



WHATCOM COUNTY CERT NEWS

WHATCOM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
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CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number.

"DON'T LEARN SAFETY BY ACCIDENT"

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

CERT CLASSES

Fall is upon us. And, as is normal, there are several CERT classes happening. So, if you know of anyone interested, there are a lot of opportunities to take or complete CERT.

ACME-WICKERSHAM

The **Acme-Wickersham CERT** team has sponsored **CERT 46**. This class was given over two weekends (October 23 and 24 and October 30) at the Deming Public Library. **Bill Aiken** coordinated this class.

Graduates will be listed in next month's newsletter.

BELLINGHAM TECH

CERT 44 is being held at BTC with classes beginning at 630 pm on Tuesday evenings. **Bob Jacobson** is coordinating this class and **Kayla Grayson** is assisting.

November sessions include:

- Session 5 – Medic II – 11/2
- Session 7 – Psych/ICS - 11/9
- Session 8 – Table Top - 11/16
- Session 9 - Final – 11/23

People who have to make up classes are invited to attend. Also, as a refresher, CERT graduates are always welcome to sit in.

If you want to be a "ghost" (observer) or a victim, contact Bob at 778-7163.

On October 12, **Nancy Heiser** and **Anna Clancy** completed makeups and are now CERT members.

Congratulations Anna and Nancy.

PT. ROBERTS

CERT 45, sponsored by the Pt. Roberts CERT team (**Pt. Roberts Emergency Preparedness or PREP**) was held over the weekend of October 3. **Virginia Lester** and **Andrew Breiteneder**, mentored by **Geri Chumley**, coordinated the class.

New CERT members now include: **Andrew Breiteneder, Mark Ellison, Al Gerrard, Maureen Gerrard, Kandace Harper, Samuel M. Hinds, Joyce Kiniski, Kelly Kiniski,**

Shive Marshall, Judson Meraw, Noel Newbolt, Geramy Powell, Ron Powell, Michael Resnick, Kimberly Riggins, Shant Tersakian, and Greg Watts.

In addition, **Amy Romanas** and **Deanna Selver** from the Richmond, BC, Canada, Office of Emergency Preparedness completed CERT. **Deborah Proctor** from that organization attended most of the classes. This is exciting because CERT does not currently exist in Canada. Hopefully, Amy and Deanna can initiate the program in their city.

NOOKSACK TRIBE

The Nooksack Tribe sponsored its own CERT training over the weekend of October 8. About 30 tribal members participated taught by representatives from the **Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council.**

THANK YOU MARK

Thanks to the donation and efforts of webmaster **Mark Challenger,** www.whatcomcert.org is back on line.

Thank you Mark.

CERT TRAINING AID

Early in October, the Memorandum of Understanding between DEM and with the leadership of **Whatcom County Fire District 8 (FD#8)** was signed. This establishes a good relationship between FD#8 and the CERT program in

the use of our new fire extinguisher system.

In conjunction with FD#8 staff, I used it with the CERT 44 class. It is great. When needed, CERT instructors will have to coordinate with FD#8 personnel to get the system.

Sometime this fall, CERT Instructor Team Leader **Geri Chumley** would like to have all instructors be trained in the new system. Stay tuned.

PROJECT SANTA CLAUS

Old time CERT members will recall that we frequently have volunteered to help the **Whatcom County Sheriff's Office** in their **Project Santa Claus** project. **Jeannine Chapman** has agreed to coordinate our effort in this regard. Stay tuned for more info.

"Stop. Think. Connect."

The Department of Homeland security (DHS) has launched "Stop. Think. Connect." This is a National Cybersecurity Awareness Campaign that promotes simple steps the public can take to increase their safety and security online. It is a national public education campaign designed to increase public understanding of cyber threats and how individual citizens can develop safer cyber habits that will help make networks more secure. See the DHS website for more information. www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1286211160622.shtm

Dual-Polarization Radar Training for National Weather Service (NWS) Partners

Between January 2011 and March 2013, the entire fleet of NWS Doppler radars (WSR-88D) is scheduled for a major software and hardware upgrade. This upgrade, known as dual-polarization technology, will greatly enhance these radars, to allow, among other things, the WSR-88D to explicitly detect layers of melting snow above the ground.

This is important to CERT because it will allow the NWS to issue better, more accurate forecasts and warnings to us in the Pacific Northwest.

