



WHATCOM COUNTY CERT NEWS

WHATCOM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SHERIFF BILL ELFO, DIRECTOR

Mailing Address

311 GRAND AVENUE
Bellingham, WA 98225-4078
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DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
DOUG DAHL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number.

CERT TRAINING EQUIPMENT

You all remember the fire session with the big, old, rusty tub filled with water and a concoction of diesel fuel and gasoline. Well, we are now much more environmentally friendly. Thanks to the **Whatcom County Sheriff's Office, Division of Emergency Management**, and a grant from **HOMELAND SECURITY**, CERT is now the proud owner of a fire simulator.

This system, complete with propane tank and electric controller and cutoff, will allow us to safely and cleanly produce fires for students to correctly extinguish. **Thank you Frances for facilitating this procurement.**

The second will be done in Point Roberts over one long weekend. This is being led by new instructor **Virginia Lester** and potential instructor **Andrew Breiteneder** with guidance and support from **Geri Chumley**. The class will be held on October 1, 2, and 3rd.

CERT INSTRUCTORS

The above are the classes scheduled as of now. If any of you have a group interested in having a CERT class, contact me and we will set it up.

Remember, I hope and expect that CERT instructors will be active in developing CERT classes. This is especially true in areas of the county where access to Bellingham is more difficult. You never know who will be in a position to save your life. Training can be the key.

"DON'T LEARN SAFETY BY ACCIDENT"

When did you last check your "72 Hour" Kit?

FUTURE CERT CLASSES

We have scheduled two CERT classes for this fall. The first will be given through Bellingham Tech and will be held on Tuesday evenings beginning on September 28th.

EXPO-LAST CHANCE

The 2010 NW Citizen Corps Expo is scheduled for 8 AM to 4 PM on Saturday, August 28th at The Washington State Fire Training Academy just

outside North Bend. You won't want to miss all the fun.

Registration will close

August 1. To continue to offer this great training and exercise opportunity, a non-refundable fee of \$30 is required this year. To register, go to www.nwcitizencorpsexpo.com.

CERT TEAMS

ACME:

My bride **Helen** had never been in a parade before. Her first experience was on the 4th of July. Organized by **Stephanie Soicher** and the Acme area CERT team, seven of us wore our CERT helmets and vests and gave out candy and CERT information as we took part in the **Acme Fourth of July Parade**. We were accompanied by two moulaged young people, children of the CERT members. It was a fun time, and we helped the local people better understand what CERT is all about.

Pt. Roberts Emergency Preparedness (PREP):

I was contacted by **Amy Romanas**, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for Richmond, Alberta, BC. She was interested in CERT. As a result of our discussions, she and two others from Richmond will be attending the PREP CERT class in October.

Any others from the northwest part of Whatcom County who may be interested in taking this course, contact me, **Geri Chumley** (647-2673) or **Virginia Lester** (945-2827).

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

September is National Preparedness Month. Most of us know to look for information about disaster preparedness in all sorts of places. Between getting our monthly newsletter from CERT to staying current on weather reports and just finding out other information where we can keep current on continuing education, we can learn quite a bit from local sources and various websites!

FEMA and ready.gov have put together a great website encouraging Americans to be prepared for disaster! They encourage the private citizen and business to be ready. They are asking us to commit to doing something in the month of September that will encourage someone else to be prepared for disaster.

Do you have pets? They have some wonderful information and downloadable brochures as well as video available. Check it out:

http://www.ready.gov/america/toolkit_pets/index.html

JENNY QUESTIONS

1. What are the four Section Chiefs in the Incident Command System?
2. What role does each Section Chief play?
3. When is a Section shut down?
4. When is a Section Chief appointed?

HEALTH INFORMATION

Most of you are aware that I am a retired National Weather Service meteorologist. To keep up on what is going on in the weather world, I receive a publication each quarter (**AWARE**) that discusses the latest in severe weather.

The latest edition had what for me was an interesting chart. For years, I have been telling people that lightning and floods were the two big weather killers. However, over the past 10 years, that has not been true. During that span, heat has caused more deaths, on average, than floods and lightning combined. That is hugely important. During warm weather, we all need to keep hydrated and not over exert ourselves.

To see the latest copy of **AWARE**, go to <http://www.weather.gov/os/Aware/pdfs/10summer-aware.pdf>.

FROM THE NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Every week, I receive a newsletter from the National Citizen Corps Council. I thought this article was interesting and potentially helpful to our CERT members.

Emergencies can be a scary and stressful time, especially for pregnant women or women with infants or children. Though you may feel it is impossible to be ready for unexpected events, being prepared can help you avoid

stress and put you in a better position to handle such events.

If you are pregnant or are someone with infants or young children, find out how to plan for an emergency or disaster. The following fact sheet [<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/pregnantfactsheet.asp>] will help you prepare for an emergency birth, for an emergency or disaster evacuation, for a stay in a shelter or place other than your home, and for the recovery after the disaster.

JENNY ANSWERS

1. Operations, Logistics, Planning, Administration

2. Operations implements the decisions made by the Incident Commander. Planning receives, filters, and compiles information coming in from the incident scene. Logistics ensures that the personnel, equipment, and tools required by operations to implement the Incident Commander's decisions are in the right place at the right time in the right quantities. Administration collects all incident data after it has been compiled, acted on, and/or is no longer needed.

3. When the Incident Commander believes it is no longer needed.

4. When the Incident Commander decides to do so.

CONTINUING ED.

Don't forget, if you are interested in continuing your education, you can go to the National CERT homepage and view any of the new training videos that have been created. They are really good. I have been using them in the recent CERT classes. Go to [<http://citizencorps.gov/cert>].



See the website for our updated newsletters each month!
[www.whatcomcert.org]

Mark Challender, webmaster.
Penny Wile, Photographer

Also, the newsletter can be found at
[<http://www.whatcomcounty.us/dem/educate/cert/cert.isp>]



WHATCOM VOLUNTEER CENTER

(360) 734-3055 or
1-800-Volunteer
725 North State Street
Bellingham, WA 98225
[info@whatcomvolunteer.org]
[www.whatcomvolunteer.org/]



THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

ARC Courses
Contact the Mt. Baker Chapter for more Information – 733-3290

New! Open Shelter Locator Map from the American Red Cross



Medical Reserve Corps

The Medical Reserve Corps is a group of medical professionals and others prepared to volunteer their skills during times of community crisis.
360.676.6724 x #50852
[<mailto:info@WhatcomMRC.org>]
[<http://www.whatcommrc.org/>]

CONTINUING EDUCATION – See the latest **CERT News** for current details.
CHANGES ARE CONSTANT – CERT IS FLEXIBLE
Additional info: Bob Jacobson (phone 360-778-7163) or [bjacobso@co.whatcom.wa.us].

TO VOLUNTEER for Booths and Special Events:
Contact Joy Krumdiack – Special Events Volunteer Coordinator
Phone: 733-4555 (Work),
733-8259 (Home),
201-5899(Cell),
[bryankr@msn.com]

