

CERT MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2010 - 10:00 AM - SMALL HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ken Meierjurgan, Barb Meierjurgan, Judy Riedel, Frank Riedel, Bob Long, Vinnie Patricelli, Bob Haeger, Ben Garrigus, Sharon Denson, Bill Denson, Chet Force, Arlene Force, Ira Lew, Barb Rajkowski, Bruce Smith, John White, Toni Smith, Jerri Fletcher, Bonnie Sullivan.

The HAM Group spoke of their various drills and meetings with other CERT teams, ARES, and the EOC. Ken thanked Bob Haeger, Frank and Ira in particular for their interest in the HAM group. Bob, Frank and Ken shared some of the things going on with the group, such as the special antennas, the drills with CERT participation as well as ARES and the EOC. Five other CERT teams participated in the last drill. They had a SET drill recently which was very successful. Messages were passed successfully. They stressed the importance of writing everything down and relaying messages slowly and short and to the point. Everything needs to be written down. Emergencies are the most important. Life saving must come first whereby an ambulance or fire truck is needed, or power lines are down or roads blocked. If cell phones are working they will be used before the Ham radios. In Katrina only a half dozen emergency calls passed through Ham radios. Make sure messages are given slowly and clearly. The four categories of messages are: emergency, priority, routine, health and welfare. Important to state your name and where you are. The Good Samaritan Law prevails, but very important to keep good records with times and all pertinent information. The last Drill was held at the Red Cross in Lakewood Ranch and our CERT reception was great, with the help of our antennas.

The First Aid Group report was given by Judy Riedel. She referred to our Blue Book Manual, Chapter 3 and went over the basics with us. We are to do the "Greatest Good for the Greatest Number". The three life threatening areas: A - Airways B - Bleeding and C - Circulatory (or shock).

For A: Lay person on their back and say - "can you hear me". Then do the head tilt, chin lift, listen to see if you can hear breathing, hand on abdomen or see if the chest moves.

For B: Apply Direct Pressure, Elevation, and Pressure Points. No tourniquets.

For C: Lay person down and elevate feet.

Please review all of this in your Manual. Judy had rolled bandages and pressure pads available if anyone wanted them for their packs. Thanks to Judy for her work on this.

The Walkie-Talkie Group did an excellent job too. Bruce suggested putting our walkie-talkies

in a zip-lock bag with batteries removed., and keeping that bag in our backpacks. Also include in the zip-lock bag the instructions for your walkie-talkie, along with the sheet they passed out on the procedure, the zone map, and contact list with everyone's information listed. Remember to keep radios on Channel 3 (easy way to remember is THREE STOOGES). They held a little radio drill with everyone removing batteries, replacing batteries, setting to channel 3 and then reporting in. Someone suggested writing on the bag or batteries the date to keep good batteries available.

Sharon went over the 'two-way radio procedure list' and the difference between emergency, priority, and information. The procedure sheet can be changed at any time. The main thing is to keep it simple and clear. Central Command is to handle all the communication through them.

Everyone thought the group meetings and presentations are a good idea and we will continue with drills upcoming as they are planned.

Our next meeting will be announced later as we have a conflict with the Spaghetti Luncheon being on the same day and a lot of CERT folks will be working.

Included with these meeting notes are attachments for: (for anyone who needs them)

Two-way radio procedures (which were handed out today)
Zone Maps
Work Groups
Call List

I have tried to generally go over what we covered for those who were not in attendance. We hope everyone joins in their groups which will make our meetings more helpful, informative and fun.

Submitted by, Barb Meierjorgen, CERT