



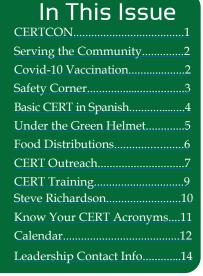
"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

July 2021 Fairfax County, VA

CERTCON 2021

One for the Books!

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Fairfax CERT was set to host CERTCON in the spring of 2020 until COVID-19 came along. After many attempts, we finally scheduled it for May 18 - 23, 2021 Liz G. and Kelly O. spent long hours setting up the conference on an unfamiliar platform, CVENT. We had sessions on the weekday evenings and Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

Our keynote speaker was Derek Rowan, the first Fairfax County CERT instructor. Holding the conference virtually allowed participants to come from around the country and even other countries!

We had Command Central in the Public Safety Headquarters, for those working behind the scenes. Most speakers zoomed in from their homes, but a few presented at Public Safety Headquarters. I won't say that the conference went off without a hitch, but we were able to work through most of the problems. Most sessions were recorded; and sessions you missed are still available through your CERTCON 2021 Attendee Hub.



Sessions

237

Swag

Boxes

Packed

Boxes

Shipped

CERTCON by the Numbers



Sponsored by Fairfax County Fire & Rescue







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Serving the Community

Congratulations to CERT Members Who became EMTs

Elvia F.

Congratulations to some special CERT members who in addition to being CERT graduates, have also completed the rigorous Fairfax County Fire and Rescue program as Volunteer EMTs! They join the ranks of 50+ CERT members who became an EMT.





- ▶ Ruth B., CERT 131
- ▶ Charles C., CERT 144
- ▶ Ron P., CERT 129
- ► Frank P., CERT 137
- ► Charles W., CERT 146

And Congratulations to current Fairfax County Fire & Rescue EMT, Watkins G., who graduated with CERT class 163.

Together, they bring value, depth of knowledge and experience that enhances our training and service to the community.

Thank you all for your service!

INOVA Covid-10 Vaccination Clinics and Centers

Working Alongside the County's Agencies and NGO's

Elvia F.

As the COVID-19 pandemic cases wound down, the County organized vaccination clinics, and support efforts by Fairfax CERT volunteers ramped up. They responded to the call from the County to support various locations for the new Covid-19 Vaccination clinics in early March. That was followed in April with the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) being activated. Volunteer Fairfax called upon non-governmental organizations (NGO's) including CERT, MRC, and others to help with the Inova Stonebridge Vaccination Center in Alexandria. Depending on the location, 2000 to 5000 vaccinations were delivered at each event thanks to the help of willing volunteers. CERT members used their TCM training to assist with the waves of county residents arriving to receive their vaccinations. CERT was instrumental in establishing efficient traffic flow and ensuring safety of the clients. The arriving clients received a warm greeting and assistance for those with functional or access needs. Many expressed their appreciation for our presence.

The CERT volunteers were organized by Event Leaders Doug G. for the March clinics and James S. for the Inova Center held in April-May.









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In addition, many CERT members stepped up to be Team Leads: Bruce A., Jerry A., Denise D., Lee F., Elvia F., Marco J., Sarah M., Tina S., Julie T., and Don T.

This was a rare opportunity to gain valuable experience and to work alongside the county's agencies and NGO's in a unified command in a real world environment.











Safety Corner

Safety Tips & Resources

Ginny K.



Flood Warning!

What to do if you are under a Flood Warning?

- ► Find safe shelter right away
- ► Do not walk, swim or drive through flood waters; Turn Around, Don't Drown!
- ► Remember, just six inches of moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away
- ▶ Stay off bridges over fast-moving water.
- ▶ Depending on the type of flooding:
 - Evacuate if told to do so
 - Move to higher ground or a higher floor
 - Stay where you are

For more information go to: Ready.gov/Floods



Tick Alert!

How do decrease the threat?