Additionally, our area will soon have another WSR-88D to help the local NWS forecasters. A unit is to be installed near Grays Harbor by the fall of 2011.

MORE WEATHER STUFF

On Saturday October 23, **Warning Coordination Meteorologist Ted Buehner** and **Lead Forecaster Allen Kam,** from the Seattle NWS Office, conducted weather spotter training in both Kendall and Pt. Roberts. Sponsored by CERT, 48 people completed this training. This includes 13 CERT graduates. Graduates of the class are eligible to become NWS spotters, the eyes of the NWS. So congratulations to **David and Pat Beasley, Bill Bezanson, Frances Burkhart, Veronica Dearden, Gary Grinde, Helen Almojera, Glen**

Yorks, Henry and Esther Rosenthal, Kandy Harper, Judson Meraw, and Shant Tersakian.

“WINTER OF EXTREMES” FOR U.S.

On October 21, 2010, NOAA released its 2010 U.S. Winter Outlook predicting extreme weather patterns for different regions of the country this winter. FEMA is reminding individuals to get ready for winter storms and extreme cold. We can find helpful tips and recommendations to help us get prepared at <http://www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/winter.html>.

NOAA's outlook forecast is that the Pacific Northwest could have a colder and wetter than average winter, while the South may be warmer and drier than usual. Threats vary across the different parts across the country, but almost everyone, regardless of where they live, is likely to have some type of severe winter weather at some point this year.

It is never too early to start preparing for snowstorms, icy roads, and other types of severe weather.

1. **Update your emergency supply kit**
2. **Review your family communications plan**
3. **Stay informed about the risks and emergencies in your community.**

Your emergency supply kit should include at least a three-

day supply of food and water, a battery-powered or hand-crank radio, and extra flashlights and batteries. Consider adding the following supplies for winter:

- Rock salt to melt ice on walkways
- Sand to improve traction
- Snow shovels and other snow removal equipment
- Adequate clothing and blankets to help keep you warm

Be sure your family is familiar with the terms used to identify a winter storm hazard and discuss what to do if a winter storm watch or warning is issued. These terms are:

- **Freezing Rain** creates a coating of ice on roads and walkways
- **Sleet** is rain that turns to pellets before reaching the ground. Sleet also causes roads to freeze and become slippery.
- **Winter Weather Advisory** means cold, ice and snow are expected
- **Winter Storm Watch** means severe weather such as heavy snow or ice is possible in the next day or two
- **Winter Storm Warning** means severe winter conditions have begun or will begin very

SEASONAL FLU INFO

The single best way to prevent seasonal flu is to get a yearly flu vaccine. But, good health habits and antiviral medications are other

measures that can help protect against the flu.

To help businesses, employers, and their employees learn about these strategies for preventing flu, the Center for Disease Control provides a Toolkit, flyers, posters, and other materials to post and distribute in the workplace.

www.cdc.gov/flu/business

JENNY QUESTIONS

1. When setting a medical treatment area, the site should be _____ and _____ of the hazard.
2. To ensure the effective use of space and the most effective method for caregivers to watch over the victims in the medical treatment area, patients should be laid ____ to ____.
3. In the medical treatment area, your most skilled medical person should be assigned as:
 - a. Team leader
 - b. IC
 - c. Person who treats patients
 - d. Safety Officer
4. In the Head to Toe Assessment you should:
 - a. Start with the head.
 - b. Do it the same way every time.
 - c. Cover the entire body.
 - d. All the above.

BOB TRAVEL

I will be gone to Portland, Oregon over November 4 to 6th attending the Northwest Regional Citizen Corps Conference. Citizen Corp sponsors CERT.

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>.

JENNY ANSWERS

1. Upwind/Upstream
2. Head/toe
3. C
4. D

We're on the web!
www.whatcomcert.org

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>



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THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

If someone is asked which disasters are most common in this country, the answer is usually big emergencies that affect a widespread area - events like hurricanes, floods and tornadoes. But a fire in the home is actually the most common threat to families in the United States. Each year, the American Red Cross and its 650 chapters respond to more than 63,600 home fires. Over and over again, Red Cross workers report to the scene of a fire, offering food, shelter and emotional support to those whose homes have been affected, as well as support to the firemen and

emergency personnel responding to the fire.

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