



CERT AUXILIARY – ANNUAL REPORT 2016 (JULY 1, 2015 – JUNE 30, 2016)

*TOGETHER WE ARE MAKING THINGS HAPPEN
THANK YOU FOR MAKING SUCCESS POSSIBLE*

It is a privilege to write about the CERT Auxiliary and its accomplishments this past year, made possible by hard-working and dedicated volunteers. To learn about the most recent happenings check out 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:

- Develop formalized basic and advanced regional training for CERT to attract and retain volunteers.
- Build and maintain neighborhood Teams to prepare for disasters and foster participation and communication among the teams.
- Develop a stable source of funding supporting CERT members with training, equipment, and other needs to ensure volunteers are prepared to respond to disasters.
- Create supportive contacts in existing public and private organizations and with community members to further the goals of CERT.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

It was a whirlwind year with many crucial elements achieved.

This included sponsoring a FEMA recognized CERT Basic Training Instructors Course adding 25 new volunteer instructors for the County. Now there are regional classes to accommodate most areas and the ability to tailor classes to their specific needs.

An interactive website (santacruzcountycert.org) is up and running, filled with information on CERT classes, resources, teams, and events. A “contact us” tab allows anyone to ask specific questions and sign-up for classes and events.

A database of recent CERT-trained individuals in Santa Cruz County was established allowing immediate contact for mobilization, notification of training classes, and possibly allowing for non-disaster requests for help, i.e. traffic management and searching for lost individuals.

We offered Family Disaster Training, a 1½-hour class on protecting your family in a disaster or emergency situation.

We coordinated with Home Depot and County firefighters to conduct a successful 8th “Dangers in Paradise” CERT refresher training.

A new requirement for CERT recertification was established — 25 hours of advanced training over 5 years, giving more credibility to CERT members and allowing for advanced training classes.

An organizational 5-year strategic plan was developed.

Grant writing seeking donations to support all training initiatives was prioritized.

FUTURE GOALS:

- Establishing and maintaining new CERT Teams and re-energizing old ones
- In this fiscal year, teaching 10 Basic Training classes throughout the County
- Creating an advanced training program
- Procuring funding for 300 backpacks for class participants
- Increasing public awareness of CERT programs and capabilities

SPECIAL THANKS:

We are grateful to our Individuals Donors, supportive government employees, and especially ***the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County, Episcopal Church of St John the Baptist, and Omega Nu*** for their generosity.