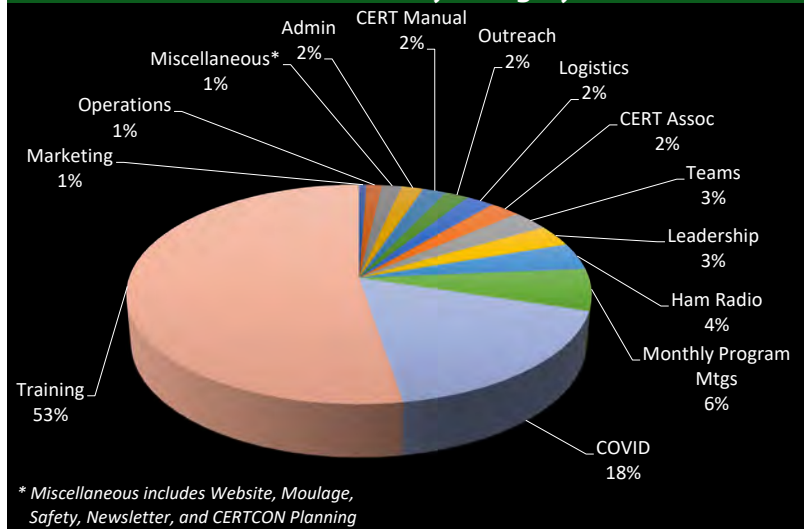
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In 2020 "The Big One" Arrived in the Form of a Pandemic

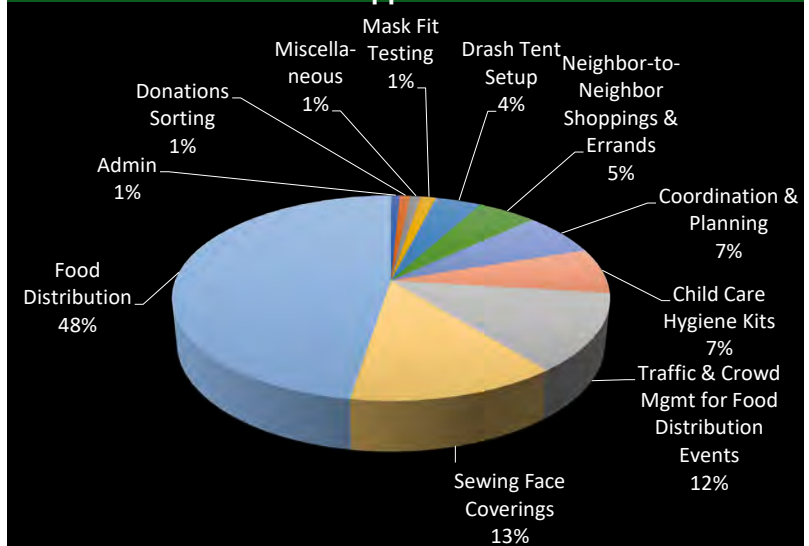
Although CERT teaches us to be prepared for a wide variety of disasters, most of our exercises have focused on storm or earthquake events. We train to triage, evacuate, and administer first aid in order to be prepared for "the big one." In 2020 "the big one" arrived in the form of a pandemic. As in person events were restricted we cancelled basic training classes, outreach events, master exercises, and CERTCON. Meetings and trainings were moved online. But our CERTS proved that we will respond to help our neighbors as needed. Some members helped their at-risk neighbors with prescriptions and groceries and then the Fairfax Department of Family Services asked us to help with their Neighbor 2 Neighbor Shopping and Pharmacy Pick-up program.

When it became apparent that people would need to wear face coverings, a group was formed to gather supplies and make face coverings for groups that needed them. We organized the distribution of 449 hygiene kits to childcare providers. We helped with fit testing for respirators for fire and rescue personnel. We also supported vaccination clinics for children. Some of our cadre worked up a part online (using an existing University of Utah program) part in person Basic CERT program (CBT). Other members did independent study classes or our own online training courses. For the year a total of 560 volunteers ranging in age from 16 to 87 logged hours.

2020 Hours by Category

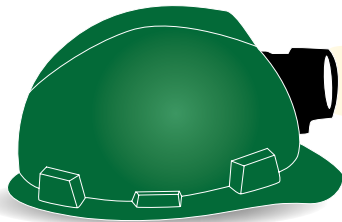


Breakout of COVID Support Activities - 3132 Hours



Sponsored by Fairfax
 County Fire & Rescue





Food Distribution

While the pandemic created unique circumstances, CERT program has stepped up to really show what being "Green" means. From May until December, CERT has assisted Fairfax County (primarily in the Lee, Sully, and Mason districts) with 31 USDA "Farmers to Families" food distributions to support food insecure families.

The initial request from the county was simply to organize volunteer support for large-scale food distributions. The experienced members of CERT who were tasked with this mission quickly realized that the organization could utilize their training, understanding of incident command principles, and safety skillsets to offer much more to the multi-organizational effort. CERT began utilizing a unified command structure that was adapted from FEMA's principles of operations, logistics, accountability, safety/security, communications, and traffic management.

