



## WHATCOM COUNTY CERT NEWS

WHATCOM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
SHERIFF BILL ELFO, DIRECTOR

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DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### Physical Location

Whatcom County Civic Center Annex  
322 North Commercial, Bellingham, WA 98226  
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Our monthly lesson for a refresher!

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

**FROM ALL OF US AT  
THE WHATCOM  
UNIFIED EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT, WE  
HOPE YOU HAVE A  
HEALTHY AND  
PROSPEROUS 2012.**

## CLASSES

### 1 – CERT 53

CERT 53 completed its final exercise on December 16. New CERT members include: **Linda Joy De Long, Al Farres, Miguel Ryan, Ryan McKee, Ashley Demko, Donna Janigo, Christina Saunders, Kendra Bradford, Shurla Rogers-Thibou, Whitney Kiewit, Mindy Mathis, Anna Talvi, Lon Butcher, and Dan Lindeman.** In addition, **Laura Carney** from CERT 52 completed the final and is now a CERT graduate. **Andrea Osborne, Lynn Robinson, and Lucky Tedrow** attended the class and will become CERT members upon making up one or two classes.

**CONGRATULATIONS ALL!!!!**

### 2 – UPCOMING CERT

The folks at Western Washington University are on a roll. They expect to have

another CERT class beginning in January or early February.

If you are associated with WWU, Bellingham Technical College, or Whatcom Community College, and are interested in taking the CERT program, **contact Jonah Stinson 650-6527.**

### 3 – INSTRUCTOR TRAINING

As most of you know, we have recently received a new CERT Student Manual from CERT National. Thanks to yeoman effort from **Geri Chumley, Amy Woodfin, Erica Work, and Kay Surber**, we have "Whatcomized" this manual and the associated power points. One of the major points of emphasis on this update is that instructors really stick to the information contained on the slides.

To this end, we are holding an All-Instructor class on **Saturday, February 4.** I do not know yet where it will be, but I will let you know. All previously-trained instructors

should plan to attend. We will go over the new program and give to each of you a thumb drive containing the power points and a copy of the new manual.

**All instructors – I will see you there.**

## FEMA ADVICE

### Put a Freeze on Winter Fires

Over this past week, we have seen several tragic examples of home fires. As winter evolves and home fires begin to increase, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) are reminding individuals and communities that fire safety awareness and efforts are especially important in the coming months. To support this effort, the USFA and NFPA are sponsoring a special initiative - "Put a Freeze on Winter Fires" – to help get the word out about home fire safety."

Each winter, an estimated 108,400 home fires occur in the United States, resulting in approximately 945 deaths and \$1.7 billion in property loss. Cooking is the leading cause of winter home fires. However, holiday decorations and winter storms can cause people to turn to alternative heating sources, such as space heaters, which account for about one third of home heating fires and approximately 80 percent of home heating fire deaths.

Winter fires can be prevented! The following fire safety tips can help maintain a fire-safe home this winter season:

- \* Stay in the kitchen when cooking something on top of the stove or when grilling or broiling food.

- \* Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from space heaters, woodstoves, etc.

- \* Replace damaged electrical or extension cords.

- \* Never use the oven or stovetop to heat a home; carbon monoxide gas can kill people and pets.

- \* Don't put a live Christmas tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water.

- \* Make sure fire place ashes are OUT before disposing of them.

- \* Avoid using lighted candles; try flameless candles instead.

## PREPAREDNESS

Snow in the mountains is always a challenge to drivers. Did you see the recent story about the woman whose car was buried in snow for several days? This is always a possibility.

Whenever traveling, you should have extra water, food, and blankets in case you get stuck. And experts say, you should stay with your car.

And, as an ex-weatherman, I would encourage you to check [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov) before you go.

## OTHER NEWS

### CERT Basic Training Participant Manual Now Available in Spanish, Braille and Screen Reader Versions

The National Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program is pleased to announce the release of the CERT Basic Training Participant Manual in Braille and in PDF screen reader. Each version includes the same nine units of course content and 13 hazard annexes as the standard version of the Participant Manual. These two releases also compliment the recent announcement of the low vision and Spanish versions of the CERT Basic Training Participant Manual.



## JENNY QUESTIONS

1. What is the correct sequence to shut off circuit breakers?
2. What does LIES stand for?
3. What does PASS stand for?
4. You come upon a truck accident. The truck has a NFPA placard on it. What do you as a CERT do?

## JENNY ANSWERS

1. Small circuit breakers first. The main breaker last.
2. Limit, Isolate, Eliminate, Separate
3. Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep
4. Get away (upwind, uphill), Notify authorities, warn to keep others away.



## THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

Preparedness classes are available from the Mt. Baker chapter of the American Red Cross. Go to the ARC website for more information.

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

## INFORMATION TALKS

If any of you are part of an organization (Civic Club, American Legion, VFW, etc.) interested in preparedness that would like to have a speaker on this subject, contact DEM at 676-6681.



## Medical Reserve Corps

The Medical Reserve Corps is a group of medical professional and others trained and prepared to volunteer their skills during times of community crisis.

360.676.6724 x #50852  
<mailto:info@WhatcomMRC.org>  
<http://www.whatcommrc.org/>

We're on the web!  
[www.whatcomcert.org](http://www.whatcomcert.org)

See the website for our updated newsletters each month!  
([www.whatcomcert.org](http://www.whatcomcert.org))

**Mark Challender**, webmaster.  
**Greg Marshall**, photographer.  
Also, the newsletter can be found at  
<http://www.whatcomcounty.us/dem/educate/cert/cert.isp>

FACEBOOK Group:  
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=91941921079>  
FACEBOOK Page:  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Whatcom-County-CERT/131788356877378?v=info>



## WHATCOM VOLUNTEER CENTER

Whatcom Volunteer Center will be transitioning from 1-800-Volunteer.org (our online volunteer opportunity system) to HandsOn Connect shortly after the new year. The new program has some strengths and advantages that 1-800-volunteer did not (and the 1-800 system is being phased out.) On January 4, our website will be down while we undertake the transition. We expect that by Monday, January 9, the new system will be in place and functioning.

(360) 734-3055 or  
725 North State Street  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
[www.whatcomvolunteer.org/](http://www.whatcomvolunteer.org/)

Log in your hours to Whatcom Volunteer Center. Your volunteer hours count.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:bryankr@msn.com)