

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY CERT COUNCIL
MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
September 13, 2012**

1. INTRODUCTIONS

CERT Council Co-Chair Captain Matt Wiberg called the meeting to order at 09:35 AM.

ATTENDANCE

CERT Council Member	Representative
Alpine	
Borrego Springs	
Carlsbad.	David Harrison and Jeff Murdock
Chula Vista	
City of San Diego	Carie DeMarco
Coronado	Darren Hall
De Luz	Sheri Rumble
Deer Springs	Heide White
Del Mar	Dismas Abelman
East County	
Elfin Forest	Mickey Cross
Encinitas	Dismas Abelman
Escondido	Randy Licata
Imperial Beach	
Inland Valley	Paul Nysed
Julian-Cuyamaca	Johnny Hake
Lakeside	
Mountain Empire	
National City	Walter Amedee
North County	Sid Morel
Oceanside	Felipe Rodriguez/Colleen Foster/Don Kaiser
Palomar Mountain	
Poway	
Ramona	Burke Kremensky and Philip Savage
Rancho Santa Fe	
San Diego Rural	
San Marcos	Matt Wiberg
San Miguel	
Solana Beach	Eric Phillips
Valley Center	James Rodman
Vista	Sandy Hopkins
Warner Springs	
SDG&E	Penny Newell

2. **Red Guide to Recovery/SDG&E Brochures**

William Smith informed the council members present that the *Red Guides to Recovery and the SDG&E Preparing for Emergencies* brochures are in and need to be picked up at the Office of Emergency Services (OES) as soon as possible.

3. **SDG&E Update, Readiness Projects and Outreach**

Mrs. Penny McGuire Newell from SDG&E spoke about their efforts to promote emergency preparedness and community fire safety. In addition, SDG&E supported local Fire Safe Councils and Community Emergency Response Teams through the 2012 SAFE San Diego Initiative Grant Program in the amount of \$125,000.

The CERT grants will directly help support training workshops and CERT drills to active members.

Community Emergency Response Teams – Award Recipients

Alpine, Carlsbad, San Diego, City of Del Mar, City of Solana Beach, Coronado, Deer Springs, De Luz, Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove, Encinitas, Heartland Fire and Rescue, Julian, Lakeside, National City, North Country, Oceanside, Palomar Mountain, Poway, Ramona, Rancho Santa Fe, San Diego Regional, San Diego Rural, San Miguel, Vista, and Valley Center.

SDG&E Media Advisory - Fire Fighting Prevention, Innovation & Cooperation

Join regional leaders in government, academia and the private sector as they discuss new technologies and equipment for preventing, identifying and fighting wild fires and responding to disaster.

WHAT: City and County officials, along with representatives of local fire agencies, SDG&E and UCSD will unveil the latest addition to the region's fire preparedness and prevention toolkit: a \$200,000 state-of-the-art camera and support equipment installed aboard CAL FIRE's spotter aircraft. The camera's technology can stream live video, use infrared to see through smoke and relay real-time information to firefighting teams on the ground. In addition, SDG&E and UCSD will showcase how they are leveraging Southern California's High-Performance Wireless Research & Education Network (HPWREN) with the installation of other equipment to provide broadband and Internet access to vital fire- and weather-related information for as many as 70 remote fire stations in the county by year-end.

WHEN: Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2012 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

WHERE: Montgomery Field General Aviation Airport
3750 John J. Montgomery Dr., San Diego, CA 92123

Emergency Preparedness Newsletter/Brochures

Upon request, SDG&E can provide 2012 Emergency Preparedness and Safety Brochures and Portable Generator Handouts to each CERT program. For more tips on safety, visit <http://www.sdge.com/safety>.

Fire Dept. Open Houses

SDG&E will be participating at several Fire Department Open House Events. For more information visit: www.sdge.com/safetyevents.

4. National Preparedness Month

William Smith spoke about the County's efforts to promote Nat'l Preparedness Month—which is currently underway—and gave out a detailed sheet listing all of the events taking place throughout the County during the month of September.

5. October's Great California Shakeout

William Smith spoke about the County's efforts to promote participation in the "Great California Shakeout" on October 18th at 10:18AM (Drop-Cover-Hold-on). There will be a media event on Oct. 18th: no details at this time. The County would like CERT program managers to encourage their members to sign up and to also encourage other individuals and groups to sign up as well. People can sign up at: www.shakeout.org. Once there, click on California, click on register here, confirm California region, and enter your information. Make sure you sign up for the County of San Diego. Currently, Riverside, San Bernardino and Los Angeles have more participants than us.

6. New DSW Card Distribution Policy

Randy Licata and William Smith spoke about the policy change and how it will be advantageous to everyone. The current policy requires applications (both new and renewals) to be signed in at OES; this no longer is required. Managers/coordinators can mail in all applications and they will be processed. However, County OES **must** have the original application (s) with original signatures (whether new or renewal), managers can keep a copy. Photos can be mailed in as well (on CD, etc) or sent via email to William.Smith@sdcounty.ca.gov. Keep in mind, no new application (s) will be processed until a photo is received for that/those individual(s). To avoid delays, send in the photo(s) at the time you send in the application(s). In addition, the new process will be regulated by the three (3) "strike rule:" if for whatever reason, County OES or a CERT program manager has three (3) incidents of lost applications/photos/cards (whether in the mail or otherwise) that particular program will have to revert back to the previous policy of signing in all applications. All DSW cards will be mailed back to the CERT manager. Please provide a good mailing address. A vote was taken to approve the mailing of DSW applications to OES: all present were in favor.

