

CERT Auxiliary---Annual Report 2015
(June 1-July 30)

Together we are making things happen
Thank you for making success possible

We are honored to write about the creation of the CERT Auxiliary and its accomplishments in 2015. To learn recent information about the organization, check the website at santacruzcountycert.org

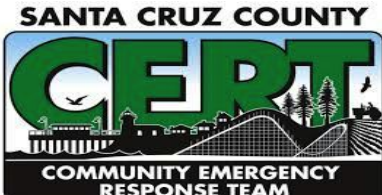
--Mary Edmund, Executive Director

Our Mission: Support the Santa Cruz County CERT Council and other disaster service organizations in the development and sustainability of the CERT Program. Build a support cadre of volunteers empowering individuals with the skills, knowledge and attitudes for serving as immediate responders in disasters affecting their neighborhoods and communities.

Our Goals:

- Provide instruction and inspiration for individuals about CERT education and other programs in disaster preparedness,
- Build and maintain neighborhood programs helping communities be prepared for emergencies.
- Seek supportive contacts in existing public and private organizations, and with individuals, to further the goals of CERT.

100% of all donations go to support the CERT Auxiliary's initiatives.



History: In 2007, Santa Cruz County began receiving Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding allocated to the CERT Program. A County CERT Council was created with representatives from throughout the county to develop policy, manage budget execution and provide quality Control for CERT instruction. Funding continue through 2011 with funds specifically allocated to the CERT Program. The CERT Program thrived with many neighborhoods establishing CERT Teams with all Fire Districts teaching CERT.

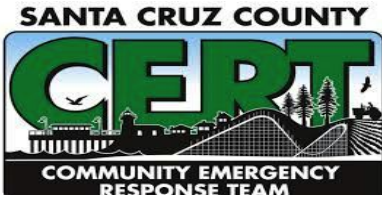
However, FEMA dollars evaporated in 2012 and the local fire districts assumed budget responsibility for CERT training. Now, in 2015, only 2 fire districts are teaching CERT with minimal classes, neighborhood programs disappeared, and the County CERT Council is defunct.

Recognizing the value of disaster preparedness, and neighborhood disaster pre-planning the CERT Auxiliary was formed to assume responsibility for management, funding and development of the CERT Program with County oversight. In January 2015, the Auxiliary was established as a public benefit corporation with IRS 501c3 status. First, we accomplished all legal requirements, i.e. Board of Directors, Bylaws, financial system using recognized accounting principles and reporting to proper State offices.

Next, the Auxiliary started incorporating volunteers as CERT instructors with firefighters. In Aptos/LaSelva Fire District all CERT classes are taught by volunteers with the goal of expanding this model throughout the County.

Auxiliary volunteers are currently working on:

- Updating and expanding the Santa Cruz County CERT website;
- Creating a database of all CERT- trained individuals in Santa Cruz County--allowing immediate contact for activation by specific skill and location; notification of training classes, and allowing for non-disaster requests for help, i.e. traffic control or searching for lost individuals;
- Bringing a Train-the-Trainer CERT Instructor course to the County increasing volunteer instructors so more classes may be taught in areas throughout the county, especially in rural areas;



- Offering Family Disaster Training Classes, a 1 ½ hour class on protecting your family in a disaster or emergency situation;
- Coordinating with Home Depot and firefighters to conduct the 8th “Danger in Paradise” CERT refresher training; and
- Writing grants and seeking donations to support all training initiatives.