

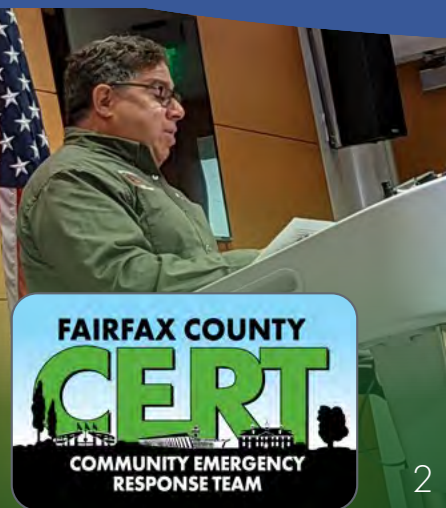


# THE GREEN HELMET

Neighbors Helping Neighbors  
July 2025



## THANK YOU JEFF!



Sponsored by  
Fairfax County  
Fire & Rescue



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# Thank You Jeff!

## Fairfax County CERT's Program Manager Is Retiring

Dana P.

### You Can't Mention Fairfax County CERT Without Mentioning Jeffrey Katz

Jeff has been the program manager, and the heart and soul of our CERT program since he came to work with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department (FRD) in July 2007.

As the new Volunteer Liaison for the FRD, one of Jeff's duties was to manage the CERT program. Jeff took on this responsibility with excitement and enthusiasm. In the last 18 years, he has brought the program to a level that is almost inconceivable.

In 2007, the CERT program taught two to four classes in the Spring and again in the Fall of each year, not really thinking about what happens "after." This left many CERT trained individuals with a new-found knowledge of preparedness and emergency response, but nowhere to use this knowledge.

Recognizing this, Jeff went to work developing new training classes for CERTs who wanted to go further, offering classes such as CPR/AED, First Aid, ICS training, Traffic and Crowd Management, and other advanced classes to raise the qualifications and value of CERT members. And, more recently, classes such as Stop the Bleed, Surviving an Active Shooter, Emergency Vehicle Operations, and forklift training have been offered.

Jeff also recognized that, as the program grew, there would need to be a hierarchy in place within the CERT program, and he recruited key members at the time to form the Fairfax County CERT Steering Committee. This committee met monthly to help guide the program and develop a path forward. This body continued to be a guiding force within the CERT program and grew into our current CERT volunteer leadership.

Jeff's vision for the CERT program was and is limitless. He has been an integral part, if not the key factor, in the success and national recognition of the Fairfax County CERT program. He has an innate sense of people, and he knows who would be successful in certain roles within the program. By recognizing the skills and talents that individual CERT members possess, he craftily recruits them to take on larger roles in the leadership team. It is hard, if not impossible, to say no to him!

### Being Resourceful Is One of Jeffrey's Other Major Talents!

He uses his knowledge of the county system and the network he has cultivated to help advance the CERT program in numerous ways. Forging relationships with personnel within the FRD and other county agencies has proven to be a useful method for enhancing the CERT team's recognition and value across the county. Whether it was the personnel at the Fire and Rescue Academy, the FRD Apparatus Division, the Volunteer Fire Departments (VFD) in Fairfax County, or Facilities Management for the county, Jeff has worked his charm



and magic to procure assets and equipment for the CERT program. He was able to persuade the Centreville VFD to donate their old canteen to CERT so that they could have their first vehicle. Other volunteer stations such as Franconia and Greater Springfield have partnered with CERT as well, thanks to Jeff. He has advanced the CERT program at every turn.

### **Being a Program Manager Also Means You Must Be Able To Manage a Budget**

For the first 15 years, the CERT Program was funded by a FEMA grant and Jeff worked within that budget to keep the program up and thriving. Recognizing that this grant could go away at some point, Jeff made sure to alert the Fire Chief and FRD Fiscal Services Division that one day, the FRD may have to fund the CERT program if they wanted to keep it viable. This did happen a few years ago, and the FRD took over the funding of the program, ensuring its survival into the future.

In the same fashion, Jeff recognized that the CERT program may have to be self-sufficient someday, and he encouraged the leadership to form an association and obtain 501(c)3 status, which they did. This has allowed the CERT Association to have some autonomy and gives them the ability to fundraise and purchase items that weren't covered by the grant or the FRD.

Fairfax County CERT has been in existence since 2003. For 18 of those years, Jeffrey Katz has been leading this consistently growing and successful program with determination, grace, insight, and humor. He will leave a mark on the CERT program well into the future and for as long as it lives.

