

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) REGIONAL PLANNING MEETING WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2015

There was a Joint Regional Planning meeting with Worcester County, Wicomico County, Sussex County, DE and Ocean City CERT personnel invited on Wednesday 4 November 2015. The meeting was held at the Ocean City Public Safety Building 6501 Coastal Highway Ocean City, Maryland 21842 in the 2nd floor EOC/Training Room and started at 1830 hours.

- Welcome from Ocean City was conducted with introductions being made showing 21 people present from Worcester, Wicomico, Ocean City CERT's, Worcester and Ocean City Emergency Services and Maryland Emergency Management Agency Regional representative present.
- An overview from each group about their organization to include goals, objectives and training was conducted. A review of the Ocean City training schedule for the balance of 2015 and the first six months of 2016 was presented.
- Discuss and consider two year regional goals, objectives and training for all CERT's in the region with topics that included;
 - Annual training requirements that could be met regionally
 - CPR/AED
 - First Aid
 - Amateur Radio Technician training
 - Incident Command System training
 - Public Information Officer for CERT
 - More involvement in local and regional events was discussed
- Additional training topics that were discussed at the meeting were:
 - Annual Regional Training to be held at the Maryland Fire and Rescue Training Center in Princess Anne to cover Building Search and Rescue, Fire Extinguisher use, and other related skills.
 - Conduct training with Team Rubicon
 - Conduct Search and Rescue training for Woods.
 - Conduct Compass and Map reading training.
 - CPR/AED Training, Re-certification Training and Instructor training.
 - Points of Distribution (PODs) training from the Federal Government.
 - Additional training classes on Traffic and Crowd Control.
 - Conduct a communications exercise just for CERT personnel with RACES.
- Membership recruitment and retention was discussed with topics like requirements to remain active within a program and membership recognition. This can be discussed further at a future meeting.

- CERT Program Awareness to promote the programs was discussed. Some of the topics were;
 - Consider creation of video
 - Create Public Service Announcements
 - Conduct a CERT Skills Rodeo at Events with preparedness information and CERT information handed out. Examples that were discussed were;
 - County Fairs
 - Sundaes in the Park
 - Pork in the Park
 - During Preparedness month at retail locations
 - Ocean City Boat Show
 - 3rd Friday Events in Salisbury
 - Andy Harris Preparedness Night (In July each year)
 - Farmers Markets
 - Maryland Emergency Management Association Conference in Ocean City in May each year
 - Maryland Municipal Conference in Ocean City
- Open forum/discussion
 - Consider conducting Public Information Officer (PIO) training for CERT members and let them make press releases for outreach.
 - Contact schools to look at holding a TEEN CERT training program.
 - Contact Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops to conduct presentations and Skills
 - Consider holding a CERT Instructor Train-the-Trainer program regionally.
- With no further business this meeting was adjourned at 2045 hours with the understanding that minutes would be created by Ocean City Emergency Services and distributed through email to all personnel that signed up for these minutes.
- Consideration for another joint planning meeting was discussed and will be held on Wednesday 6 April 2016 beginning at 1830 hours with the location to be announced to move around a bit.

Respectfully submitted

Bob Rhode

Ocean City Emergency Services