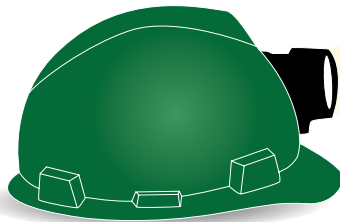


The ability to adapt to meet the complex needs of these food distributions allowed the command structure to oversee not only 111 CERT volunteers but 239 others from the Volunteer Fire Departments, county agencies, and other supportive members of the community. Through CERT's over two thousand volunteer hours, they have been able to assist county residents in need by safely and successfully distributing more than 1.5 million pounds of dairy products, produce, and precooked meats. CERT also partnered with the Fairfax County Animal Shelter to distribute more than 28,000 pounds of dog and cat food.

In addition to command and traffic management, CERT members were provided the opportunity to teach safety to other volunteers from the community. An emphasis was placed on donning and doffing PPE, hand hygiene practices, and protecting yourself (taking care of the most important person - YOU). Volunteers were able to protect themselves and their fellow volunteers while fulfilling the mission of safely delivering food to those in need; ensuring the greatest good was done for the greatest number of people.

Logistics

The food distribution events also brought about some challenges for logistics. The events were held in summer heat, downpours, and then cold weather later in the fall. Beginning on May 28th at Falls Church High School, these events quickly evolved from just sending volunteers, into real world events. While we had a plan for directing the cars and walk-ins through the line, we didn't have a command post or much equipment for that first event. Jeffrey Katz brought traffic cones and had a port-a-potty delivered, since we didn't have access to the school building. After that, Frank P. as the Incident Commander, Don T. as the traffic management lead, and Jeffrey Katz planned for what logistics would be needed. We loaded up the white response trailer and used it for logistics and the command post. The command post, located in front of the trailer, consisted of a canopy covering the check in table, chairs, and a table with supplies like sanitizer, gloves, and masks.

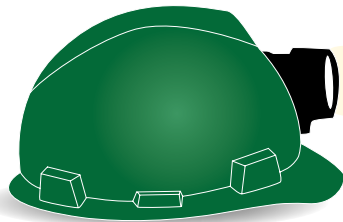


We also had a portable hand washing station which was nice since restrooms weren't very close. A hand truck was handy to set out 30 traffic cones around the parking lot. During the hot months there was a fan and mister powered by a generator. The traffic management volunteers were given a yellow vest, an orange flag, and an FRS radio. Volunteers from the Springfield fire station (Steve R. and JJ are also CERTs, class 14 and 61) brought their canteen truck to supply cold drinks, snacks, and serve pizza provided the Fairfax CERT Association. Michelle M. took care of recycling the plastic trash. We eventually got a large green canopy for the command post and used other canopies for the distribution stations to provide shade and cover from the rain. Those canopies were provided by a non-profit group who helped regularly with the early events. Jeffrey eventually bought eight more canopies.

Later when distribution of pet food was added, we supplied tables, chairs, and a canopy for that. There were several unforgettable rainy day events. We had about fifteen green CERT ponchos to offer volunteers who needed them and we have since purchased about forty more ponchos. There were additional tarps to protect the pallets of boxes not covered by a canopy. If the food distributions were repeated at the same location, usually the Hyland South County Government Center, the trailer was left there from week to week. When there was a two week break between events, the trailer was returned to the academy and we unloaded and restocked it for the next round of food distributions. After surviving some very hot days and rain storms, by November we began anticipating having these events on cold, snowy days. The fire and rescue department loaned us five patio heaters and propane tanks. Jeffrey ordered snow shovels, push brooms, and ice melt. Don cleared out a section of a conex container to store everything. We haven't had to use them yet, but we're ready if they are needed.

"Working the food distributions was tiring work, but I never felt tired. Helping others is the heart of CERT, and these events were an extension of our overall intent and community involvement." - Carol B. CERT #121

"Becoming a CERT has made me feel more prepared to help others and protect people during emergency situations. I really believe CERT training should be required for all high school/college students so they can feel more confident in their abilities to keep themselves and others safe when uncertain or surprising situations arise and by recognizing hazards in everyday life. I am grateful to be a part of this extremely organized and successful Fairfax County CERT team. They have proven themselves to be indispensable in this time of pandemic food insecurity - helping thousands of people put food on their tables." - Lorene S. CERT #160



Ready Fairfax: In the Know!

Local Information from our Fairfax County OEM

Ashley M., Fairfax County OEM

#LWXSpotter - New Hashtag for Storm Reports

Are you a NWS SKYWARN storm spotter or an avid weather enthusiast? Do you typically watch the weather during thunderstorms or winter storms and post storm reports on social media?

#LWXSpotter is a new hashtag for storm reports for all counties within the NWS Baltimore/Washington county warning area. When posting storm damage or storm impact photos, be sure to tag it by using the #LWXSpotter hashtag. Using this hashtag will allow for NWS and local emergency management to find your storm report easier during severe weather. Having community reports also allows meteorologists and emergency managers to have a better understanding on what is going on in the area to make safety decisions. By participating in community reporting, you are assisting public safety and helping us stay aware to protect our community.