- ▶ Ticks are becoming a year-round threat
- ► The Blacklegged tick (aka, deer tick) spreads Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, and babesiosis
- ▶ The Lone Star, American dog tick (aka, wood tick), and Asian long-horned ticks spread disease as well
- ➤ Treat outdoor clothing with an insecticide that contains at least 0.5% permethrin
- ► Check yourself, family members, and pets for ticks after coming in from outdoor activities
- ▶ Remove ticks with fine-toothed tweezers (grab close to the skin, squeeze, and lift straight up)
- ▶ Dispose of ticks by wrapping them in **Duct Tape!**





"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

July 2021 Fairfax County, VA

Basic CERT in Spanish

in Arlington, in Fairfax County, and Internationally

Elvia F.

Recently, three members of the Fairfax County CERT instructor cadre were invited to participate with FEMA and the Arlington Virginia Department of Public Safety Communications and Emergency Management and its CERT program to help launch the county's first-ever Spanish-language CERT volunteer training. Held virtually, the training was designed to ensure a more equitable, culturally competent response to emergencies.

The Fairfax County cadre included Elvia F., Lamar M., and Peter McC. Among the three, they translated slides, presented on the topics of CERT Preparing for Disasters, Medical Operations I and II, and Triage and Duct Tape ("the Fairfax County way") and involved the students in an interactive Light Search and Rescue virtual simulation exercise prepared by Peter. The full cadre included four FEMA employees--two who are recent graduates of the Fairfax County CERT program--along with instructors from Arlington and Anne Arundel CERT.

In additional benefit to conducting training in a virtual environment was the ability to teach without borders. For this training, Arlington hosted international observers from the government of Mexico's Centro Nacional de Prevención de Desastres, as well as the CERT founder for Chile, Mexico and Haiti. Both international observers are exploring similar programs in their home countries, with plans to expand CERT programming in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Congratulations

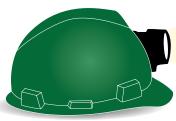
Congratulations to Les G., Arlington County CERT Volunteer Coordinator and to Lucía C., Engagement Liaison with Arlington County Department of Public Safety Communications and Emergency Management. It was a privilege and a unique opportunity to be a part of this collaboration and to expand the impact of CERT training to our underserved communities. We look forward to more opportunities.

What's Next?

The Fairfax County CERT program is starting the groundwork to bring increased community engagement, outreach, and training to our Hispanic population, including offering a Spanish/ESL Basic CERT class in 2022!

If you would like to help lay the groundwork for this initiative, contact Elvia Foil, Volunteer Lead at: Lead@FairfaxCountyCERT.org





"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

Fairfax County, VA

UNDER Food Distribution Frequent Volunteers HELMET Special Edition

For the food distribution events, we had a lot of "worker bees" who kept coming back. I wanted to do an interview with several of them, but many of them said I should feature others: Don T. (ran traffic control), James S., Sarah M., the canteen staff, the fork lift drivers. But here is a little bit about a couple of the regulars.



Lorenne S., Class 160

In the fall of 2019 I became an empty nester - my kids were off to college - so I set my sights on volunteering in some way. My friend had taken a CERT class in Arlington and it sounded perfect so I took it and learned alot about emergency preparedness. I completed the class in February 2020 and immediately the pandemic hit. I was hoping I would get a chance to help people who were affected by the shutdown and signed up immediately for the food distribution in June set up by Frank Pappas and Fairfax County Supervisor Lusk's office. I was incredibly impressed at the efficiency of the daunting task of getting food to thousands of people each week. I am grateful for the chance to lend a hand and work with such an amazing team of hard-working, caring individuals.



Michelle M., Class 140

Is a Solid Waste Management/Recycling Consultant. Her hobbies include dealing with trash/recycling (and finding ways it can NOT be trash), movies, pets, nature. She got involved with the food distribution events to help the community, and to assure they were done in the most waste-less way. At the distribution events she enjoyed communing with other CERTs and regular volunteers, feeling appreciated by the public, and diverting material from disposal. Almost every food distribution event has recycled/diverted: cardboard for recycling, drink bottles/cans for recycling, paper flyers for recycling, plastic wrap for recycling (via grocery store drop-off), shipping pallets for reuse, and inedible food for compost! The only waste was items such as

latex gloves, napkins, styrofoam/paper plates, and pizza boxes, which amounted to barely a small plastic shopping bag full each week- except when we were served boxed lunches, which create over one huge trash bag of garbage, due to the wasteful nature of the packaging and excess items included! (Consider this when you next plan an event where you provide food!) My fellow CERTs and other volunteers, were quick to pick up the procedure of using the on-site recycling/trash bins I provided (borrowed from Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Service, Solid Waste Management Program), and setting aside plastic wrap, spoiled food, and cardboard to be whisked away respectively to their diversion avenues.