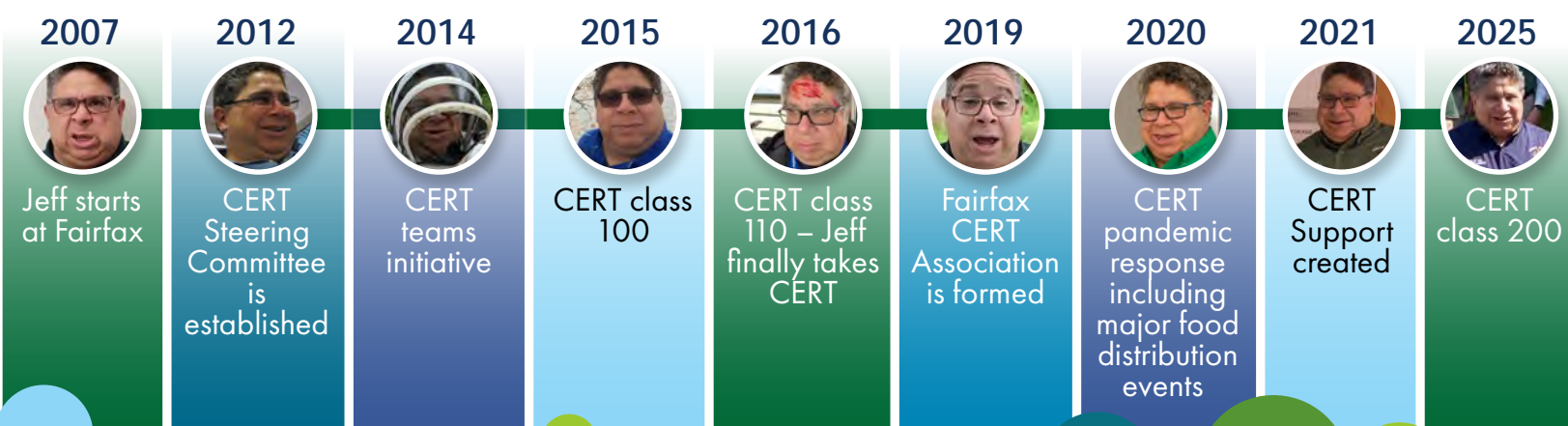
### **Yes, the Fairfax County CERT Program and Jeffrey Katz Go Hand-in-Hand, and You Can't Mention One Without the Other**

As we say goodbye to Jeff, it's hard for many of us to fathom what it will be like without him. But we will forge on and try to keep up the standards that he has set in place and hope to make him proud of the program, his career, and all that he has accomplished for the FRD, the CERT program and the residents of Fairfax County.



# The Jeff Timeline

Julie T.



## Retirement Party for Jeff!

Kim S.

As previously announced, Jeffrey Katz will be retiring as the Office of Volunteer Liaison and CERT Program Manager for the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department in September of this year. It is altogether fitting that our greater CERT Community gather to celebrate Jeffrey's achievements and his legacy and thank him for his tireless service to our County and our Program, and wish him and Roberta a bon voyage as they drive off into retirement.

**Who:** ALL CERT Volunteers and their significant others (adults only) are invited –and encouraged– to attend and join in this special celebration

**When:** August 19, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

**Where:** Fairfax County Public Safety Headquarters  
Room 2105/07  
12099 Government Center Pkwy, Fairfax, VA

**RSVP No Later Than August 13th on Sign Up Genius**

[signupgenius.com/go/10C084FA5A629A5F4CE9-57290760-aug19#/](https://signupgenius.com/go/10C084FA5A629A5F4CE9-57290760-aug19#/)

Please include the names and number of any guests to help facilitate planning for food and arrangements. If you can bring an appetizer or dessert or help in other ways, please indicate that on Sign Up Genius.

**For More Details About a Group Card and Gift for Jeff**  
please email [Community@FairfaxcountyCERT.org](mailto:Community@FairfaxcountyCERT.org) to request information

# We Saved CERT!

## Amazing Teamwork

Julie T.

# WE DID IT!



# HAS BEEN SAVED!

When the preliminary Fairfax County budget for 2026 came out, not only had the CERT program funding been cut, but the program was slated to be eliminated entirely. Jeff K. and Dana P. thought we could save the program if we rallied our members and supporters to contact the members of the Board of Supervisors.