Remember, a good storm report is a detailed one! Be sure to report storm damage or storm impacts (flooded roads, icy roads, weather-induced accidents, etc) along with the time and location (cross-streets, city, and county). Use the #LWXSpotter hashtag and also feel free to tag @NWS_BaltWash and @ReadyFairfax. We look forward to seeing your storm reports!



OEM
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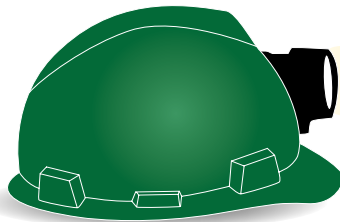


Ready to Learn?

Are you a part of a community group, business, school, house of worship, club, or neighborhood association? Are you looking for digital content during your virtual meetings? Look no further!

The Office of Emergency Management and the OEM Volunteer Corps are seeking opportunities to teach emergency preparedness virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our preparedness presentations can cover general preparedness or be tailored to any requested preparedness topic. Presentation length can also be tailored to fit within a general meeting.

If you would like to request a virtual presentation, please email OEMOutreach@fairfaxcounty.gov



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Fairfax County CERT Inclement Weather Policy

Winter is Here

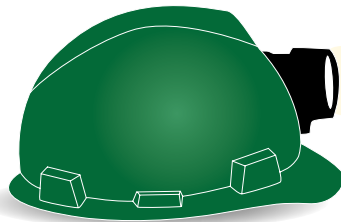
Ginny K.

Fairfax County CERT events will be canceled when the Fairfax County Government is closed. The "open/closed" status of the Fairfax County Government can be found:

- ▶ Sign up for Fairfax Alerts: FairfaxCounty.gov/Alerts
- ▶ County website: FairfaxCounty.gov/Status
- ▶ Instagram: @FairfaxCounty
- ▶ Twitter: @FairfaxCounty
- ▶ Facebook: @FairfaxCounty

All CERT events are subject to cancellation due to weather, scheduling, or other factors. CERT volunteers are advised to check their email in the days leading up to an event.





The Fairfax County Emergency Vehicle (EVOC)

A Trial Course for Cert Members

Kevin K.

Understanding the Liability of Driving Fairfax County Vehicles



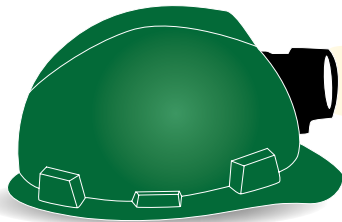
In Summer 2020, the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC), offered by the Fairfax County Fire Department, was opened to Fairfax County CERT members on a first time trial basis. The goal was to have CERT students understand the liability of driving Fairfax County vehicles in priority 2 non-emergency support roles, to conduct a vehicle safety inspection prior to driving, and to safely drive and park a Type 1 vehicle (weighing up to 10,000 lbs) after successful completion of the written test and driving a vehicle through the Fire and Rescue obstacle course.



The above thumbnail sketch does not do justice to the superb training provided by Volunteer Chief and Adjunct Instructor Jonathan Wood and fellow Fairfax County Fire Department personnel. Fire Department officers and CERT members attended two lecture sessions via zoom which included spontaneous question and answer sections. One learned about the law of due regard, negligence, policy, procedure, guidelines, rules and regulations to include liability in accepting the responsibility of driving a county vehicle. Importance of understanding braking systems, baffling systems, roll over awareness, road conditions, etc. Five visual habits were highlighted to incorporate safer driving habits and introduced "hand shuffling" - a driving technique to ensure a better control of the steering wheel. The virtual lecture course covered space management, speed management, braking and stopping, backing up, mirror adjustment, lane changing, turning, passing, negotiating intersections, operating under adverse conditions, collision avoidance, and placement of vehicles at emergency incidents. A new acronym put into play: SIPDE (Scan, Identify, Predict, Decide, and Execute).



Following successful completion of the written test (also via zoom) you were then scheduled for 3 hands-on portions of the course especially scheduled for CERT members: vehicle safety inspection, practice driving on the road as well as the obstacle course, and then a final driving test. Please understand that I do not participate in any group settings, however, I was most comfortable with the safety precautions taken by the course instructors. Following a thermometer reading (no fever), everyone practiced social distancing, wearing masks, and cleaning of vehicle console, gears, mirrors, etc. prior to each person entering a vehicle.



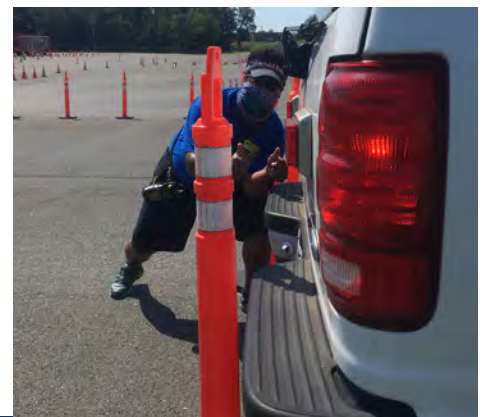
The vehicle safety inspection provided best practices to use before you accept responsibility of driving a vehicle. Following a visual inspection to include under the vehicle, the tires, checking for body damage, doors, stray objects, you then move to looking under the hood. We focused on locating all major components of the vehicle, checking fluid levels (oil, transmission, brakes), radiator, visual inspection of belts, looking for fluid leaks, and air filter. Then one adjusts mirrors, checking for blind spots. Prior to driving, one ensures that there is nothing loose in the cab, and that safety belts were attached prior to starting the vehicle.