"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

y 2021 Fairfax County, VA

Final Food Distribution

Wrapping Up a Year of Tireless and Selfless Work

Frank P.

CERT recently completed a year of operational support for COVID-19 emergency food distributions in cooperation with the federal government's Farmers to Families hunger relief initiative. A familiar problem in some Fairfax communities, food insecurity worsened significantly in the face of a hundred-year global pandemic. Non-essential businesses closed and millions of workers found themselves without paychecks or ways to obtain food for their families.

With the full support of CERT and FRD leadership, CERT stepped up to support local residents. Our CERT team worked closely with three Fairfax County Supervisors and their staffs as well as other key resources, including the Volunteer Fire Departments, schools and churches, and various county agencies to envision and execute safe and effective food distribution operations throughout the worst months of COVID. The pandemic loosened its grip on the country in recent months, however, and the federal government has decided to bring Farmers to Families to an end. But what we accomplished together over the past year is worth celebrating, including:







- ▶ Producing 65 large-scale food distributions over 363 days that ensured 4,000,000 pounds of dairy, produce, and meat (equivalent to 120,000 weeks of food) reached families and community-based organizations.
- ▶ Operating throughout all weather that Northern Virginia could throw at us from summer's scorching heat and torrential rains through fall's windstorms and winter's ice, snow, and cold.
- ▶ Developing a partnership with the county animal shelter to support pets in need by distributing more than 70,000 pounds of dog and cat food.
- ▶ Working side-by-side with Career and Volunteer Fire Department members, as well as developing relationships with local community organizations and county agencies.
- ▶ Proving that CERT isn't only the help until help arrives. We're also able to tackle significant challenges when called upon, from planning operations to recruiting and training volunteers to leading teams through complex missions.
- ▶ Finding the inspiration to grow CERT in new ways (forklift operator classes) or highlighting the opportunities for CERT to contribute more broadly through continuing EVOC and TCM training, canteen development, and DRASH operations.
- ► Earning the Volunteer Program of the Year award from Volunteer Fairfax, in part for our work on the food distributions.





"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

July 2021

Fairfax County, VA



Our efforts to help county residents in this most critical time wouldn't have been possible without the exceptional support of CERT leadership and the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, including Chief Butler who visited the distributions on multiple occasions.

The true heroes of these events, though, are the hundreds of volunteers who worked themselves to exhaustion, week after week – for an entire year – to lessen the pain suffered by their friends, neighbors, and even strangers – throughout such an incredible period of global upheaval.





Fairfax County CERT's Outreach Division

What it Takes to Be a Part of the Team

Kathy J.

The Outreach Section of Fairfax County CERT sets up information booths at events to educate visitors about emergency preparedness and the FREE CERT Basic training that is available to anyone who lives, works, worships, or travels through Fairfax County. This is to carry out the mission of the Fairfax County CERT program:

The mission of the Fairfax County CERT Program is to enable the people of the county to be prepared for natural or man-made incidents, and to enhance the county's emergency preparedness and response through training, exercises, and collaboration to promote emergency awareness, action, and resiliency.

Outreach events can be at festivals, schools, government agencies, and military installations. There were changes to the way we normally have Outreach events during the COVID-19 pandemic. When restrictions were put in place, in-person Outreach events were suspended. Instead, virtual Outreach events took the place of in-person events. One of the last in-person Outreach events was Ready-Set-Know at the





"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

2021 Fairfax County, VA

Burke Festival in 2019. There were many CERT volunteers helping with Moulage, Operations, and Outreach as part of the Citizen Corps agencies. Some CERT volunteers practiced answering a 911 call with children so that they would know what information to provide and feel comfortable giving it. We are looking forward to participating in this event again!