Watkins G. did a great job organizing the effort and keeping everyone informed of what we could do. Many CERTs wrote letters, sent emails, and made phone calls to board members. We got letters of support from groups we have helped and from other CERT teams.

Ray K. and Jerry A. were instrumental in getting coverage on TV news and in local publications. Kelly O. kept our social media channels active, and Marshall L. kept the website updated with opportunities for people to participate. Susy L. quickly compiled last year's volunteer hours, so we could use our community contributions in support of our cause.

Many CERT members made appearances at budget information meetings and full board hearings. Annie O.,

Linda W., Laura B., and others spoke in person to their supervisors or chiefs of staff. Several members signed up to speak at the full board budget meetings, including Ross B., Watkins G., Jonah L., Alex V., and Travis C. Many CERTs were present in support of these speakers at all three nights of the full board meetings.

Watkins reported that the board was impressed with the amount of support that we had for the program, both from CERT members and outside groups. Watkins and Elvia F. planned to thank each of the supervisors. This was a great showing by our program, and we proved what we can do when we work together. All this effort paid off, with the final budget restoring both the CERT program and its funding.

We would like to thank the entire Board of Supervisors for recognizing the value that we provide to the county and continuing our funding so we can help keep our county prepared.

# 2025 Hurricane Season

Above Normal Hurricane Activity This Season

Ginny K.



According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Atlantic basin is in for above normal hurricane activity this season, which runs from June 1st through November 30th. Hurricanes are not just a coastal problem. The wind, rain, flooding, and tornadoes can happen far from where the hurricane made landfall.

Plan ahead by preparing an emergency plan for your household. This includes how you will receive emergency alerts, a shelter plan, an evacuation plan, a communication plan, and an emergency preparedness kit. Information on putting together your plans can be found on [Ready.gov/Hurricanes](https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes). Be sure to include the specific needs of your household in the plans.

During a hurricane, pay attention to alerts and other emergency information, including evacuation orders. Take refuge in interior rooms for high winds and the highest level of the building for flooding. Do not go into a closed attic. Do not drive, walk or swim through flood water.

After the hurricane has passed, pay attention to local alerts and instructions. Do not go into floodwater, as it can contain chemicals, debris, waste, and other hazards. Floodwater can also be hazardous due to electrical equipment and downed power lines. Wear protective clothing, including an N95 mask, if cleaning up after flooding. Work with a buddy.



References: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), [Ready.gov/Hurricanes](https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes) (FEMA)

# North Carolina CERT Responds to Hurricane Helene Damage

Julie T.

Information received from the North Carolina Joint Information Center via Samantha Royster, North Carolina CERT Program Manager.

Last fall, Hurricane Helene caused extensive flooding in western North Carolina. According to Samantha Royster, the situation was deemed too dangerous to send CERTs to the flooded areas, but CERTs helped out in many “virtual” ways.

CERT team members logged about 3500 hours helping manned posts at the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and NC United Way 211 call center. CERTs at the EOC helped out at the front desk 12 hours a day and greeted teams as they checked in. Some helped in logistics and finding housing for visiting first responders.

Throughout Helene recovery, 211 was used as a resource for people in NC or outside the state to report missing people or request wellness checks for friends and family. For weeks, CERT volunteers managed highly sensitive and emotional phone calls.

This was a great example of how lots of agencies can work together allowing everyone to use their skills.



Photo source: NCDOTcommunications - \_damage\_after\_Hurricane\_Helene\_floods

# Food Safety in a Disaster

## Planning for an Emergency or Power Outage

Ginny K.



### Food Safety Is Important When Considering Items for Your Emergency Food Supply

And, managing food during a relatively short power outage or a longer disaster is important as well. Perishable foods can go bad quickly.

Planning for your emergency food supply needs to take into consideration any special dietary needs in your household and what your family will eat. Remember that you will be rotating your supplies and eating the “old” supplies before they expire! Avoid foods that will make you thirsty. Have a minimum three-day supply of non-perishable food on hand. This can include canned meats, fruits, and vegetables; energy bars; granola or dry cereal; peanut butter; dried fruit; shelf-stable milk and juice; food for infants; and don’t forget the can opener.

Perishable food that is not kept at or under 40°F spoils quickly. Most refrigerators will keep food cold for about four hours if unopened. Use a refrigerator thermometer to be sure. Discard any meat, poultry, fish, eggs, leftovers, or other perishables that have been above 40°F for more than two hours. Frozen food that has thawed can still be eaten if it is 40°F or below. It can be re-frozen if there are still ice crystals in it. “When in doubt, throw it out.”