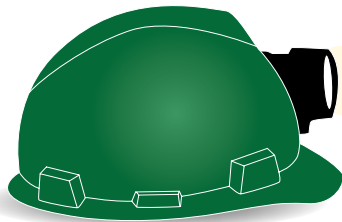
The vehicle obstacle course practice session covered techniques used to drive two separate size trucks. We practiced driving a truck through diminishing clearance, offset alley, reversing in a straight-away, parallel parking, 3 point alley dock, and serpentine forward and reverse. Following completion of the obstacle course, we then drove the larger of the two trucks in and around the local neighborhood, demonstrating ability to drive in a residential area.

The final vehicle driving test, conducted by Chief Wood and a team of EVOC instructors, noted that one completed the course within an eight minute time frame. Some CERT members were given a second opportunity to correct different sections.

Overall, the EVOC enhanced my awareness of the importance of vehicle safety and maintenance, accepting the responsibility of driving county vehicles, and doing so in a safe and secure manner. Please note, the completion of the course does not permit CERT members to drive Emergency vehicles or Fire Trucks. However, since completing the course, I have a greater appreciation for those members of the Fire Department who do drive them.

This first EVOC class for CERT yielded 18 CERTs with the initial level EVOC qualification. It involved 9 hours of classroom training and over 100 hours of practical and vehicle time. Thank you, Jeff and Dana, for this excellent opportunity to expand our CERT capabilities. This truly was an effort that relied on existing partnerships and created many new connections. Special appreciation to the Fire and Rescue Training Academy staff; Ret Battalion Chief Hedrick volunteer training coordinator, Lt Gansert and Master Apparatus Technician Briskey from the driver training program and Technicians Theobald and Barnes from facilities as well as vehicle and apparatus coordinators from multiple county locations who all played a key role in making this training possible. Thank you to Instructor J Wood for overseeing all components of the course, delivering the lecture series, teaching the practical skills and conducting the driving test. Thank you to Instructors Talbot and M Wood for the practical training and coaching and thank you Instructors Hudak, Powers and Sweet for your part in evaluating the driving test. And thank you to the CERT students for your enthusiasm, compliance and flexibility.





Forklift Training

Classroom and Practical Aspects of Operating Fork Lifts

Marshall L.

There's no denying that playing with trucks "IRL" is incredibly fun, but back in October, several CERT members received training and certification on forklift operation for a more serious purpose. The objective of this training was to enhance CERT's capabilities to be able to move and unload supplies, either at planned or emergency events.

Over the course of two evenings, the students learned both the classroom and practical aspects of operating these vehicles. The class practiced and was certified on a diesel forklift in the high bay at the academy.

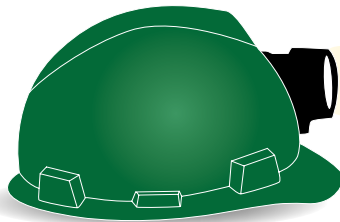


The certification, OSHA standard 1910.178, allows operation of several types of powered industrial trucks. The students also had an opportunity to use the academy's skid-steer (often referred to by the brand name, Bobcat). This vehicle, which is a bit different than a forklift, is also currently equipped with forks. This is the vehicle that will most likely be available to CERT on a regular basis.

Over the past few months, the students have had several practice sessions, which include performing the pre-use checks before proceeding with the session's objectives. This provides a great opportunity to review safety procedures and to think carefully about the planned steps before hitting the gas!

So far, students have been gradually logging hours by reorganizing the stacks of pallets next to the CERT storage containers at the far end of the academy grounds. Once they have more hours under their belts, they will move on to greater and more exciting missions!





CERT Basic Training (CBT) *In the Times of the COVID-19 Pandemic*

Alex V.V.



In early March 2020 volunteers who had applied to attend CBT classes were informed they had been "approved" to participate in the in person course commencing on March 21, 2020. Then the COVID-19 restrictions subsequently instituted by the Commonwealth of Virginia prevented in person classes. Classes 158, 159 and 160 were postponed indefinitely.

The training coordinator James S. and his cadre of volunteer instructors had to 'turn on a dime' to see how CERT training could be done. After researching alternatives, they adopted a 'hybrid' three phase learning model that could provide the course material:

Phase 1: An online course that covered the FEMA National CERT Program Basic Training Manual.

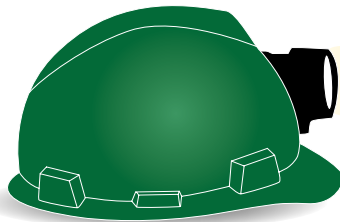
Phase 2: Zoom meetings to maintain contact until in person classes could resume.

Phase 3: Hands-on class sessions.

