

Rockbridge Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Minutes

Date: September 14, 2021

Volunteers Present: In Person: Alan Porter, Brandy Flint, Brenda Jackson, Byron Porter, Christian Larlee, Jutta Hopkins, Marianna Higgins, Margaret Ann Paxton. Online: Mike Lewis. Guests: Larry Bird and Amanda Loreti, Central Shenandoah EMS Council.

1. **Brandy Flint, Team Leader, called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.**
2. **One item was added to the agenda.** Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting update.
3. **Guest Presentation:** Larry and Amanda discussed the Augusta County First Responder Care program. An Augusta County church provides funding for a restaurant to provide meals when EMS, fire, and law enforcement are called out for extended periods. They have been activated for this service 5-6 times. We will discuss how a similar resource could be developed for our Emergency Responder Rehab Program (ERRP). Brandy will follow up with Amanda and we will discuss potential partnerships at a future CERT meeting.
4. **The July 10, 2021 minutes were approved with no changes.** A motion was made, seconded and all present voted in favor to accept the minutes.
5. **Training:** We were unable to establish the link for the Active Shooter video, so volunteers were encouraged to access and watch the video individually. The link for the video is on the Commonwealth of Virginia Learning Center : <https://covlc.virginia.gov/ContentDetails.aspx?id=D3051B596FF24098B2CFB3F73F44CE57>

CERT Basic Training is planned for Tuesdays and Thursdays the last two weeks of October and the first two weeks of November. In-person training is planned at this time, but depending on how the COVID situation plays out we may need to do a hybrid training. We agreed in-person training is preferable for better training and relationships, but we need to follow prevention practices.

6. **Team and After-Action Reports:**
 - a. Emergency Responder Rehab Program (ERRP). No requests for ERRP assistance in the past month.
 - b. Emergency Operations Center Support: No requests for EOC assistance in the past month.
 - c. Lexington Community Festival: Brandy reported the Community Festival was successful and our cooling fan and 72-hour preparedness displays were popular attractions and a good use of grant funds. The Lexington Fire Department and MSA were helpful in providing water for the cooling fan. A suggestion was made to put our CERT logos on the fans to help promote our unit. The second fan was used by emergency management at the county fair in Glasgow. Brandy also reported 14 people signed up for further information about CERT and the upcoming basic training.
7. **Old Business:**
 - a. FEMA/Citizen Corps has approved our Unit and the new contact information is now on the FEMA/CERT website.
 - b. Volunteer Qualification Tracking. FEMA released the final volunteer requirements . We will work on a structure that maintains our current volunteer structure and possibly add a new advanced volunteer level that incorporates the FEMA requirements. The FEMA qualifications can be found at [Job Titles and Position Qualifications | FEMA.gov](#). We will discuss and vote on updating volunteer levels at the December meeting. Proposed levels will be distributed in advance of the meeting.
 - c. Unit documents will be updated following approval of the December changes.

8. New Business:

- a. Jutta reported the LEPC held a virtual meeting September 2, 2019. Most of the discussion concerned the continuing COVID situation. Jutta reported that FEMA approved our unit and has also published CERT volunteer qualifications as part of their National Qualification System (NQS). Nathan mentioned that CERT has been helpful to EM with provider rehab and EOC support.
- b. National Preparedness Month: September is National Preparedness Month. Brandy sent out the monthly FEMA newsletter with lots of good information in it. Preparedness information is also available on the county website. Margaret Ann reported that she shared preparedness information at her workplace.

9. Upcoming events:

- a. Mountain Days in Buena Vista – October 9th. Brandy will work on arrangements and send out details on volunteering.
- b. CPR Update – October 12th instead of monthly meeting. (Instructor: Thomas Andrews, Rockbridge Fire Rescue Captain)
- c. Stop the Bleed training will be offered to all volunteers in November. (Instructor: Marianna Higgins, EMT, CERT Volunteer)

10. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm

Administrative and Finance Chief: Jutta Hopkins

Next Meeting: October 12, 2021 at 17:30 @ Fire and Rescue Administration Building – 100 Baner Lane, Buena Vista, VA 24416.