Remember to keep food in covered containers and keep cooking utensils clean. Throw away any food that has come in contact with floodwater, been at room temperature for two hours or more, or has an unusual color, odor or texture. Use ready-to-feed formula, or use bottled or boiled water. Don’t eat food from cans that are swollen, dented or corroded. Don’t eat any food that smells abnormal, even if it looks good. Always take trash outside.

### During a Disaster, Cooking May Need To Be Done With Alternative Methods

Use of grills and camp stoves must be done outside and away from windows and other openings. Other methods include a fireplace, candle warmers, chafing dishes, or fondue pots. Commercially canned foods can be eaten out of the can without warming. To heat food in a can, remove the label, wash the can and disinfect with a bleach solution (1 part bleach to 10 parts water) to remove contaminants. Always open the can before heating.

Don’t forget other food safety practices, such as washing your hands before preparing food and using a food thermometer to ensure that food has been cooked to safe temperatures.

When planning for a disaster, it is a good idea to source supplies of ice or dry ice that would be useful in a localized power outage.

References: [FoodSafety.gov](https://www.foodsafety.gov), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

# Heat-related Illness

Everyone Needs To Take Precautions

Ginny K.



The hot weather is here for the summer, and probably into the fall season as well. Everyone needs to take precautions to avoid a heat-related illness. Especially susceptible are children, seniors, overweight individuals, those who over-exert during exercise or work, those with certain medical conditions such as high blood pressure, heart disease, or taking some medications.

## Tips for Staying Cool:

- ▶ Stay indoors in the air conditioning. Go to a shopping mall, library or other public place if needed. Find a cooling site if necessary.
- ▶ Limit outdoor activities.
- ▶ Stay hydrated with water and stay away from sugary or alcoholic beverages. Check with your health care provider if you have diabetes, high blood pressure, or other conditions that limit water or salt consumption for hydration instructions during hot weather.
- ▶ Stay in the shade.

## When Working Outside in the Heat:

- ▶ Know the warning signs and symptoms of heat-related illness, and how to treat them.
- ▶ Work with a buddy, and look out for each other.
- ▶ Work during the cooler times of the day if possible.
- ▶ Pace yourself and take breaks indoors or in the shade.
- ▶ Stay hydrated with water; and for working more than two hours, electrolyte beverages.

## FEMA's Heat Signs and Response Actions:

### Heat Cramps

- ▶ **Signs:** Muscle pains or spasms in the stomach, arms or legs.
- ▶ **Actions:** Go to a cooler location, remove excess clothing and take sips of cool sports drinks with salt and sugar. If cramps last more than an hour, get medical help.

## Heat Exhaustion

- ▶ **Signs:** Heavy sweating, paleness, muscle cramps, tiredness, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea or vomiting, fainting.
- ▶ **Actions:** Go to an air-conditioned place and lie down. Loosen or remove clothing. Take a cool bath. Take sips of cool sports drinks containing electrolytes like salt and sugar. Get medical help if symptoms get worse or last more than an hour.

## Heat Stroke

- ▶ **Signs:** Extremely high body temperature (above 103 degrees) indicated by an oral thermometer; red, hot, and dry skin with no sweat; rapid, strong pulse; dizziness; confusion; and unconsciousness.
- ▶ **Actions:** Heat stroke is a medical emergency. Call 9-1-1 or get the person to a hospital immediately. Cool down with whatever methods are available until medical help arrives.

References: Safety & Health, an NSC Publication; Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC); Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

# Tick Check

## To Reduce Risks

Ginny K.



Ticks are most active in the warmer months and live in grassy or wooded areas. Preventing exposure to ticks is your best defense against their bites that can carry diseases. Being outside, even in your own backyard, can put you at risk of coming into contact with ticks.

To reduce this risk, tuck long pants into your socks, treat outerwear and gear with 0.5% permethrin. Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus (OLE), para-menthane-diol (PMD), or 2-undecanone. Do not use OLE or

PMD on children under 3 years. Avoid walking in wooded areas with high grass and leaves, and walk in the center of trails. To reduce ticks in your yard, remove leaf litter and brush, mow frequently, remove trash piles and discourage wildlife from entering your yard. Keep playground equipment and decks away from trees.

When you come indoors, do a tick check on your clothing, gear, pets and yourself. Wash clothing in hot water or put dry clothes in the dryer for 10 minutes on high heat. Take a shower and check yourself for ticks. Be sure to check under your arms, in and around your ears, belly button, back of knees, in and around your hair, between your legs, and around your waist. Use a mirror to check hard-to-reach areas. Some ticks can be quite small! Check your pets as well.

