Cuyahoga CERT Association

Monday, April 20, 2015
7:00 pm to 8:45 pm
(1900-2045 Hours)

General Meeting Agenda

Independence Public Library
6361 Selig Blvd.
Independence, Ohio 44131

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1. Republican National Convention – Planning has not begun.
   Secret Service activity to increase on the project in May.
2. Citizen Corps/CERT Core Capabilities – See Something Say Something
   The See Something – Say Something campaign is what was decided to emphasize for our area CERT's. Brochure and poster masters available, but may be on our own for printing if we want to hand them out. While there is a State toll free number on them as well as 911, some local jurisdictions are concerned with smaller dispatch centers handling a wave of calls for suspicious activity.
3. CERT Conference – Survey – Comments, suggestions?
   Planning has begun with survey input. Emphasis on the 'Power of Volunteers'.

4. Credentialing Update
   a. Background Checks
   The last question is a 5 or 7 year history required
   b. Loyalty Oath
   Still some discussion on who and how it is to be administered

5. Training and Exercising
   a. GPS Training
   Classes done
   b. Radio Training
   Program almost ready for distribution
   c. Local Damage Assessment
   Additional answers due May 5th
   c. Documentation
   Some CERT's lost documentation can be a problem. Importance of redundancy, including issuance of certificates to the participants. Our issue of bar code sign in instead of a sign in sheet was cited as an example.
   d. Training by John Sanders, Westshore CERT – Maps, Knots, Lashing.
   Longtime Red Cross and Boy Scout volunteer available for local training sessions

6. Recognizing Volunteers – Best Practices
   a. President's Volunteer Service Award http://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov/
   Available for levels of service hours
   b. Thank you for . . .
   A generic thank you always seems hollow, it should be for something specific and mention the person by name.

7. Business Support for CERTs – Funding or released time for employees
   Some employers offer additional funding or off time to participants.

8 Program Manager Handbook -TABLED
   a. Information on Ohio Responds, Credentialing, etc. in one place
   b. Input from Program Managers

9 Google Calendar – Post events if your CERT does not have a website -TABLED

10 CERT Reports – Reports of innovative training, events, practices
   The NEO Law Directors was addressed with a presentation of how to embrace the CERT community into theirs, starting with the inclusion ordinance into their municipal organization and then showing all the ways that the volunteers are protected with registration in Ohio Responds.

11. Other Business - There will be a July meeting