The online University of Utah Medical School FEMA approved course was chosen for Phase 1. On a May 4, 2020 Zoom meeting, the students who had applied for the earlier classes were given the opportunity to register for that course. Strict deadlines for the completion of each on-line unit and the final exams were given. All participants had to provide James with their University of Utah completion certificates before they could register for the next phase. In conjunction with that course, James S. and Wayne V. held weekly Zoom meetings coordinated with the universities syllabus for participants to review the material and answer any questions that arose.

Phase 3 was conducted from August 15-29 at the Harvester Presbyterian Church in Springfield. The online course graduates were divided into 4 groups with eight students per class to comply with the COVID social distancing strictures. A Fairfax Fire Department liaison was on site to assure compliance. The in person coursework consisted of five sessions that covered the entire FEMA manual. The final exercise/test commenced off-site with a 'forced march' to a stimulated disaster zone with an exterior and interior component. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, no live volunteers could be utilized as role players. In their stead, we used Red Cross dummies with explanatory narrative cards that explained their 'conditions'. Monitors were assigned in each area to assess student actions and provide feedback and instructions.

My section was taught by Wayne V., who brought Navy 'know how', and Elvia F.. Wayne V. was able to complete editing his pocket size CERT Field Guide in time for him to provide a copy to my classmates. My fellow classmates were a highly motivated group that provided many useful insights from their own experiences. Of course it did not hurt that among them were a former ambulance E.M.T., the Director of



Security for the U.S. Department of Commerce H.Q., a Department of Homeland Security law enforcement supervisor, a Federal senior intelligence agency executive, a retired Federal Appellate Court staff attorney, defense contractors, et al. All the CBT graduates attended an online Zoom orientation meeting on August 31st to familiarize them with the Fairfax CERT organization/operation and the Fairfax CERT Association they had all joined.

Persons with Special Needs

An Article from Alexandria CERT Newsletter

Alexandria CERT

Small emergencies and large disasters present challenges for adults and children with disabilities or functional and access needs: mobility, hearing, vision, speech, sensory, intellectual, cognitive, or language. This is also true for temporary conditions, such as recovering from surgery or during pregnancy. It is important to plan and prepare.

Stay Informed: Sign up for local alerts through Alexandria eNews. Monitor TV and radio. Have a NOAA weather radio. Download the FEMA app (www.fema.gov/mobile-app) to get National Weather Service advisories, watches, and warnings.

Support Network: A support network can be family, friends, or caregivers. List them and their contact information in a written plan, post the list on your refrigerator, and carry the list in your wallet. Tell them about your supplies for basic needs, including medications and medical devices. Make sure they have a key to your home.

Written Plan: Document vital information and share copies with key people in your support network. Make a longer contact list of names, phone numbers, email addresses, and physical addresses. The list should include your support network, doctors, therapists and other support service providers (e.g., dialysis center), benefits providers, pharmacy, and veterinarian for a service animal. Record your allergies, your medications including the dosages and frequency you take them, your medical devices, and any assistive technologies you need.

Transportation: Plan for accessible transportation for evacuation and for getting to essential medical appointments when road travel may be difficult. Alexandria has an Office of Mobility Services and operates a DOT Paratransit program. If you rely on DASH or Metro, check with them regarding operations during emergency conditions.

Special Needs Emergency Plans, Kits

Medical and Assistive Devices:

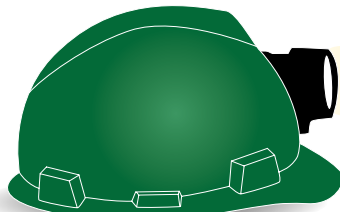
Keep model information in case you need to replace equipment if it is lost or destroyed. Write instructions for operating the device. If your device is battery-powered, have a charged extra battery. Find an alternative location to charge up.

Medications: A 7- day supply of prescription medications and medical supplies such as diabetes testing strips. A cooler and re-freezable packs for medications that must be refrigerated.

Mobility: If you use a power wheelchair or scooter, have a lightweight manual chair as a backup. Have an extra seat cushion. If you use a cane or walker, keep an extra one.

Hearing: Have extra hearing aid batteries in your emergency kit. Put pens and extra paper in the kit if you use American Sign Language.

Vision: Mark emergency supplies with large print (for low vision) or Braille labels (for blindness). Keep a Braille or deaf-blind communications device in your emergency kit.



THE GREEN HELMET

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

January 2021

Fairfax County, VA

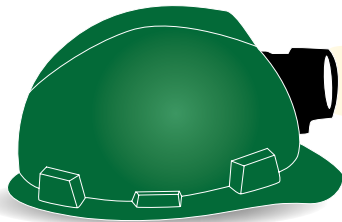
Basic Survival Supplies: Prepare portable waterproof bins for both sheltering in place and evacuation. Basic items include: 1 gallon of water per person and nonperishable food for 3 to 7 days, cash (in case power is out), flashlight and batteries, cell phone chargers and backup battery, complete change of clothing for several days, personal hygiene items, wipes, garbage bags and ties for sanitation, first aid kit, non-prescription medications such as pain relievers or antacids, pet and service animal supplies, and extra eyeglasses or contact lenses.

