

Cambria CSD Fire Department

CERT - Standard Operating Guideline

Title: Activation & Deployment

Date Issued: April 7, 2013

Date Last Revised:

Revision Number:

SOG #04-2013

Total Pages: 3

Purpose: To provide guidance in activating members for emergencies or other incidents.

Scope: To ensure that all members have guidelines on when, where & how to proceed in initial activation.

General: This is the protocol for activating the team or members for duty.

Activation of Personnel:

Generally, all emergency activation requests are through Cambria Fire Department and then relayed to the CERT Coordinator or his designee for member contacts and responses.

The majority of routine requests will be made after Cambria CSD Fire Department, or CERT Coordinator, makes a request for members to participate in a detail or incident. The normal routine request will be made by:

- Email
- Direct mailing
- Telephone contact (may include Texting)

Emergency or disaster requests can be made to members by:

- Telephone contact (may include Texting)
- Ham Radio
- Personal contact by fire, police or CERT personnel

Major Disaster (usually a major earthquake) can result in self-activation of members:

- Circumstances like a major earthquake can cause heavy damage and result in normal communications being disrupted. In these extreme circumstances, members should check on their own house/family and then immediate neighbors, before responding to the pre-designated Staging Area.
- Once at your Staging Area, the Staging Area Manager (SAM) or other leader will document your arrival, form members into teams, when possible provide radios and assign search areas.

Staging Areas:

CERT maintains a list of locations and maps of member Staging Areas in Cambria. The Staging Areas have been designated based on safety, radio communications and central location in the individual area. Circumstances may change that make an individual Staging Area unsafe and a new location may be assigned by CERT managers or fire personnel. During specific emergencies, CERT members should come to the assigned Staging Area with proper equipment (i.e.; helmet, safety vest, etc.).

Earthquakes:

Earthquakes can be minor, moderate or major. Earthquakes can be followed by strong or weak aftershocks. Minor earthquakes will generally not require member activation. Moderate or major earthquakes can result in activation, by Cambria CSD Fire Department, based on area need. Major earthquakes that cause widespread substantial damage and disrupt normal communications, may result in self-activated response to member pre-assigned Staging Areas.

Wildland Fires:

With fires we are normally talking about wildland fires that are not under containment or control by fire agencies. In the event of a major wildland fire in or near Cambria members should:

- Consider the safety of yourself, family and pets first
- Do Not respond to your Staging Area
- Prepare for evacuation of yourself, family and pets
- Evacuate if needed or if instructed by local authorities (Sheriff or Fire Department)
- Once evacuated to a safe location (possibly outside of Cambria), if you desire to help as a member, an alternate staging area is the CalTrans Maintenance Station on Hwy 46 @ Hwy 1. Members should bring CERT gear and wait at the location until given direction by fire or CERT staff personnel. Telephoning Cambria Fire Department is likely not appropriate.

Major Structure Fires:

In the event of a major structure fire (homes or businesses), the Cambria Fire Department will notify CERT if assistance is needed. Members will be activated by CERT personnel by phone & told where to stage. Members will not be involved in direct fire-fighting functions.

Heavy Rain /Wind Storms:

These storm events in the past have caused significant damage in Cambria and may be the more common emergency event requiring a CERT response.

- Do Not go outside during the height of the storm
- Members should not self-activate
- Members will be contacted by telephone or in person by fire or CERT personnel and told where to stage

Floods:

These events are usually the result of heavy rains or possibly a Tsunami.

- Members should not self-activate
- Members will be contacted by telephone or in person by fire or CERT personnel and told where to stage
- Do not attempt to cross flooded areas

Tsunami:

A Tsunami might be generated by an earthquake locally or from some significant distance away from our area. Members should be aware of your surroundings before a Tsunami event and move to higher grounds if needed. We have tried to make sure that all CERT Staging Areas are not in an immediate Tsunami zone. Members will be contacted for potential responses by telephone or personal contact by fire or CERT personnel. No self-activation is appropriate or needed.

Missing Person Searches:

Usually CERT is requested to assist the San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Department and Sheriff's Search & Rescue (SAR). Members will be contacted by CERT personnel by telephone and be told where to stage. Self-activation is not appropriate.

Ocean Rescues - Missing Persons:

Members will be contacted by phone and advised where to stage. Members may be used as shore spotters or to distribute information concerning the search. Members will not be in the water searching.

Hazardous Material Incidents:

Do Not go to the scene. If members are needed to assist, Cambria Fire Department will contact CERT. CERT personnel will contact members by telephone and advise where to stage away from the immediate hazard area.

Major traffic Collisions:

Members will be notified by CERT personnel by telephone and told where to stage. Do not self-activate.

Planned Events or Details:

Events that require or are detailed for CERT participation will normally involve a request for member assistance in advance. Members will normally be notified by CERT personnel by email or telephone. Planned events may include: Traffic control at parades, bike events or running/walking events; emergency preparedness events; Public safety awareness events or events that publicize CERT and CERT training activities or meetings.