



Gem County CERT Minutes
January 21, 2010
Gem County EMS Building 7:00pm

Attendance: Anita Taylor, Judy Bedal, Autumn Roberts, Rich Labonte, Bonnie Labonte, Pauline Newman, Kermit Zahm, Elise Zahm, John Balance, Harriet Balance, Tom Grant

- 1) **Review Minutes** - from November 19, 2009
 - a) Pauline Newman was omitted from the attendee list. The correction was noted. The minutes were approved by Judy and seconded by Bonnie.
- 2) **Reviewed recent publications featuring Gem County CERT**
 - a) Department of Homeland Security winter newsletter
 - b) Messenger-Index news article
- 3) **Reviewed Code of Conduct**
 - a) CERT members will deploy only when requested by first responders. Sheriff's dispatch will contact Autumn or Anita, and they will call CERT members if needed for response.
 - b) The only time CERT identification should be worn is during an official response as referenced in item (a).
 - c) Discussed appropriate conduct during response.
 - d) Photo identification for CERT members to wear during response is in the works.
- 4) **Discussion of CERT training classes**
 - a) Training class held in January (First Aid) was very successful.
 - b) Free CPR and First Aid training class (to teach skills for "friends and family", not certified) will be offered to the community in the spring.
 - c) Next CERT training class will be Search and Rescue.

5) CERT 2010 Goals

- a) Offer CERT training classes on continuous cycle, in order to get as many people as possible CERT-trained. A field day will be offered this spring.
- b) Work toward the goal of nationwide coordination between CERT and Red Cross. Autumn will contact Red Cross about a possible joint exercise.
- c) Rich suggested working toward a goal of having regularly scheduled exercises. The group consensus was that a goal of having an exercise scheduled for each month that had no volunteer obligations was attainable. Autumn will work on coordinating a table top exercise before Field Day. Anita will contact some of the other agencies about including CERT in some of their training, in order to build CERT's role in incident response.
- d) Discussed the Map Your Neighborhood project
 - i) Goal to have all CERT members' neighborhoods mapped.
 - ii) Hold neighborhood meetings to plan coordination of resources and become familiar with residents with special needs.
 - iii) Tap into CERT members' strengths to put together meetings & support each other's neighborhoods.

6) Discussion of upcoming volunteer, fundraising, and other opportunities

- a) Fireworks perimeter security
- b) Walter Knox Health Fair
- c) Cherry Festival parade route security
- d) Show & Shine booth
- e) Assist with Triathlon
- f) Harvest Fest booth
- g) Spring Fling (after completion of work on Main Street)
- h) Relay for Life
- i) Preparedness Fair
 - i) A child-oriented event, maybe mid-August.
 - ii) Discussed possible locations.
 - iii) Involvement of other agencies such as police, EMS, fire department.
 - iv) Include activities such as "Build-a-First-Aid-Kit" for the kids.
 - v) Autumn suggested getting donations of food and supplies from local businesses, and having a barrel located at the entrance to collect donations from participants. She will contact Bi-Mart about the required paperwork to submit a donation request..
- j) Discussed individual roles available on the CERT team.

7) Recognition of members who responded to community events in 2009

- a) Autumn handed out certificates of recognition to Pauline, Rich, Judy, Anita, Sandy, Tim, Mary, Clint, Karen & Shane.

Next CERT Training Class: Search & Rescue, February 4, 2010, 7:00 p.m. at the Gem County EMS Building

Next Meeting: February 18, 2010 7:00 p.m. at the Gem County EMS Building