

Alexandria CERT Activities

CERT Basic Training. The adult CERT course will take place on Tuesday evenings, September 10 – October 22. Registration opens in early August, and to date, over 35 people have expressed interest.

The Teen CERT program will be held on Wednesday afternoons September 18 – October 16, with four field trips (up from three) scheduled for Sunday on September 22, September 29, October 6, and October 20. Field trips will be to the EOC, Station 210, and APD headquarters. To date, about a dozen teens have expressed interest.

The combined final exercises and graduation will take place on Saturday, October 26.

Three of the Spring course participants were able to finish the course by participating in the DC CERT exercise in late May and the Arlington CERT exercises in early July.

Volunteer Management System. The pilot of Volgistics as a hosted platform to manage CERT volunteer records continues. The plan is to have adults and teens interested in the fall CERT Basic Training courses register by using the Volgistics application form. The form will be on the City's CERT web page and a link to the application form will be emailed to those who have expressed interest. Then attendance in the classes will be tracked in Volgistics.

Traffic Management Drill June 22. This was cancelled due to extreme heat. It will be rescheduled for the fall.

APD Rescue Task Force Exercise July 3. Alexandria Police Department requested victim actors for their Rescue Task Force training and exercise. Participants from Alexandria CERT were Doyle Cockram, Anita McClendon, Richard Sheres, and Marjorie Windelberg plus Frank Mirack from Arlington CERT.

City 275th Birthday July 13. CERT provided crowd management support for the City's 275th Birthday event at Oronoco Bay Park. Tasks included keeping passageways clear, answering attendees' questions, looking for lost children, and providing minor first aid support. The ten CERTs were divided into two teams: Jason Eliaser, Sam Espach, Steve Johnson, Erika Jordan (team leader), Bill Kehoe, Anita McClendon, Jennifer Rhorer, Derek Robert, Jeffrey Scott (team leader), and Marjorie Windelberg.

Upcoming Events

- National Night Out, August 6. Staff tables in Del Ray and Brookville Seminary Valley, and possibly at other locations.
- Back 2 School August 17. CERTs will promote CERT and recruit people for the fall CERT Basic Training for both adults and teens at the William Ramsey Rec Center.

- Preparedness Fair September 20. CERTs will staff a table with preparedness materials and provide demonstrations of some CERT skills.

CERT Newsletter. The July – September newsletter addresses substance abuse: types of substances, harms, symptoms, and drug markets. It also has information on testing for drugs and treatment. Information for the newsletter was contributed by Emily Bentley, the Alexandria Opioid Response Coordinator, and Brandon Gosnell, an EMT and member of Anne Arundel Annapolis CERT. All back issues of the newsletter are in the Public folder on the Alexandria CERT document portal: <https://docs.alexandriavacert.org/index.php/s/BSFjMMfSAeddmSw>.

Regional Activities

NCR CERT Consortium. Note: The majority of NCR CERT Consortium participants are CERT volunteer leaders; most government agencies sponsoring local CERTs are not on the calls.

The Consortium met on July 11; most of the discussion was about the National CERT Association Conference. A representative from the Baltimore Council of Governments joined the call.

National CERT Association Conference. The conference is July 23 – July 26 at the DC Convention Center. In addition, two activities are scheduled on Capitol Hill. CERT Advocacy Day is Monday, July 22, where CERTs visit the offices of their Congressional representatives and senators to educate them about the value of CERT. A reception with Congress members and their staff is taking place the evening of July 23.

Alexandria has received 11 CERT “scholarships” for people who volunteer to work 8 or more hours during the conference. In addition, one CERT is attending part of the conference.

Presentations, panel discussions, and multi-day specialized trainings will be offered Tuesday afternoon through Friday. Presentations are of general interest on a wide variety of emergency preparedness and management topics. Several Alexandria CERTs have signed up for Stop the Bleed training or the TEEX (Texas A&M Engineering Extension) multi-day class on Wide Area Search. Marjorie Windelberg is providing a tabletop exercise on traffic and crowd management and an intermediate-level workshop on hazardous materials. Beth Mahar and Reba Winstead will take CERT Train-the-Trainer for a FEMA certification.

Conference co-chairs are Suu-Va Tai of California Office of Emergency Services and Frances Whalen of DC CERT. Planning committee members are from CERTs across the United States. Marjorie Windelberg is on the Planning Committee plus chair of the Logistics and the Safety/Medical subcommittees; she also works on the Volunteer Staffing subcommittee. Beth Mahar is on the Safety/Medical subcommittee.

Arlington Active Shooter Exercise August 9. This is a full-scale exercise at Oakridge Elementary School to test active shooter plans and procedures for Arlington’s first responders and school personnel. CERTs are being asked to volunteer as actors.