7. DSW Age Limits

William Smith spoke about the fact that there is no minimum age limit for a DSW volunteer; however, the UDC and each CERT program can determine a minimum age limit. However, no one under the age of 18 can participate in a high risk function/job. In addition, anyone under the age of 18 must have the signature of their parent or legal guardian to volunteer. Chief Rodman questioned whether a minor could even take the Loyalty Oath for the DSW application. The status of Teen CERT members was also

questioned, on whether they can qualify under DSW, as a minor. W. Smith stated he would look into the matter further.

8. Termination of a CERT Program to Join Another

William Smith spoke about the fact that any CERT program can be terminated or discontinued and then can join another CERT program, as long as the local sponsoring agency agrees to it. The local sponsoring agency must re-register the incoming CERT members under their current program and re-administer the Loyalty Oath. However, the UDC can proscribe this “merger.”

9. CERT Council Minutes/Highlights

It was suggested that someone should take minutes/highlights of the meetings. After much discussion, it was recommended and agreed that whomever is hosting the meeting will take minutes/highlights (keep in mind, these are not formal minutes because this council does not have by-laws which would require formal minutes be taken). Therefore, notes from each meeting will only be highlights of each topic.

10. Lesson Learned

Chief James Rodman provided valuable insight and information regarding a situation his CERT program is currently addressing involving 501c3.

11. CERT Liability

There is a CERT liability guidance manual available for download on the FEMA website: www.fema.gov/cert-liability-guide. It will be in the “library” section. It provides information on liability protection, risk management, protections provided by law and insurance, etc.

12. Fall Countywide CERT Exercise

Randy Licata and Matt Wiberg spoke about the upcoming fall exercise:

When: November 10, 2012 (rain or shine)

Where: San Marcos, 120 Santar Place, San Marcos Ca. 92069 and Escondido, 310 N Quince Street, Escondido Ca. 92025

Time: 1800 to approximately 2200.

Participants: CERT members, 100 at each training site

Training stations will consist of: fire extinguishment, heavy objects-cribbing, a tower evolution and building size-up.

Two sites are being utilized to accommodate a larger drill and for parking. Registrants are requested to arrive early (5:40pm). Participants will be rotated in shifts through a training that resembles the CERT Basic Academy graduation drill. Registrants must come prepared, with their own bags, water, food, documentation, and other needed supplies. Ham radio operations will be a focus of the training as well. A flyer will be sent out shortly with a listing of how many registrants are allowed for each CERT group.

13. CERT Mutual Aid Plan Update

The CERT MAP was presented to the UDC and not approved as written. As a result, the working group will be re-assembled to work on it again and incorporate the changes/suggestions made by the UDC.

14. Disaster Corps Update

There are ten (10) programs currently participating. Some members have completed all the requirements—SEMS, IS-100 and IS-700. Those that have fulfilled the training requirements have been issued their deployment bags, those that have not, cannot move forward until they do. Therefore, if you have members in your programs that need to take the on-line training, please encourage them to do so immediately.

15. Statewide CERT Advisory Group Summary

FEMA update: there are six (6) new training modules – CERT Emergency Communications, CERT Exercise Swaps, CERT Firefighter Rehab, CERT Flood Response, CERT Tools for Leadership Success, and CERT Traffic and Crowd Management. A discussion was had about Teen CERT in high schools and why students should join it: may lead to scholarships for college, and jobs in public safety. Chief Scott Hansen from San Marcos FD gave a presentation to the group about CERT programs and mutual aid and how CERT strike teams might work better. We discussed the DSW guidance revision that is still underway – may be ready by 2013 or 14. A captain from LAFD provided a demonstration of their LAFD CERT website – pretty nice. To view it go to www.cert-la.com.

16. CERT Acronym

Be aware that FEMA and the DEA recognize another federal program with the same name as CERT (Cannabis Eradication Response Team). Whenever writing or discussing Community Emergency Response Team in an open forum, make sure your audience understands which CERT program you are talking about.

17. November Elections

As you may know, the two year term for co-chairs Matt Wiberg and Arnie Lewin will terminate in January. As a result, the CERT Council must elect new members for both post at the November 8th meeting (if a quorum exist). As of this date, three (3) members have been nominated for the positions. They are Randy Licata of Escondido, Felipe Rodriguez of Oceanside, and Carie DeMarco of San Diego City. Just because someone has been nominated doesn't obligate them to accept the nomination or the position. Now is the time to nominate yourself or someone else for chair and co-chair of the CERT Council. Please email the name(s) of those you would like to nominate and I will contact them. As stated, voting will occur at the November 8th meeting if a quorum exist. If a quorum does not exist, the vote will occur at the February meeting.

18. Program Announcements

San Marcos is currently conducting a joint CERT class through Palomar College with Escondido.

19. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday November 8, 2012 at 9:30 AM at Elfin Forest.

Address to follow.