If you do find a tick on yourself, family member, or pet, remove it immediately. If it is not attached, just remove it. If it is attached, use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible and pull upward with steady, even pressure. If the tick's mouth parts break off, remove them with the tweezers. If the parts cannot be removed, leave them alone and let the skin heal. Clean your hands and the bite area thoroughly with soap and water or rubbing alcohol. Dispose of the tick by flushing it down the toilet, putting it in rubbing alcohol, placing it in a sealed bag, or wrapping it tightly in tape – never crush it with your fingers. Consult your doctor if you develop a rash or fever within several weeks of removing the tick.

## Fairfax County Disease Carrying Insects Program

[Fairfaxcounty.gov/health/fightthebite/](https://fairfaxcounty.gov/health/fightthebite/)

Reference: Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



# Hasty Search Training

## CERT Team Exercise

Jonah L.

On March 25th, I participated in the Fairfax County CERT Battalion 401 Hasty Search Training exercise held at the Wolftrap station. During this exercise, I was paired with a partner and we were assigned to search the surrounding neighborhood for simulated accidents and disasters. At each staged emergency, we had to assess the scene, identify the type of incident, count and record the number of victims, and report our findings to command using the radio. We repeated this process throughout the cul-de-sac, ensuring we thoroughly documented each scenario and communicated effectively with the team.

This drill was a valuable refresher of core CERT skills such as rapid assessment, communication, and teamwork. One of the most beneficial parts of the experience was being paired with a more experienced CERT member. I was able to learn firsthand from their approach to the search, their attention to detail, and the way they prioritized safety and accuracy when reporting. In addition, observing how things worked at the command post gave me a deeper understanding of how field reports are used to organize a broader emergency response.

I highly recommend this training to anyone involved in CERT, whether you're new or have experience. The hands-on nature of the drill helps reinforce classroom knowledge, and working in a more realistic environment gives you a much better sense of what a real emergency might feel like. It's also a great opportunity to learn from others and strengthen your skills in a team setting.



# Canteen Corner

## Deployment Opportunities

Char S.



### The Fallen Firefighter's Memorial

The CERT Canteen was invited for the first time to participate in the National Fallen Firefighter's Memorial set-up day on Friday, May 2, 2025. Marshall & Char attended the all-day event in Emmitsburg, MD.

### Upcoming Fall Training

- ▶ Friday, October 3rd - Informational Meeting
- ▶ Thursday, October 9th - Radio Training
- ▶ Saturday, October 18th - Deployment Training\*

*\* This is the first of several Deployment Training opportunities based upon demand as well as refresher training opportunities that will be available.*

### New Changes Coming

CAN400 will soon have new solar-powered refrigerated coolers installed in the vehicle. This change will allow our teams to avoid having to go from CERT Station to the Fire Academy to "ice up" before departing on a run - cutting our response time considerably.



# Hands Only CPR in Spanish

Berkdale Apartments in Herndon

Julie T.

CERT was asked by the Fairfax Department of Emergency Management and Security to run a Spanish-language hands-only CPR class, requested by a predominantly Hispanic community. On May 31, at the Berkdale Apartments in Herndon, we made our first attempt at teaching hands-only CPR in Spanish. Kim S. staffed an outreach table with lots of Spanish-language preparedness materials. Watkins G. assisted with preparing the lecture material. Mary S. and Nick C. brought a CERT canteen out and did a show-and-tell for the kids.

The basics of hands-only CPR were presented in a small community room with Elvia F. and Santos D. as our fluent Spanish speakers. After the presentation, students broke into small groups for practice on manikins. CERTs with a range of language skills worked with the small groups and communicated with the use of phrase lists, demonstrations, and help from bilingual students.

The community seemed very interested in increasing its emergency response capabilities.



# Prepare Continuously To Be Prepared

## Let's Discuss Fire Extinguishers

Julie T.

In the last issue, we mentioned finding your fire extinguishers. While doing so, ensure that fire extinguishers are charged and inspected and first aid kits are stocked. It may not be your job, but if no one does it, supplies won't be there when you need them. For your home, manufacturers recommend checking smoke alarms and fire extinguishers monthly.