During the pandemic, we all became very familiar with Zoom. What a lifesaver it

has been for meetings, trainings, and Outreach! During this time, the Speakers' Bureau was developed, as Outreach switched gears to virtual presentations. The Outreach Section was tasked with establishing and managing a list of vetted CERT volunteers. If you are interested in being considered for the Speakers' Bureau and meet the required qualifications, you can send an email to Outreach@fairfaxcountycert.org to be considered for it. Outreach will seek recommendation and approval by the Office of Volunteer Liaison for each nominee's name submitted. Thanks to the Training Division, a comprehensive CERT PowerPoint presentation was developed so you wouldn't have to start with new materials. Subject matter experts are available to help when specific areas of interest are requested.

Required qualifications for the Speakers' Bureau:

- ▶ Strong familiarity with the Fairfax County CERT Program
- ► Regular attendance at monthly Program Meetings
- ▶ Attendance at a Graduate Orientation class at least once per year
- ▶ Support the mission of organization
- ▶ Recognized as a skilled speaker within the CERT Program or local community (e.g., CERT instructor, OEM presenter, community leader, etc.)
- ▶ Experience in the specific area of knowledge being requested for the presentation

Additional desired qualifications include having an existing relationship with the audience who requested the speaking engagement and possessing a language skill or other specialized training (FRA Adjunct, etc.). Attendance at one or two CERT trainings per year is important.

The pandemic afforded us the time to put in writing documents on how to do things according to current procedures. The Outreach Section is part of the CERT Manual. These are "living" documents as we realize things will change and updates will be needed. New in the summer of 2021, the Outreach Section will have a training on working an Outreach event. This will familiarize interested CERT volunteers with setting up equipment, knowing what to expect when visitors come by the CERT booth, the important emergency preparedness information everyone should have, and CERT capabilities and support.

There is an Outreach event toolkit with instructions for each aspect of working an event. If you think you'd like to be part of this, please look for the Outreach Event training and sign up when it's scheduled.





"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

Fairfax County, VA

If you have any questions or would like to join the Outreach committee, please email: Outreach@FairfaxCountyCERT.org

We are looking forward to getting back out there when events reopen. At this time, National Night Out has been confirmed for August 3rd through the National Association of Town Watches. It is up to individual communities if they are holding an event for this. Please check with your community to see if they are. If you would like to work this event in your community, let Outreach know and we will get you the materials you need.

Hope to see you when we reach the "new normal"!

The Training Division

Welcoming Wayne V. as the CERT Volunteer Training Division (Acting) Head

Elvia F.



Wayne V., CERT class 133 was appointed as CERT Volunteer Training Division (Acting) Head effective April 1st, reporting the CERT Volunteer Lead. Wayne brings valuable experience and a breadth of knowledge and skills to his new position. As an active CERT volunteer, he's been involved with most of our community classes and trainings since March 2018, including CERT Basic, radio workshops, communications exercises, Stop the Bleed assistant, Neighborhood Team Leader, National Night Out and is an EMItrained instructor. He was a contributing member and primary author for a small team of instructors (CBT3) who developed our current hybrid CERT Basic class that enabled our county CERT program to offer classes thru the COVID pandemic. Most recently, in addition to his Training Division duties, Wayne is leading the effort to prepare the training materials as well as CERT Green Machine to use with hands-on training in a community engagement setting.

We give a warm welcome to Wayne and his Training Team of leaders and cadre! The Training Division has the huge responsibility for designing, planning, and scheduling the curriculum for future CERT Basic classes, CERT continuing education for CERT graduates, and Advanced classes, as well as instructor training and development. A core curriculum of class offerings has been planned for the remaining 2021 year – see the listing in this newsletter. More classes to come!

You can reach Wayne at TrainingDiv@FairfaxCountyCERT.org

Follow us on Social Media • Go to our Websites

Kelly O.

FairfaxCountyCERT

FairfaxCountyCERT @FairfaxCountyCERT in Fairfax County CERT

Public Website

CERT Volunteer Website

FairfaxCountyCERT.org CERT.FairfaxCountyCERT.org





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Stephen Arthur Richardson

Honoring His Memory and His Contributions

Kelly O.



On May 2, 2021, we suffered a great loss to our Fairfax County CERT family when Stephen Richardson passed. Steve was passionate about community awareness and response. Steve selflessly gave back to our community many times over with his years of volunteer service.