Also Consider: Wear a medical alert tag or bracelet. Sign up for electronic benefits for Social Security or other payments, in case mail service is disrupted during a disaster.

Speech: Plan how you will evacuate with your augmentative communications device, or how to communicate with others if your equipment is not working.

Sensory: Items include: headphones to decrease auditory distractions, a small pop-up tent to decrease visual stimulation, hand-held electronic devices for movies and games, comfort snacks, and comfort items.





UNDER THE GREEN HELMET

Dana P.

Marketing Communications Lead Kelly O. CERT #133



Green Helmet (GH): Kelly, you sort of burst onto the scene with a bang and immediately started helping with the branding of the Fairfax County CERT program. What was it about the program that inspired you to get more involved?

Kelly: In my life, I always looked toward people who knew more than me. I wanted to learn from them and expand my knowledge. With Marketing, when they announced it was a new division, I figured this was something I could be helpful with, as I had 20+ years of marketing experience. So, I wanted to get involved and then all of the sudden, I became the lead.

GH: When did you join CERT?

Kelly: I joined in February 2018 and graduated with CERT 133.

GH: What is your background and what attracted you to take the CERT class in the first place?

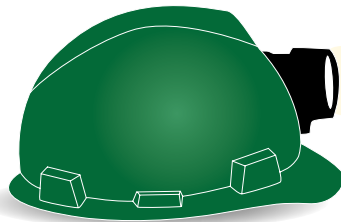
Kelly: I am the daughter of a Prince George's County, Maryland firefighter/EMT. One of my first memories is of my dad graduating from the Fire Academy. As a child, I spent a lot of time in my dad's firehouse and I loved it. I knew I couldn't do fire and rescue as a career but I wanted to be able to help my community and not be paralyzed when emergencies happen. The CERT program offered the training I was looking for.

GH: You have taken on many roles in the CERT Program, you are now the Lead of the Marketing Communications Division. Can you describe some of the changes that you have made to the look of the program and some favorite projects you have been involved in.

Kelly: I helped with recreating the look and feel of the Outreach materials, flyers, banners, and soon the display boards. As well as miscellaneous graphics such as updating the monthly program meeting PowerPoint template. I had some influence on the updates to the website and I have taken over the entire social media platform. I was trying to get a consistent, professional look throughout all aspects of the public and private facing materials. I have background in this field, so that helps with creating this refreshed branding.

GH: What do you do in the real world?

Kelly: I am a graphic designer for Salient CRGT. We are a government contracting company. I work with the proposal team and I serve as the only graphic designer supporting the entire company. I have been with them for over seven years.



GH: Where do you live?

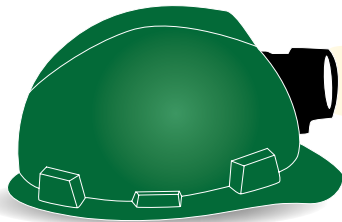
Kelly: I live in Fairfax with my husband and cat.

GH: You've seen a lot of changes in the short time that you've been here, where do you see the program going, and what are some projects that you would like to initiate in the near future?

Kelly: I think that COVID-19 created the most changes. I have been so impressed by how we have been able to adapt and work together. I think that we have learned a lot, during this time, to make our program more accessible to people and not have to always be in person. In the future I think we will be a hybrid program with in-person and online options. Also I think that during the pandemic, with the Food Distribution Sites, we have made a large impact on the community and have become more visible to the public. I believe CERT will be used more in the future because county leadership and county supervisors now know our capabilities. They know they can trust us.

GH: What advice do you have for new recruits just coming into the program?

Kelly: I would advise anyone who is trying to find their place in CERT, to try anything! I have helped the training cadre with several CERT Basic Classes and I am currently supporting Newsletter, Moulage, Outreach, and now Marketing Communications. Keep trying different things until you find your niche. We are always looking for more people to get involved to give back to the community and the program well beyond CERT Basic. I would also suggest that you take as many continuing education classes as you can. You soon see how everything we learn is connected.



UNDER THE GREEN HELMET

Julie T.

Fairfax CERT Association VP Wayne V. CERT #133



Green Helmet (GH): You came out of CERT Basic and took off running. What sort of background experience did you have before joining CERT?

Wayne: I joined the Navy at 17, and I was always the youngest in the room. I advanced rapidly because I don't sit back and wait for others to do things. I take care of others that I work with, and this kind of service is my life. I joined the navy working in electronics and became competent in broader areas. I retired from the Navy at 37. While in the Navy I traveled the world. Some of the most interesting things I saw were the Straits of Magellan, Tierra del Fuego, and the fjords of Norway.

GH: What sort of things did you do in the Navy?

Wayne: I trained as an EMT because I was on a ship with 2 medics and 350 people. We left port before I could finish my ride-alongs, but the experience was good.

I participated in the search and rescue for the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster. Our ship was in the Bahamas. I had been using portable radios, when allowed, onboard the ship, so I was put in charge of the search and rescue operation. I used my skills as a sonar technician to know that some parts wouldn't float, but parts such as ceramic tile and the booster skin would float. We used sonar to find suspended debris such as the crew cabin and transferred the debris to the coast guard. We received a Presidential Unit Citation.

