



Newsletter

January 2020



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Coordinator's Corner

In 2019, the storm door finally began to open a bit, and we were able to help our community prepare by supporting a 24/7 website, a Community Preparedness Fair and by sponsoring a FEMA course aimed at emergency responses from the disaster survivor's perspective. We also reduced the fuel sources in Cambria by organizing and supporting a chipping event. Due to a major water leak at the Fire Station we had to practice contingency operations for our HAM communications and that didn't stop us from conducting successful CERT Basic Training Classes.

Unfortunately, the increased rain totals didn't help with the fire season and we all learned what a PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) was. Luckily, we had the Red Flag and Fire Station Telephone Communications Support procedures in place and just had to adapt them to the PSPS scenario. We were even able to successfully test Cell Phone Text Alert App to provide a mass notification to our various CERT volunteers.

Luckily, we didn't have to implement any of our emergency procedures for real world incidents, but 2020 starts the cycle again. FEMA has released a new set of CERT Basic Training documents that need to be tailored to the Central Coast. In parallel we need to stay ready and implement lessons learned from the less fortunate areas in California. Thanks to Cal Poly, Evacuation Planning has taken center stage and efforts to assure that the community is alerted and adaptable evacuation plans are in place are 1st up. Cambria CERT is consistently identified as a player in all these efforts. Refinements of our response capabilities will include enhanced communications and tailored response teams. 2020 will not be dull.

- Craig Ufferheide, *CERT Coordinator*

Upcoming Events

- 01/18 HAM License in One Day**
at SLO County Sheriff's Auditorium
- 01/20 CERT Quarterly Mtg Active Shooter Presentation**
by SLO County Sheriff's Office, 6:30 p.m. Cambria Presbyterian Church
- 03/02, 03, 04 CERT Train the Trainer**
at EMI MD (approval required).
- 03/05, 06 CERT Program Mgr Training** at EMI MD (approval required).
- 03/08, 09, 10 CERT Train the Trainer**
at EMI MD (approval required).
- 04/20 CERT Quarterly Mtg**
6:30 p.m. Cambria Presbyterian Church
- 06/11, 12 CERT Program Mgr Training** at EMI MD (approval required).
- 07/18 HAM License in One Day**
at SLO County Sheriff's Auditorium
- 07/20 CERT Quarterly Mtg**
6:30 p.m. Cambria Presbyterian Church
- 08/31 Pinedorado Parade**
- 10/19 CERT Quarterly Mtg**
6:30 p.m. Cambria Presbyterian Church

US-CERT



There is Another CERT

This agency uses the same acronym (CERT) and the same govern-

ment agency (DHS - FEMA), but it has a different meaning. The United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team is an organization within the Department of Homeland Security's Cyber Security and Infrastructure Security Agency. Specifically, US-CERT is a branch of the Office of Cybersecurity and Communications' National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center. - *Wikipedia*

Two CERTS under the same department...Go figure!



Next CERT Quarterly

October 21 at 6:30 p.m..

At the CERT Quarterly Meeting on January 20, Commander Nelson from the SLO County Sheriff's Office will provide information and training regarding responses to an Active Shooter incident.

Commander Nelson will also

touch on peripheral areas that CERT could potentially be called on to support during the stages of the incident.

Like so many things we deal with, it can happen anytime and anywhere. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how to prepare and respond.

- Dave Wierenga

The New FEMA CERT Basic Training Curriculum

FEMA has announced and briefly previewed changes to the Basic CERT National Curriculum. FEMA states that the new curriculum is streamlined, has an updated hazard annex and revised Disaster Medical Operations, Terrorism and Disaster Psychology modules. They have also re-arranged the order in which the Basic CERT course modules are offered. Included are a new CERT Instructor manual, the Basic CERT Student manual and their new Basic CERT PowerPoint modules available in multiple languages.

If you are interested in taking the Train-the-Trainer class, these courses need a sponsor (Cambria Fire) and local OES approval, but if you are interested, let a CERT Coordinator know, and we can guide you through the process

ufferheide@charter.net

Apply early, as slots fill quickly. Note that the two courses are conducted in series.

If there is any new information contained in the new Basic CERT Course, we will provide that to all current Cambria CERT Members.

Stay tuned.

- Bob Putney



New CERT in SLO North County

After a long hiatus we have a new CERT in SLO County. Thanks to the efforts of CERT Coordinator Stephanie Ponti and the sponsor-

CERT Refresher Training

At our January meeting we will review some lessons learned from other communities who have experienced Public Safety Power Shut-offs. We will also review basic safety and awareness tips.

Also, we will pass out a survey form to be filled out by members. It will contain a list of topics to choose, so we can tailor our quarterly skills offerings to what is needed most by each of you. Your input is critical for us to know what training you feel is needed and wanted.

Spring Refresher: As summer approaches, we will have a wildfire preparedness and awareness course for all CERT members who would like to participate.

- Bob Putney

ship of the Paso Robles Emergency Services Department under Chief Jonathan Stornetta, the first CERT Basic Training class was started on October 16, 2019. With the help from the Governor's Capacity Building grant, 40 CERT trained people were graduated from that first class and purchasing of support equipment is in work.

