



Gem County CERT Minutes
November 19, 2009
Gem County EMS Building 7:00pm

Attendance: Anita Taylor, Judy Bedal, Autumn Roberts, Clint Reed, Karen Mettler, Shane Mettler, Sandy Holbrook, Tom Neth, Heidi Novich (Idaho Citizen Corps Coordinator, Dept. of Homeland Security), David Biggs, Kasey Ellis, Rich Labonte

- 1) **Review Minutes** - from October 15, 2009
 - a) The spelling of Brent Dittrich's name was incorrect. The correction was noted. The minutes were approved by Judy and seconded by Rich.
- 2) **Discussion of past year's accomplishments**
 - a) Assisted with a number of community events such as the triathlon and H1N1 vaccination clinics.
 - b) Responded to support first responders during local disaster needs and assisted with the search for Robert Manwill in Boise.
 - c) Utilized opportunities during community events to raise awareness of CERT, which resulted in addition of new team members.
 - d) Pictures taken during the full-scale exercise last April were shown, and a group picture of the CERT team was taken.
- 3) **Discussion with Heidi Novich regarding role of CERT teams**
 - a) Heidi shared experiences of one of her counterparts in Ohio during a local H1N1 vaccination clinic. Anita shared results of the Hot Wash discussion following the local H1N1 clinic – ideas were given for improvements on clinic process.
 - b) There is a nationwide push to get CERT programs in schools. Judy talked about the distribution of disaster preparation books in our schools last year. Heidi talked about the National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) project that is being used to integrate CERT into schools.
 - c) CERT teams are run at the county level, rather than at the state level.

- d) Need to make sure CERT team members are on board with disaster preparedness on a personal level. Team members will be better able to respond to the community's needs if they are individually prepared. Rich discussed the "Map Your Neighborhood" program and how it would help with individual preparedness. Other resources are the websites www.ready.gov and www.idahoprepares.gov.

4) **Discussion of goals for next year**

- a) Map Your Neighborhood Project implementation for CERT Team members' neighborhoods by Summer 2010. Autumn discussed how the project works, as well as its purpose and scope.
- b) Complete CERT course training for team members. Rotating course schedule will be set for the upcoming year, offering the option of picking up missed classes at any point during the rotation. FEMA training (ICS courses) are available online at www.training.fema.gov.
- c) Ensure that CERT team members are up to speed on individual preparedness.
- d) Plan a Preparedness Fair for late spring, perhaps to coincide with the Walter Knox Wellness Fair or some other related event. Judy & Anita shared their experience while attending a county preparedness fair in Salt Lake. Discussion was held regarding the opportunity to display equipment available to be used in the event of a disaster (Incident Command trailer, CERT trailer, etc.).
- e) Continue raising visibility of CERT team in community. Heidi mentioned that Ada County utilizes churches to get the message of individual preparedness out to community members.
- f) Autumn would like to pursue doing a joint exercise with Red Cross.

5) **Fundraising and volunteer opportunities**

- a) Judy discussed the need to actively pursue fund-raising opportunities in the coming year. Sandy suggested asking for items to be donated for a fundraiser auction. Anita proposed having a silent auction at the preparedness fair.
- b) Shane proposed that the CERT team could assist with the Big Bang event next July 4. There were challenges with spectators crossing the fire line, putting them at risk for injury.
- c) Rich suggested that the team explore different community volunteer projects, such as installing non-slip pads on the front steps of elderly residents. Autumn talked about finding a way to connect with special-needs members of the community, perhaps as part of the Map Your Neighborhood project.

Next CERT Training Class: Triage & First Aid (Disaster Medical 1 & 2), January 7, 2010, at the Gem County EMS Building

Next Meeting: January 21, 2010 7:00 p.m. at the Gem County EMS Building