GH: What else have you done?

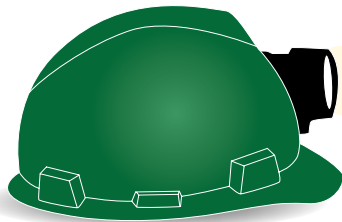
Wayne: I'm a group facilitator. I have written three books. "Process-Based Facilitation; Facilitation for Meeting Leaders, Consultants and Group Facilitators", "Emergency, Disaster Preparedness; A Planning Guide for Individuals and Families" and the "CERT Field Guide."

GH: How did you become interested in emergency preparedness?

Wayne: As a child I was a military brat, and we travelled, but we always returned to Biloxi, Mississippi. Hurricane Camille hit Mississippi a category 5, devastating the area. The recovery took not months, but years. I knew I needed to become prepared.

GH: You also ride motorcycles?

Wayne: I got my first motorcycle in 1983 when I was stationed in California. I took the safety class many



times, and eventually became an instructor. Last year I became certified to teach motorcycle safety in Virginia.

GH: You used radios in the Navy. Did you have your ham license before you became a CERT?

Wayne: I took a one-day class as part of CERT. My call sign is KN4NDK.

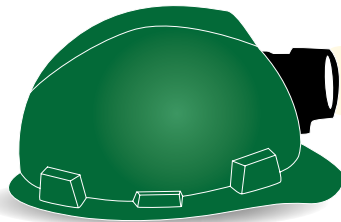
GH: You're involved in many parts of CERT: the CBT2 program, the CERT Green Machine, and the VP of the Fairfax CERT Association. Where would you like to see CERT going?

Wayne: I would like to see CERT become more active in responding to a variety of situations. As well as getting people prepared, we need to have a broader range of missions to respond to and demonstrate that we have a prepared and quick response.

We should keep doing the community projects such as parades and races, but broaden our response capabilities.

We have the new CERT Green Machine. It has great potential for things like mobile training in the community.

I would like us to have our own facility with offices and training space.



Fairfax CERT Association

Introducing the new Fairfax CERT Association Board

Julie T.

President – Missy Tuttle, CERT 55

Missy was the CERT Program Volunteer Lead for several years before passing the reins to Elvia. She is a founding member of the National Capital Region CERT Association and an adjunct instructor at the academy. She loves hiking! Her goal this year is to complete the VA section of the Appalachian Trail. She's looking forward to working on the CERT canteen (CERT Green Machine). | President@FairfaxCERTAssociation.org

Vice President – Wayne Vick, CERT 133

Wayne fills several support roles in CERT: Instructor, occasional meeting facilitator, Assistant Community Training, and CERT Green Machine Project Lead. He is the Zip team lead for 22153. For the Association he is trying to build a fundraising team and build and manage the public facing websites for the Association and Program (and would welcome help with either.) Outside of CERT he is an author and a motorcycle rider coach guiding people that want to learn how to ride motorcycles and 3-wheeled bikes. | VP@FairfaxCERTAssociation.org

Secretary – Gale Bernatz, CERT 139

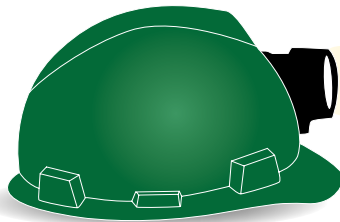
Gale is a member Zip Team 22310. She had done a smattering of victim acting, moulage, exercises, continuing education, and filling other positions as needed. Outside of CERT she is a Girl Scout Adult Educator, bushcraft enthusiast, and crafter - most recently wood carving. | Secretary@FairfaxCERTAssociation.org

Treasurer – John Zimmer, CERT 55

John has been a resident of Oakton, Virginia for the last 35 years. He has been an active member of the Fairfax County CERT since 2011 (CERT Class 55). John has also remained involved in hands-on volunteer hurricane/tornado post-natural disaster recovery response in: Mississippi (2006, 2007, 2008), Massachusetts (2011), Alabama (2012), Texas (2008, 2017), and North Carolina (2018).

From 2008-2016, he served as a director on the board of a not-for-profit corporation that oversaw the \$1 billion response to the 2010 Gulf of Mexico "Deepwater Horizon" offshore platform disaster. He has worked in the emergency preparedness and response area for 25 years designing/directing emergency response training and drills.

| Treasurer@FairfaxCERTAssociation.org



Member-at-Large 1 – Julie Thomas, CERT 61

Julie is active with the moulage, outreach, and logistics teams. She also works on the Green Helmet newsletter, does some Traffic and Crowd Management, and has a ham license because of CERT.

