

Vallejo Fire Department  
Citizen Emergency Response  
Team  
**CERT**

# Citizen Emergency Response Team



# The CERT Program



- What is CERT?
- How it Began
- How it is Funded
- The Curriculum
- The Long Term Plan
- Questions/Comments/Suggestions

# CERT – What it is, and isn't...



## CERT- Citizen Emergency Response Team

- Designed as a neighborhood based program
- Enables neighborhoods to assess and help themselves until we can arrive
- Lightens the load on all emergency responders, hospitals

# CERT – What it is, and isn't...



- CERT is designed to
  - Prepare individuals and their households to be self sufficient after a major event
  - Assist others in their neighborhood during a disaster situation.
  - Facilitate response in a major emergency by assessing neighborhood and reporting to EOC

# CERT– What it is, and isn't...



- Provide a group of trained people to be used in a number of ways when assigned
  - Set up and Staffing of Shelters for Evacuees
  - Filling Sandbags
  - Contact neighbors during heat/cold emergencies
  - Outreach into community, etc.

# CERT – What it is, and isn't...



- CERT is **NOT** designed to
  - Supplant Fire & Police
  - Work in the area of a potential hazardous materials event
  - Work in a hazardous atmosphere
  - Work in the area of a potential crime scene or terrorist attack

# CERT – How it began...



- **August of 2006**
  - Citizens in Community asked for CERT program- George Miller's office staff, etc.
  - Grand Jury review of readiness called for CERT type program in Vallejo
  - Meetings began with Police, Fire, H. Sunga, and community activists.



# CERT – How it began...



- Sept 2006
  - Chief Parker assigned to a Captain in Training
    - ✦ Rewrite & Update City Emergency Operations Plan
    - ✦ Reform Disaster Council
    - ✦ Begin a CERT-type program
      - Research included
        - Oakland
        - Richmond
        - Benicia
        - Contra Costa
        - Federal Program

# CERT – How it is funded...



Currently operating under a 3 year grant from FEMA  
Department of Homeland Security.

\$11,523.40 per year for the next 3 years

# CERT – How it is funded...



- Ongoing funding for the program
  - Solano County OES
  - Future competitive grants from BA SUASI

# CERT Today



- To date we have trained over 175 Citizen Volunteers
- Students receive 28 hours of training
- Upon completion of the course graduates receive a backpack for CERT response

# CERT - The Curriculum



CERT is a critical program in the effort to engage everyone in America in making their communities safer, more prepared, and more resilient when incidents occur.

The program follows a national curriculum developed by FEMA.

# CERT - The Curriculum



# CERT - The Curriculum



- ✦ A Six week program designed to provide the individuals with the basic skills that they will use to respond to their community's immediate needs in the aftermath of a disaster

# CERT - The Curriculum



- What we teach
  - #1 - Personal and Household Emergency Preparedness
    - ✦ Basic guidelines for all types of emergencies
    - ✦ Designed to serve as a stand-alone curriculum for a 2+ hr class.
    - ✦ Work-book style family/household preparedness plan



# CERT - The Curriculum



- What we teach
  - #2 Fire Safety and Utility Control and Hazards
    - ✦ Fire Safety and Fire Extinguishers
    - ✦ Fire Size up considerations
    - ✦ Utility Controls and Hazardous Materials ID

# CERT - The Curriculum



# CERT - The Curriculum



- What we teach
  - #3 – Disaster Medical Operations
    - ✦ Triage – RPM, red/yellow/green/black tagging
    - ✦ Treatment area set up and marking
    - ✦ Transport
      - Lifts, carries
      - Back boarding

# CERT - The Curriculum



# CERT- The Curriculum



- What we teach
  - #4 More emergency medical
    - ✦ SAFETY
    - ✦ Patient Assessment, Treating for:
      - Burns
      - Trauma
      - Fractures Strains and Sprains
      - Environmental Emergencies

# CERT - The Curriculum



# CERT - The Curriculum



- What we teach
  - #5 Light Search and Rescue
    - ✦ To assess buildings as minor, moderately or severely damaged
    - ✦ To aid victims that have self extricated
    - ✦ To disentangle victims that are trapped by structural contents only
      - Skills include lifting and cribbing only
      - CERT Organization and Documentation

# CERT - The Curriculum





# CERT- The Curriculum



- What we teach –
  - #6- Safety and situational awareness, including:
    - ✦ Disaster psychology for victims
    - ✦ CISD
    - ✦ Terrorism
    - ✦ Personal and Team Safety in a major emergency
      - Disaster Recovery Personal Protection Act 2006
      - Mob mentality

# CERT- The Curriculum



- What we teach
  - The Drill
    - ✦ Real time, hands on drill for all participants
    - ✦ Team is given a Situational Briefing, and allowed a short time to organize themselves per the training
    - ✦ Intentionally given unanticipated situations, and more victims than supplies will support.



# CERT- The Curriculum



- **After the Drill**
  - Incident debrief for all participants
  - Graduation



# CERT – Long Term Goals



- To continue to train citizen volunteers for Neighborhood teams
- To roll program over to community-based instructors, with Fire Department guidance.
- To facilitate community outreach for VFD
- To develop a group of citizen volunteers for the Fire Department, just as the Police Department has successfully done.

# CERT Program



Questions???

Comments???

Observations???

Suggestions???