


TO: James L. App, City Manager

FROM: Ken Johnson, ES Chief 

SUBJECT: Citizen Disaster Preparedness

DATE: August 7, 2007

NEEDS: To update the City Council on actions taken since endorsing a plan to improve citizen emergency preparedness.

- FACTS:**
1. Citizen education in disaster/emergency preparedness was identified as a significant need in the Emergency Services Growth Management Plan.
 2. At its March 6, 2007 meeting, the City Council authorized the development of a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program and use of a part-time coordinator to instruct community members in disaster response.
 3. Notable progress was made in the area of CERT development and overall community disaster preparedness.

ANALYSIS &

CONCLUSION: Approximately four months ago, the City Council authorized ES to begin working on improving citizen ability to respond to disasters and major emergencies. The majority of this work was to be done through a local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. The funding commitment (reallocation of previously approved funds) was through the fiscal year ending June, 2007.

Over the past four months, the CERT curriculum was developed, the first series of CERT classes were held (24 hours of instruction), a supporting grant for program material was approved, and a number of public contacts were initiated. Attachments A and B, updates from the program manager, contain more detail.

Through the latest budget process, ES received program funding approval through June, 2009. A continuance of CERT training, public presentations, and specialized training targeted at businesses is anticipated over the next two years.

POLICY

REFERENCE: None.

FISCAL

IMPACT: None.

OPTIONS:

- a. Receive and file.
- b. Amend, modify or reject above option.

To: Chief Johnson

From: Dennis Loucks, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

Subject: Emergency Preparedness Program Status

Our emergency preparedness program continues to progress and we have accomplished several of the goals outlined in our May status report. Most notable was the completion of our first CERT class. As other opportunities presented themselves, our focus was flexible to meet the requests/needs of the community. For ease of review, I have outlined the programs Accomplishments, Short Term Goals and Long Term Goals.

Accomplishments:

- Completed our first CERT training class. The class was held twice a week during the month of June, for a total of eight sessions. During the sessions, the students were taught, utility control, fire suppression, medical triage, incident command system, terrorism and disaster psychology. The class was small (ten students), however, given the time of year, after Memorial Day and before the July 4th holiday, the level of participation was expected. In the future, as with other CERT classes in the county, classes will be offered after the Labor Day holiday and again after the Christmas holiday season. Participation numbers increase when classes are offered during those time periods.
- One of our students utilized the information/skills learned in the medical component of the class. Having come upon a single vehicle collision into a tree on Hwy 101, the student rendered appropriate aid to the driver and passenger. He made sure that the driver's airway remained open and he applied direct pressure to a head wound sustained by the passenger until emergency personnel arrived. The basic skills taught in the class were used effectively in this situation.
- Grant Award / PG&E
In June we learned of grant funds be offered by PG&E for emergency preparedness. In examining our course of instruction, we identified equipment that would improve our class and lessen the impact on the Department's budget. We applied for funds for a propane burn pan for fire extinguisher training, a laptop computer for PowerPoint presentations and funds for printing of the class manuals. The cost for the aforementioned equipment totaled \$10,100. In late June we were notified by PG&E that our grant request was accepted and the grant was awarded.

- In June we received a request from the high school health class asking for a presentation on disaster preparedness. A PowerPoint presentation was developed and presented to five classes.
- Attended a seminar on pandemic preparation pertaining to primarily private industry.
- Attended a disaster readiness seminar on special populations in San Luis Obispo.
- Along with the police department, provided safety information to the community at the downtown park safety fair.

Short Term Goals:

- Obtain grant funds from PG&E, recognize PG&E grant funding through press release and public acceptance.
- Purchase equipment prior to September CERT class.
- Organize a presentation with a guest speaker pertaining to Katrina disaster response, lessons learned.
- Attend, along with the police department crime prevention unit, a safety fair at the community center in September.

Long Term Goals:

- Provide CERT training to the community in September
- Provide CERT maintenance training with new fire extinguisher burn pan with CERT graduates and other CERT members in near by communities.
- Partner with other CERT groups to broaden training opportunities which will help maintain interest in the CERT program.
- Work with local businesses on business continuity planning.

We look forward to improving our emergency preparedness and we welcome comments and suggestions.

To: Chief Johnson
From: Dennis Loucks, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Subject: Addendum to July 2007 Status Report

- The CERT course is taught in eight sessions, typically twice a week for four weeks. In each class session we have included practical exercises eliminating the need for an all-day practical exercise.

Unit 1: Disaster Preparedness

Recent Disasters and Emergencies
Disasters and Disaster Workers
Impact on the Infrastructure
Structural and Nonstructural Hazards
Hazard Mitigation
Home and Workplace Preparedness
Community Preparedness
Protection for Disaster Workers

Unit 2: Fire Safety

Fire Chemistry
Reducing Fire Hazards in the Home and Workplace
Hazardous Materials
CERT Sizeup
Firefighting Resources
Fire Suppression Safety

Unit 3: Disaster Medical Operations-Part 1

Treating Life-Threatening Conditions
Triage

Unit 4: Disaster Medical Operations-Part 2

Public Health Considerations
Functions of Disaster Medical Operations
Establishing Treatment Areas
Conducting Head to Toe Assessments
Treating Burns
Wound Care
Treating Fractures, Dislocations, Sprains, and Strains
Splinting
Nasal Injuries
Treating Hypothermia

Unit 5: Light Search and Rescue Operations

Search and Rescue Size-up
Conducting Search Operations
Conducting Rescue Operations

Unit 6: CERT Organization

CERT Organization
CERT Decision making

Unit 7: Terrorism and CERT

Terrorist Targets
Terrorist Weapons
B-NICE Indicators
Preparing the Home and Work
CERT and Terrorist Incidents

Unit 8: Disaster Psychology

Team Well-Being
Working with Survivors' Trauma

- The following citizens have completed our CERT training:
 - Michael Cordsen
 - Roger Gettmann
 - Claire Glennon
 - Amy Halas
 - Walter Kauhan
 - Janet Mueller
 - Marlene Piers
 - Lani Sheridan
 - Lois Williams

- In order to maintain interest and a level of competency, additional training opportunities and informational meetings need to be offered to our CERT members. In addition to our community members, we are interested in promoting these events with other CERT groups to increase the level of participation and also to broaden training with other groups as they offer additional training. The training/seminars that are being planned and/or considered are the following:
 - Katrina Hurricane Presentation for CERT members, city staff and interested community members. The speaker, John Douglass, is the Disaster Service Coordinator for Los Angeles County and he spent several weeks in Mississippi working in the public information office. His presentation has been given nationwide and the “lessons learned” are relevant to all areas of the nation. Mr. Douglass also owns a world wide company specializing in aviation rescue equipment. He and his wife reside in the Paso Robles area. We are planning the presentation in August, prior to our next CERT class offering in September.

- Tour mass casualty/ heavy rescue vehicles at Paso Robles Department of Emergency Services.
- Work with Red Cross to Offer AED (Automated External Defibulator) training to CERT members and interested city staff members
- Plan presentation at county EOC, how it operates etc.
- Fire extinguisher training with new burn pan from PG&E grant
- Amateur radio presentation as it relates to emergency communications and the EOC
- Expansion Programs
We are looking to expand emergency preparedness into the business community. We currently have a sample business continuity plan on the city web site that helps guide business owners in creating their own plan. We are still developing this area and since emergency planning for business is often specific to the individual business, it may be necessary to assist businesses on an individual basis. We have identified this as a community need and are reviewing information resources on how to best facilitate this program.