She is trained as a chemist but has been a stay-at-home mom to two kids, volunteering to help with all of their activities. She enjoys making things and has built drones and computers. She enjoys playing tennis and watching synchronized skating.

| MALI@FairfaxCERTAssociation.org

Member-at-Large 2 – Tina Schmidt, CERT 149

Tina is trained and likes to participate in Traffic and Crowd Management at events such as the Food Distributions and Child Care Hygiene Distributions. She has taken advantage of many continuing education opportunities such as ASL for responders, EVOC, forklift training, and HazMat introduction to name a few. She is a member of the CERT Logistics Team and newly recruited to the Deputy Lead 1 position. Tina hopes to continue to serve CERT well as she grows with the organization.

In 2019 she took the most awesome road trip of her life with her two kids to Badlands, Mount Rushmore, Devils Tower, Grand Tetons, and Yellowstone.

| DeputyLead1@fairfaxcountycert.org

Fire and Rescue Liaison – Jeffrey Katz, CERT 110

Jeff is our CERT program manager who works magic to keep our program funded and comes up with wacky ideas like the CERT Green Machine. He wants to make CERT grow and thrive, and to ensure the sustainability of the program into the future. Outside of CERT he has model HO trains and raises bees.

| Jeffrey.Katz@FairfaxCounty.gov

If you have not yet joined the Association, please complete form on next page & email to:
VP@FairfaxCERTAssociation.org

Stay Informed, Stay Connected

Follow us on Social Media • Go to our Websites

Kelly O.



[FairfaxCountyCERT](https://www.facebook.com/FairfaxCountyCERT)



[FairfaxCountyCERT](https://www.youtube.com/FairfaxCountyCERT)



[@FairfaxCountyCERT](https://www.instagram.com/FairfaxCountyCERT)



[Fairfax County CERT](https://www.linkedin.com/company/FairfaxCountyCERT)

Public Website

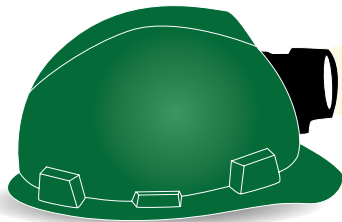
FairfaxCountyCERT.org

CERT Volunteer Website

CERT.FairfaxCountyCERT.org

Attn Jeffrey Katz FRD Volunteer Liaison
12099 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia 22035

Membership Database: # _____ Date: _____



CERTCON 2021

Save the Date!

Kelly O.

COMING SOON!



Celebrating **YOU**
The Everyday CERT!

Virtually
Spring 2021

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

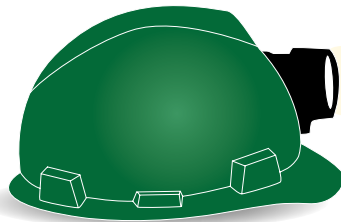
The National Capital Region is a collection of sovereign jurisdictions, including cities, counties, states and the District of Columbia. The NCR is not an operational entity because emergency response is a local function. The goal of the National Capital Region CERT Conference is to educate, and provide 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.

CALMeR

Command Accountability Logistics Medical Rescue

The five CERT groups for search and rescue operations.

IC

Incident Commander

Person responsible for all aspects of an emergency response.

NIMS

National Incident Management System

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

DOTS

Deformities - Open Injuries - Tenderness (Pain) - Swelling

Physical examination for trauma patients.



**Do You Have Special Skills
or Talents?**

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

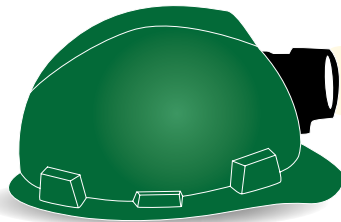
Jeff Katz at

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



January 2021

Save the Date

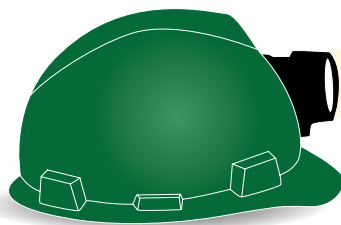
■ Training ■ Outreach ■ Operations ■ Planning/Meeting ■ Lead Meetings

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4 CERT Online Welcome Session	5 CERTCON Planning Leadership Business Meeting	6	7 Food Distribution - Hyland South County Government Center	8	9
10	11	12 CERTCON Planning Leadership Update LEPC - Centreville Pipeline Incident	13 Training Cadre Workshop	14	15	16 Warden Duplex Workday
17	18	19 CERTCON Planning Leadership Program Pre-Meeting Monthly Program Meeting	20 NSC CPR and AED	21 Food Distribution - Hyland South County Government Center	22	23
24 Amateur Radio Workshop 31	25	26 CERTCON Planning Stop the Bleed (FRA)	27	28 NSC First Aid	29	30

February 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 CERT Online Welcome Session NSC CPR and AED	2 CERTCON Planning Leadership Business Meeting	3 Training Cadre Workshop	4	5	6
7	8	9 CERTCON Planning Leadership Update Stop the Bleed (FRA)	10 Training Cadre Workshop	11	12	13
14	15	16 CERTCON Planning Leadership Program Pre-Meeting Monthly Program Meeting	17	18	19	20
21	22 NSC First Aid	23 Stop the Bleed (FRA)	24 CERT Graduate Orientation	25	26	27
28 Amateur Radio Workshop						

CERTCON 2021 This Spring!



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Association Contacts	See Page 16

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 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!