Fire extinguishers are generally required in public buildings, but it is up to you to have them at home. Fairfax County FRD has the following recommendations on home fire extinguishers:

- ▶ For the home, select a multi-purpose extinguisher (can be used on all types of home fires) that is large enough to put out a small fire, but not so heavy as to be difficult to handle.
- ▶ Choose a fire extinguisher that carries the label of an independent testing laboratory.
- ▶ Read the instructions that come with the fire extinguisher and become familiar with its parts and operation before a fire breaks out.
- ▶ Install fire extinguishers close to an exit and keep your back to a clear exit when you use the device so you can make an easy escape if the fire cannot be controlled. If the room fills with smoke, leave immediately.
- ▶ Know when to go. Fire extinguishers are one element of a fire response plan, but the primary element is safe escape. Every household should have a home fire escape plan and working smoke alarms.



# A Summer Message from Your CERT Training Division

Robby D.

Hello CERT Members,

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer so far—whether you're soaking up the sun, traveling, or just spending time with family and friends. Please continue to stay safe while enjoying the heat and your well-deserved adventures!

As we move into the second half of the year, I want to take a moment to encourage everyone to get re-engaged with CERT training. We have a busy and exciting schedule ahead, with multiple CERT Continuing Education (CCE) opportunities and three CERT Basic classes still on the calendar.

If you're already part of the Training Division but haven't been active recently, I challenge you to get back in the game—your experience and presence matter. If you're not yet involved with the Training Division but have an interest, now is the perfect time to step up. We can train you, support you, and give you the tools you need to succeed.

All we ask is that you bring your motivation and a willingness to be part of something impactful. The Training Division is where we shape the future of CERT—and we need people like you to help lead the way.

I'm also beginning to plan next year's training calendar, and I'd love to hear from you. If there are classes or topics you'd like to see added in 2026, please let me know! I can't promise everything—but I'll do my best to make it happen.

Additionally, we're tentatively planning a CERT Training Division meeting for Saturday, August 16th from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, which will include a potluck lunch. I'd love to see everyone there—it'll be a great opportunity to reconnect, share ideas, and build momentum for the rest of the year. An official notification will follow once the details are finalized.

If you're ready to get involved, or if you have questions about how to get started, please don't hesitate to reach out. Let's make the rest of this year count!

Stay safe and stay CERT strong,

Robby Drapela

Deputy Program Manager | Director of Training



# CERT Trivia Quiz

## Test Your Knowledge

Alex V.

### New July Trivia Quiz!

*Answers in the October 2025 Edition of the Green Helmet*

- 1 In your emergency supply kit, you discover a package of 'shelf stable' crackers stamped with a date that is three months ago. The box does not indicate if it's a "use by". Should you...  
A) Smell, inspect, maybe even taste a sample  
B) If the tests in answer 'A' check out, keep the box for emergency use  
C) Rotate the box out of the kit, but it is still safe to eat  
D) Toss the box  
E) Answers A, B and C
- 2 In budget year 2024, Fairfax County CERT program volunteers provided the county with hours that are equivalent to how much paid employee time:  
A) \$50,000  
B) \$250,000  
C) Over \$1,000,000  
D) Over \$2,000,000
- 3 In the event of an exposure to a hazardous chemical, item or poison, what safety steps should you follow:  
A) Seek medical attention for screening and professional treatment  
B) Drink only safely stored water  
C) If you are outdoors, get as far away as possible from the contaminant  
D) Move upwind (and uphill, if possible) away from the hazardous material  
E) All of the above
- 4 When it is hot outside, to prevent heat-related illnesses you should:  
A) Never leave anyone sitting in a closed, parked car without air conditioning  
B) Drink plenty of water, even if you are not thirsty  
C) Use sunscreen  
D) Move to a cool place at the first sign of heat-related illness  
E) All of the above

### Answers from April's Green Helmet Trivia Quiz

- 1 According to the CDC, what is the most common way that COVID and the Flu are spread?  
**ANSWER:** B) Respiratory droplets from an infected person
- 2 When arriving on the scene of a structural disaster with a CERT group, what should we do if we smell natural gas?  
**ANSWER:** D) All of the above
- 3 According to the American College of Surgeons, what is the number one cause of preventable death from trauma?  
**ANSWER:** B) Uncontrolled bleeding
- 4 Which skill listed below is not included in CERT basic training?  
**ANSWER:** D) Major disaster response
- 5 When you are awakened by the smoke alarm outside your bedroom, what should you do?  
**ANSWER:** D) All of the above

# CERT Word Find

Find Words Used in This Newsletter

Kelly O.