Stephanie is moving forward with Flood Response Training on January 22 and a LISTOS information meeting on January 29. Their next Basic CERT class is also scheduled for February 19.

Contact Stephanie at s.ponti@hotmail.com

Congratulations to the Paso team for joining San Luis Obispo County CERT and providing much-needed support in North County.

Lessons Learned from the 2019 Wildfire Season



Some key actions that save lives and property:

- Have an evacuation plan. Practice it, until it is automatic.
- Have what you are going to evacuate pre-assembled in a location, which allows you to evacuate quickly.
- When advised to evacuate, evacuate early. Do not wait.
- Make sure you always park your vehicle with adequate amount of fuel to take you well away from the North Coast and then some.
- Defensible space is key to buildings surviving a wildfire. In some cases, this is more than 100 feet of defensible space.
- Defensible space includes outdoor furniture, ornamental yard fixtures, canopies, umbrellas, trellises, wood/lumber piles, outdoor rugs, etc.
- Burning embers carried by the wind or the heat from the fire itself can be carried up to 30+ miles away and start more fires.
- Do your best to eliminate places for embers to drop or enter and slowly glow or burn until they ignite what they have landed in.
- Have a communication and a meeting location plan and practice them.

"We look forward to working together to make ourselves and our community even safer in 2020. Thank-you all for your dedication and your service!" - Bob Putney



RADIO Corner

CERT FRS RADIOS

As you know, communications during an emergency is of primary importance. CERT over the past few years has been developing this capability. All CERT members have been issued FRS radios and several drills have been conducted testing our communication capabilities. As several of you know, we

have some challenges. The hilly nature of Cambria and the 0.5-watt transmit power of the FRS radios have made communication difficult in several areas.

The FCC has recently changed the transmit power of the FRS radios up to 2 watts without requiring a license. Some of our existing FRS radios have 2-watt capability, most do not. CERT is currently working with Midland, one of the manufacturers of the FRS radios, to determine which of their radios have the 2-watt capability and what sort of "deal" could they offer us on a bulk purchase.

SAM RADIOS

We are working with the sheriff to obtain about 30 Kenwood radios they are phasing out. These radios have similar capability to the ICOMs currently in use. We are working on setting up a better com-

munications link for these radios and may expand their use.

HAM RADIOS

Thanks to PG&E and the SLO-ECC radio club, we are putting together Fixed Base Stations for issue to licensed HAMs interested in communicating beyond Cambria.

If you are interested in getting your HAM license in one day, Check the *Upcoming Events* calendar for the January 18 opportunity.

Class location:
SLO Sheriff's Auditorium
1585 Kansas Ave., San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

More info & Registration:
<https://w6nbc.com>

Hopefully, we will soon have an expanded radio communications capability that works well for all.

- Dave Wierenga

2019 National Household Survey Findings



Preparedness

While a growing number of people continue to invest time in disaster preparation activities (and the percentage perceiving themselves as prepared is approaching 60%), about 10% still do not see a need to prepare.



Preparedness Influencers

Only 42% of residents are confident and believe preparing for a hazard will make a difference, even though nearly all residents recognize at least one type of hazard can have a big impact on their community.



Taking Actions

While 62% of the population have taken at least 3 basic preparedness actions, and participation in community-based and information-seeking actions is growing, opportunity remains for increasing awareness around the importance of taking preparedness actions.



Demographics Matter

The need to grow awareness and participation in disaster preparedness is greatest among those residing in non-English speaking households, low-income households, renters, and younger age groups.

Links & APPS

Helpful any time, but especially during an evacuation, road conditions and traffic are important.

[QuickMap](#) web page presents several types of real-time traffic information layered on a Google Map.

[A mobile web page](#) for Quick-Map, which will work on any smart phone is also available.

[CHP Traffic](#) web page is a source for up-to-date info on current road conditions. Use the [mobile web page](#) for current Traffic Conditions near My Location.

Don't be Overwhelmed by the Need to Make an Emergency Preparedness Kit

While the general recommendation from emergency preparedness experts is to create kits with two weeks' worth of supplies, some find that overwhelming and it keeps them from preparing at all. Here are some of the hints from the *Emergency Management Newsletter*.

- Start with an inventory of what's already on hand at home.
- Water and warmth are key. Food is not as critical over short periods.
- Other resources that may be on hand at home include water heaters
- Lint found in driers or vacuum cleaners can be used as a fire starter.
- Start with enough supplies to last for two days and then add to that.

Read the [whole article](#) from Kimberly Cauvel, *Skagit Valley Herald*, Mount Vernon, Washington.

Ready 2020 Calendar



Resolve to Be Ready



Central U.S.. Earthquake Preparedness Month



"It's Not Luck" Campaign



National Financial Capability Month



Wildfire Safety



Pet Preparedness Month



Fireworks Safety



Back to School Youth Preparedness



National Preparedness Month



Cyber Security Awareness Month



Holiday Safety



National Influenza Vaccination Week

FEMA Most Popular Social Media Accounts

[@fema](#)

[@FEMA en español](#)

[FEMA_Pete: FEMA Acting Administrator Pete Gaynor](#)

[@Readygov](#)

[FEMA on Facebook](#)

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