

**Community Emergency Response Team**



Introduction  
*Pleasant Hill*

Released: 3 September 2021      Contra Costa CERT Coalition

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**Welcome**

Welcome to Pleasant Hill CERT basic training.

We are not here to teach about disasters but about how to be **ready for** disasters and how to **respond** following one



-  *Get involved during class and hands-on drills*
-  There are no tests...but we do have spot quizzes!
-  Do not do anything you are not comfortable doing
-  Share what you have learned with family, friends and neighbors
-  You must attend all classes to graduate

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**Etiquette**

-  Please arrive 15 minutes early to sign in
-  Class starts promptly at 6:00 p.m.
-  The Final Exercise, Saturday following the last class, will start at 7:30 a.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
-  **Sign class roster each session**
-  Pick up handouts at the registration desk
-  Questions will be answered or put into a 'parking lot' for later discussion

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Introductions

Who we are:

- Team members
  - Program Manager – Jim Bonato
    - [jbonato@aol.com](mailto:jbonato@aol.com) (925) 917-0095
  - PHPD Liaison Officer: LT Matt Kristic
  - Instructors

Who are you?

- Please tell us a little about yourself:
  - Name
  - Why you are interested in CERT
  - What you do – occupation
  - What you can bring to a preparedness team

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Community Emergency Response Team

Personal safety is ALWAYS the number one priority

Show up prepared

- Wear appropriate clothing and footwear, have WATER
- Wear PPE – your personal protective equipment ...gloves, helmet, goggles, mask, boots, etc.
- Have at least one communications device: cell, radio, etc.

Work as a team

Size-up - maintain situational awareness

The CERT goal is to do the  
**Greatest Good for the Greatest Number**

*Hope for the best but plan for the worst!*

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Setting the Stage

CERTs are able to:

- Assist emergency services personnel when requested in accordance with standard operating procedures (SOPs) developed by the sponsoring agency and by area of training
- Assume some of the same functions as emergency services personnel following a disaster
- Prepare families and communities prior to emergencies and assist neighbors during an emergency when first responders are not immediately available

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### Basic CERT Course Overview

The Lamorinda CERT Basic class series presents 10 units, 8 of which are localized versions of FEMA modules. Communications and Pets are locally produced modules.

- 📍 Introduction
- 📍 Preparedness
- 📍 CERT Organization
- 📍 Radio Communications
- 📍 Utilities, Hazardous Materials & Fire Safety
- 📍 Disaster Medical Operations Part I, Triage
- 📍 Disaster Medical Operations Part II, Treatment
- 📍 Light Search and Rescue
- 📍 Disaster Psychology
- 📍 Terrorism
- 📍 Pet Preparedness
- 📍 Final Exercise



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### CERT History

- 📍 Idea for CERT came from Mexico City earthquake of 1985
  - Volunteers are credited with more than 800 successful rescues. Unfortunately, more than 100 untrained volunteers died during the 15-day rescue operation
- 📍 CERT created by LAFD in 1986
- 📍 FEMA adopted and expanded this program into a national program
- 📍 All 50 states, 3 territories and many foreign countries have adopted CERT as their training standard

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### Community Preparedness

- 📍 Community Preparedness is:
  - A key priority in lessening the impact of disasters
  - Effective when it addresses unique attributes of the community and engages the **whole community**
- 📍 It is critical that all community members take steps to prepare

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**Engaging the Whole Community**

- 👤 Whole Community approach to emergency preparedness seeks to engage the full capacity of the private and nonprofit sectors, including businesses, faith-based and disability organizations, and the general public, in conjunction with the participation of local, tribal, state, and Federal governmental partners
- 👤 Relationships and social connections are the foundation for a more resilient community that can bounce back after a disaster
- 👤 Community coalitions strengthen relationships and provide a framework for organizing community preparedness efforts

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**Government**

👤 Government has the responsibility to:

- Develop, test, and refine emergency plans
- Ensure emergency responders have adequate skills and resources
- Provide services to protect and assist citizens

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**Community Leaders**

👤 Have a responsibility to participate in community preparedness:

- Participate on local collaborative planning council
- Identify and integrate appropriate resources into government plans
- Ensure facilities, staff, and customers served are prepared

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**The Public**

-  Learn about community alerts, warnings, and evacuation routes
-  Take training
-  Practice skills and personal plans
-  Network and help others
-  Provide feedback to community
-  Report suspicious activity
-  Volunteer

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**Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)**

-  All government agencies with a role in disaster response work organize and coordinate their agencies' activities before an emergency or disaster by developing an EOP
  - Assigns responsibility to individuals and organizations
  - Sets forth lines of authority
  - Describes how people, animals, and property will be protected
  - Identifies personnel, equipment, facilities, supplies, and other resources
  - Describes the operation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

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**Emergency Operations Center**

-  Pleasant Hill CERT has four regional Assembly Areas:
  -  Pleasant Hill Park (Gregory Lane)
  -  Seventh-day Adventist Church (Grayson Road)
  -  St. Andrews Presbyterian Church (Mary Lane)
  -  Hope Center (Morello & Taylor Blvd)
-  CERT members report to their respective Assembly Area when mobilized.
-  The Area's Incident Commander will direct the response and establish communication with the Emergency Operations Center

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**Assembly Area / Incident Command Post**

- 👤 Have a responsibility to participate in community preparedness:
  - Participate on local collaborative planning council
  - Identify and integrate appropriate resources into government plans
  - Ensure facilities, staff, and customers served are prepared

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**Pleasant Hill CERT & You**

- 👤 Pleasant Hill CERT is sponsored by the Pleasant Hill Police Department
- 👤 Pleasant Hill CERT is guided by a Steering Committee made up of residents of Pleasant Hill who are graduates of this basic course.
- 👤 All of our instructors are volunteers are graduates of the basic course and are considered subject matter experts. Additionally, they have graduated from the FEMA based Train-The-Trainer course.
- 👤 All CERT-trained residents operate as individuals until they are called upon by the city during a disaster. You will be sworn in as a "Volunteer Disaster Service Worker."



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**Liability**



Cover your *Equus africanus asinus*

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Liability

Act within the scope of your training in a prudent and reasonable manner.  
 "Good Samaritan Law"  
 Federal Volunteer Protection Act of 1997



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Liability

California AB83 of 2010 - Torts: personal liability immunity

"This bill provides that no person who in good faith and not for compensation renders emergency medical or nonmedical care or assistance at the scene of an emergency shall be liable for civil damages resulting from any act or omission other than an act or omission constituting gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct."

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Classroom Materials

-  Handouts will be provided in several classes
-  Download the PDF slides prior to your next class.
-  Any vendors, products, or websites referred to in this presentation series or by any instructors are for informational purposes only
-  Pleasant Hill CERT does not endorse any specific brands or commercial organizations

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**Perishability of Abilities**

 *Several of the skills that will be presented have details that are easily forgotten. This perishability of abilities means that when a disaster occurs, if you have not practiced these skills, you may not remember the life saving details*

 **How to maintain your skills**

- Attend your CERT Area Meetings
- Attend exercises regularly
- Take additional training
- Audit basic classes. You are always welcome to come back and sit in on these basic CERT classes

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**Additional Training**

**Other training available for those interested:**

 **CERT Area meetings**

 **Additional classes**

- First Aid & Triage
- Traffic control
- Wildfire prevention
- Active Shooter Defense
- Radio Communications & Practice
- Train-The-Trainer: Instructor training
- Ham Radio Licensing (Thru MDARC)
- Shelter Management (Thru Red Cross)

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**Pleasant Hill CERT Foundation**

-  Pleasant Hill CERT does not receive any funds from the State or Federal governments
-  Our sponsor, PHPD, has a very limited budget for asset acquisition for CERT
-  Pleasant Hill CERT Foundation, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation receives donations and funds the operations of CERT
-  Individuals can support CERT thru donations to our Foundation easily done on our website [www.pleasanthillcert.org](http://www.pleasanthillcert.org)

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Questions ?



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Takeaways

Volunteers don't get paid,  
not because they're  
worthless,  
but because they're  
priceless.

Sherry Anderson

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