Find the following words hidden below:

- ▶ Spanish
- ▶ Heat
- ▶ Celebrate
- ▶ Hydrate
- ▶ Hasty
- ▶ Perishable
- ▶ Funding
- ▶ DEET
- ▶ Tick
- ▶ Oceanic
- ▶ Food
- ▶ Exposure

P	E	R	I	S	H	A	B	L	E	Q	E	W	R	T	Y	U	I	O
A	S	D	F	G	A	H	J	K	X	L	Z	X	C	V	B	N	M	C
Q	X	C	W	E	S	R	V	B	P	N	M	H	Y	D	R	A	T	E
H	Y	D	F	G	T	I	C	K	O	T	H	R	W	X	Q	D	F	A
X	C	V	Q	W	Y	E	R	T	S	P	A	N	I	S	H	Y	N	N
B	G	F	U	N	D	I	N	G	U	D	F	G	T	E	E	G	F	I
B	M	O	N	H	E	Q	W	C	R	V	B	N	M	L	B	N	O	C
F	O	O	M	Z	E	A	C	C	E	L	E	B	R	A	T	E	O	V
S	X	H	E	A	T	D	E	R	T	Y	B	N	M	Z	X	C	D	W
E	R	T	Y	A	S	D	F	G	H	C	V	Z	X	C	V	A	S	D

# Know Your CERT Acronyms!

A Quick Refresher

Kelly O.

AAR

## After Action Review

Usually a written debrief of event: what happened, how can it be improved (Also known as "Hot Wash" when given orally)

EMI

## Emergency Management Institute

Offers FEMA classes

SOP

## Standard Operating Procedure

Set of step-by-step instructions that outline how to perform a specific task or process within an organization

NGO

## Non-Governmental Organization

e.g. Doctors without Borders.

Learn More: [FairfaxCountyCERT.org/faq-items/acronyms-abbreviations-definitions/](https://FairfaxCountyCERT.org/faq-items/acronyms-abbreviations-definitions/)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:Newsletter@FairfaxCountyCERT.org)**

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# AUGUST 2025

Training
Outreach & Comm Engagement
Operations/TCM
Planning/Meeting
Lead Meetings  
Canteen
Fundraiser
Role Play/Victim Actors
Not CERT Related (Holidays/Special Days)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 TCM-Unity in the Community	2
3	4	5 National Night Out	6 Ft. Belvoir Joint All Hazards Response Expo	7	8	9 TCM-Back to School Festival NVFRD LDI Training Exercise
10 NVFRD LDI Training Exercise	11	12	13	14	15	16 CERT Training Division Meeting - Potluck
17	18	19 *Jeff's Fantastic Farewell* Monthly Program Meeting 	20	21 Police CDU Role Players	22	23 Police CDU Role Players
24 CERT Radio Team Workshops 30	25	26	27 Team Time Chat Virtual Monthly Meeting	28	29	30

# SEPTEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Labor Day	2	3	4	5	6 Community Emergency Preparedness Expo
7 TCM-Holy Spirit Church Picnic	8	9 Ft. Belvoir Integrated Protection Exercise Victim Actors	10	11	12	13 Stop the Bleed Be Stroke Smart Traffic and Crowd Management NGA Family Day
14	15	16 Pre-Meeting Program Meeting	17	18	19 TEEX - PER334 When Disaster Strikes	20 TEEX - PER334 When Disaster Strikes
21	22 Rosh Hashana Eve	23 Rosh Hashana	24 Team Time Chat Virtual Monthly Meeting	25	26	27
28 CERT Radio Team Workshops Walk Out of Darkness	29	30				



