



The CERT Monthly

Grand Island-Hall County
Community Emergency Response Team

November 2009

Upcoming Events:

CERT Monthly Training:

- Nov 3, Night Operations
Stolley Park
7pm

HAM Radio Testing

- Dec 10, 7pm-10pm
Adams Co. EMA
1313 N. Hastings Ave.

Online at:
cert.gihams.org

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Working at Night

Any emergency response operation can be confusing, frightening and perhaps hazardous. However, all these challenges can be magnified when done at night and in the dark.

Where Am I?

One of the first things you can lose in operations in the dark is your situational awareness. Knowing where you are compared to your surroundings, being aware of the locations of other CERT and response teams, staging areas, hazards and other important information helps you understand the scope of the incident.

Where Are You?

Teams can easily be lost in the dark, particularly when external light sources, or even the moon, are not



available. Using reflective vests, glow sticks, and other light sources can help set landmarks and identify important areas.

Can You Hear Me?

Low light situations complicate communication as the commander has a far less likely chance to be able to

observe your operations and progress from afar.

Clearly communicate your situation, location, and needs and lean on your Incident Command structure. Team work and clear communication can illuminate most challenges.

2010 Citizen Corps Grant Details Released

The Nebraska Citizen Corps statewide coordinator, ServeNebraska, has released details of the 2010 Citizen Corps Grant.

Issued to Planning, Exercise and Training (PET) regions statewide, this grant funds the establishment of local and regional Citizen Corps

Councils and Programs.

In our South Central PET Region (SCPETR), the Regional Citizen Corps Council of participating counties are planning a list of regional and local events and projects to expand Citizen Corps projects across the state, promote public in-

volvement and volunteerism, and provide outreach opportunities for educating the public.

Eligible projects include promotional items, public education materials, basic CERT equipment and training, and public outreach campaigns.



Scene Size-Up

Before any CERT volunteer takes action in an emergency, a scene size-up must be used to determine priorities, hazards, and the most appropriate course of action.

To properly size-up the scene, use the following steps:

Gather Facts

Learn from the scene the most important facts such as type of hazards, building type, construction, time/day considerations, weather issues, and probable victims.

Assess Damage

Damage assessment begins with walking around the entire building, recording the types and extent of damage. Determine if the building is safe to enter or not. Remember, CERT volunteers never enter a building which has suffered severe damage.

Consider Probabilities

Ask questions regarding the potential hazards, types of injuries, and how stable the situation is. Can it get worse and if so, how and where?

Assess Your Situation

Determine the skills, capabilities and resources you have at your disposal. Determine what risks are posed by responding and are those risks appropriate.

Establish Priorities

Make a checklist of the most



important tasks, listing the first things first. Don't get bogged down in planning so far ahead that you lose sight of the most important tasks.

Make Decisions

Using your priorities, make decisions on what protective gear needed, what limitations you will place on yourselves, and keep life safety as your first priority.

Develop Plan of Action

Your incident action plan will list the primary objectives to be completed in a certain period of time. This "checklist" is meant to define your tasks and list them in prioritized order.

The action plan will also assign resources to each item on the checklist and the expected or desired outcomes. It is this step that combines all the previous information to formulate your "game plan."

Take Action

Ultimately, you plan in order to take action. Apply resources to each of the tasks listed in your action plan. Record information regarding this response. This includes times, actions, observations, etc.

Be prepared to change your action plan as necessary. Situations change and when you are in active operations, the plan may need to be modified, shortened, or reviewed.

Evaluate Progress

As you and your team are working through the action plan, use your good documentation to assist in evaluating your progress. Are you moving as swiftly as you should. Have you covered all corners of the building? Have you identified and avoided hazards? Evaluation allows you to measure your effectiveness and safety and make changes as needed.

Size Up Steps:

1. *Gather Facts*
2. *Assess Damage*
3. *Consider Probabilities*
4. *Assess your Situation*
5. *Establish Priorities*
6. *Make Decisions*
7. *Develop Plan of Action*
8. *Take Action*
9. *Evaluate Progress*

Damage Assessment

CERT Mission by Structural Damage Category

Damage Level	Description	CERT Mission Is . . .
Light	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superficial damage • Broken windows • Fallen or cracked plaster • Minor damage to interior contents 	<p>OPERATE FREELY</p> <p>To locate, triage, and prioritize removal of victims to designated treatment areas by the medical operation teams.</p>
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visible signs of structural damage, yet structurally stable • Decorative work damaged or fallen • Many visible cracks in plaster • Major damage to room contents. • Building still attached to foundation 	<p>QUICK IN AND OUT</p> <p>To locate, stabilize, and immediately evacuate victims to a safe area while minimizing the number of rescuers inside the building.</p>
Heavy/Major	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partial or total collapse • Obvious structural instability • Tilting or swaying • Heavy smoke or fire • Hazardous materials • Gas leaks • Rising or moving water • Building no longer on original foundation 	<p>DO NOT ENTER</p> <p>To secure the building perimeter and warn others about the danger of entering the building.</p>





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Emergency Management**

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Training Opportunities

CERT Continuous Training

Regular CERT training meetings are scheduled the 1st Tuesday of every month, 7pm.

- Night Time Operations – Nov 3, 7pm, Stolley Park

Other Training Opportunities

Night w/ EMS – St. Francis Memorial, 2116 West Faidley Avenue. 7pm.

Free admission, no registration needed. www.nemsa.org.

Emotional Aspect of Emergency Care – November 9

Red Cross Training – Contact Renae Foster at 382-3790 or Renae@giredcross.org.

All Red Cross Training above is located at 404 E. Third St. in Grand Island.

Ham Radio Testing Day: December 10, 7pm-10pm

Adams County Emerg. Mgt. 1313 Hastings Ave, Hastings, NE

Cost: \$15. Contact Dan Garrett, wy0o@arrl.net

More training opportunities and activities are found on the CERT online calendar

<http://cert.gihams.org>.

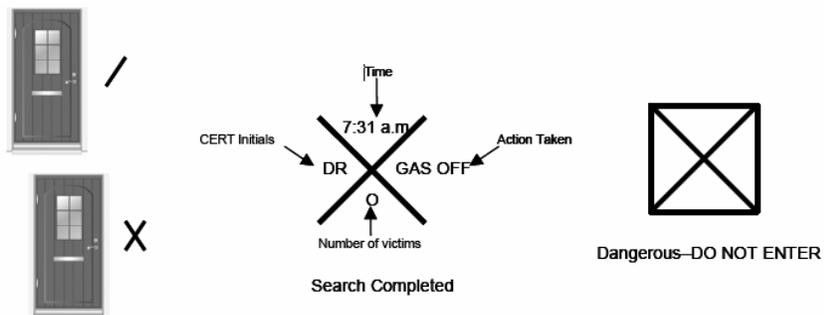
Contact Jennifer Green for information regarding Training Opportunities

CERT Email Group

If you send an email to: gicert@googlegroups.com you will effectively be emailing everyone in our CERT membership. It's a way to share information via email with the entire group, without having to know everyone's email address. Feel free to bring up topics of interest to the group, ask questions, or share information that might be of interest to the other CERT members.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email Roger Hammond directly at: rahammond@charter.net

Review: X Marks the Spot!



Marking Searched Areas