He lived and breathed CERT since graduating from Class 14 in 2006. Up until last year, Steve maintained our CERT logistics trailers and inventory which were key to us being a successful emergency response training organization. In 2019, Steve won the Volunteer Fairfax Award for outstanding Fairfax County Government Volunteer. He was also recognized with numerous President's Volunteer Service Awards over the years for his continuing service to the Fairfax County CERT Program.



Steve volunteered as a canteen driver for the Greater Springfield Volunteer Fire Department, Station 422. This canteen has been a huge support to our CERTs and the Fire and Rescue volunteers during our continuing local food distribution events.

Steve was an active scout leader and volunteer at ECHO, Inc. (Ecumenical Community Helping Others), He was featured in The Connection Newspaper in 2017 during a Scouting for Food in Springfield food drive.



Steve's years of service have had a huge impact on the community and the friends he made along the way. He will be greatly missed.

Read More about Steve Richardson

- ► The Connection Article, "Scouting For Food in Springfield https://bit.ly/3yLE8gx
- ► United States Navy, "Tribute & Services" https://bit.ly/3yPe5VF











"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

Fairfax County, VA

Know Your CERT Acronyms! A Quick Refresher

Kelly O.



Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment

Allows first responders to triage multiple victims in 30 seconds or less.



Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear High-Yield Explosives The five categories of possible terrorist weapons.



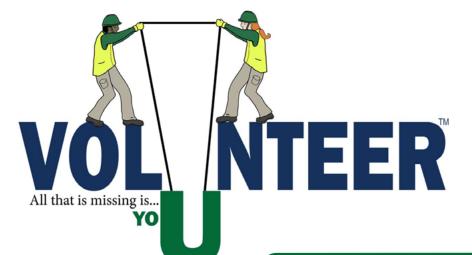
Recognize Avoid Isolate Notify

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



Signs and symptoms - Allergies - Medications - Previous SAMPLE Problems - Last food or drink - Events

Used to perform a assessment of medical 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





"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

July 2021 Fairfax County, VA

July 2021

Save the Date

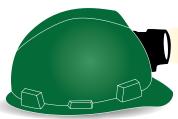
Training Outreach Operations Planning/Meeting Lead Meetings Pending

SUNDAY	Monday	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Leadership Business Meeting	7	8 Traffic & Crowd Mgmt (TCM)	9 TCM Practical	Training Trailer Reorganizing (Training Cadre)
11	CERT Basic Welcome Meeting	13 Leadership Update Meeting	14 First Aid	Blood Borne Pathogens	16	17
18	19	Program Pre-Meeting Monthly Program Meeting	21 CPR/AED	CERT Basic Skills (Class 167)	23	24
25 CERT Radio Workshop	26	27 Refuse to be a Victim Blood Borne Pathogens	28	29	30	31

August 2021

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	WEDNESDAY	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 CERT Basic Welcome Meeting	3 NNO National Night Out Introduction to HazMat	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Leadership Business Meeting	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Program Pre-Meeting Monthly Program Meeting	18 CERT Emergency Communication	19	20	21
22 CERT Radio Workshop	23	24	25 Blood Borne Pathogens	26 CERT Cribbing	27	28
29	30	31				





"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

July 2021 Fairfax County, VA

September 2021

Save the Date

Training Outreach Operations Planning/Meeting Lead Meetings Pending

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	WEDNESDAY	Thursday	Friday	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	Z Leadership Business Meeting	8 Stop the Bleed	9	CERT Basic Skills (Class 168)	11
12	CERT Basic Welcome Meeting	14	15 CERT Cribbing	16	17	18
19	20	Program Pre-Meeting Monthly Program Meeting	22	23	24	25
26 CERT Radio Workshop	27	28	29 Stop the Bleed	30		

October 2021

SUNDAY	Monday	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	Friday	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4 CERT Basic Welcome Meeting	5 Leadership Business Meeting	6 CPR/AED	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Open House FRD
17	18	Program Pre-Meeting Monthly Program Meeting	20 Community Assessment Program	21	22	23
24 Radio Workshop	25	26	27	28 CERT Basic Skills (Class 169)	29	30





"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

July 2021 Fairfax County, VA



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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 October 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!