## FAIRFAX COUNTY CERT LEADERSHIP

NAME	CONTACT INFORMATION
Jeffrey Katz	<a href="mailto:Jeffrey.Katz@FairfaxCounty.gov">Jeffrey.Katz@FairfaxCounty.gov</a>
Dana Powers	<a href="mailto:Dana.Powers@FairfaxCounty.gov">Dana.Powers@FairfaxCounty.gov</a>
Robby Drapela	<a href="mailto:DeputyProgramManager@FairfaxCountyCERT.org">DeputyProgramManager@FairfaxCountyCERT.org</a>
Elvia F.	<a href="mailto:Lead@FairfaxCountyCERT.org">Lead@FairfaxCountyCERT.org</a>
Watkins G.	<a href="mailto:DeputyLead@FairfaxCountyCERT.org">DeputyLead@FairfaxCountyCERT.org</a>
Robby Drapela	<a href="mailto:Training@FairfaxCountyCERT.org">Training@FairfaxCountyCERT.org</a>
Cory G.	<a href="mailto:TrainingDeputy@FairfaxCountyCERT.org">TrainingDeputy@FairfaxCountyCERT.org</a>
Sandy H.	<a href="mailto:AdminCoord1@FairfaxCountyCERT.org">AdminCoord1@FairfaxCountyCERT.org</a>
Jim McP.	<a href="mailto:StratPlng@FairfaxCountyCERT.org">StratPlng@FairfaxCountyCERT.org</a>
James S.	<a href="mailto:Operations@FairfaxCountyCERT.org">Operations@FairfaxCountyCERT.org</a>
Kim S.	<a href="mailto:Community@FairfaxCountyCERT.org">Community@FairfaxCountyCERT.org</a>
Doug G.	<a href="mailto:Outreach@FairfaxCountyCERT.org">Outreach@FairfaxCountyCERT.org</a>
Ginny K.	<a href="mailto:OutreachDeputy@FairfaxCountyCERT.org">OutreachDeputy@FairfaxCountyCERT.org</a>
Ross B.	<a href="mailto:Advisor@FairfaxCountyCERT.org">Advisor@FairfaxCountyCERT.org</a>
Kim S.	<a href="mailto:Orientation@FairfaxCountyCERT.org">Orientation@FairfaxCountyCERT.org</a>
Marco J.	<a href="mailto:Teams@FairfaxCountyCERT.org">Teams@FairfaxCountyCERT.org</a>
Char S.	<a href="mailto:CERTCanteen@FairfaxCountyCERT.org">CERTCanteen@FairfaxCountyCERT.org</a>
Don T., Lani Y.	<a href="mailto:Logistics@FairfaxCountyCERT.org">Logistics@FairfaxCountyCERT.org</a>
Ginny K.	<a href="mailto:Safety@FairfaxCountyCERT.org">Safety@FairfaxCountyCERT.org</a>
Susy L.	<a href="mailto:Rosters@FairfaxCountyCERT.org">Rosters@FairfaxCountyCERT.org</a>
Susy L.	<a href="mailto:Moulage@FairfaxCountyCERT.org">Moulage@FairfaxCountyCERT.org</a>
Marshall L.	<a href="mailto:Website@fairfaxcountycert.org">Website@fairfaxcountycert.org</a>
Kelly O.	<a href="mailto:Marketing@FairfaxCountyCERT.org">Marketing@FairfaxCountyCERT.org</a>
Jerry A.	<a href="mailto:CERTAdmin@FairfaxCountyCERT.org">CERTAdmin@FairfaxCountyCERT.org</a>
Charlie H.	<a href="mailto:Facilities@FairfaxCountyCERT.org">Facilities@FairfaxCountyCERT.org</a>



## FAIRFAX COUNTY CERT ASSOCIATION

NAME	CONTACT INFORMATION
Marshall L.	<a href="mailto:President@FairfaxCERTAssociation.org">President@FairfaxCERTAssociation.org</a>
Cory G.	<a href="mailto:VP@FairfaxCERTAssociation.org">VP@FairfaxCERTAssociation.org</a>
Julie T.	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@FairfaxCERTAssociation.org">Treasurer@FairfaxCERTAssociation.org</a>
Ray K.	<a href="mailto:Secretary@FairfaxCERTAssociation.org">Secretary@FairfaxCERTAssociation.org</a>
Thomas W.	<a href="mailto:MAL1@FairfaxCERTAssociation.org">MAL1@FairfaxCERTAssociation.org</a>
Char S.	<a href="mailto:MAL2@FairfaxCERTAssociation.org">MAL2@FairfaxCERTAssociation.org</a>
Elvia F.	<a href="mailto:Lead@FairfaxCountyCERT.org">Lead@FairfaxCountyCERT.org</a>
Jeffrey Katz	<a href="mailto:Jeffrey.Katz@FairfaxCounty.gov">Jeffrey.Katz@FairfaxCounty.gov</a>

### 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 2025**

Do you have any questions 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](mailto:Newsletter@FairfaxCountyCERT.org). Neighborhood teams – we'd love to hear what you are doing. Let us know!

### More Contact Information

[FairfaxCountyCERT.org/members/fairfax-cert-program-organization/leadership](https://FairfaxCountyCERT.org/members/fairfax-cert-program-organization/leadership)

Read Previous Editions of The Green Helmet:  
[FairfaxCountyCERT.org/news-events/newsletter](https://FairfaxCountyCERT.org/news-events/newsletter)