



Cuyahoga CERT Association

Monday, August 17, 2015
7:00 pm to 8:45 pm
(1900-2045 Hours)

General Meeting #15 Notes

Independence Public Library
6361 Selig Blvd.
Independence, Ohio 44131

1. Republican National Convention

Planning is supposed to begin in October.

2. CERT Conference

A Working Group is planning a CERT conference for the fall of 2016. Members of the WG are contacting the CERT program managers to encourage attendance. Topics are to be determined. The potential venue is Tri-C West in Parma.

3. Credentialing

The Citizen Corps Council approved final criteria for the NIMS credentialing. Sharon Nicastro will work with the County Office of Emergency Management to develop a registration sheet. Sharon is also trying to get the database exempted from public disclosure, as is Ohio Responds. If the database cannot be exempted, CERT volunteers should probably not enter their home address in the database. They can use their fire or police station address. See the attached document for details on the credentialing program. Direct questions to Sharon Nicastro at snicastro@sbcglobal.net.

4. Training and Exercising

- a. Sharon Nicastro reviewed the *MURS Radio Basics* course that can be used for the radio training requirement of the NIMS credentialing. The course includes an instructor manual, PowerPoint, instructor notes, instructor reference material, participant handout, pre- and post-assessments, and evaluations. The course is available to CERTs and instructors who agree to terms of use and submit written agreements.
- b. The new *Damage Assessment* course is available from Ohio EMA. The old course taught CERTs to conduct windshield surveys. The new course includes interviewing residents and assessing damage. The course must be taught by instructors who have taken the Ohio EMA's Train-the-Trainer course. Contact Sharon Nicastro if your CERT intends to assess damage and needs the new training. Regional training is preferred.
- c. No one brought certificates and check-in sheets to recommend as the standard for CERT training courses. See attached examples from a now-obsolete CERT Train-the-Trainer course.



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5. CERT Reports

- a. Four CERTs announced that they will have a CERT Basic Training program in the fall: Southwest General Health Center, Westshore CERT, Quad City CERT, and Cleveland State University CERT. Schedules for SWGHC and Quad City have been sent to program managers.
- b. Summer has been quiet for most CERTs. Some are participating in community events and some have taken the summer off. None have had emergency responses.
- c. Several CERTs reported difficulty in retaining members. Less than half and sometimes less than a third of the membership show up for meetings and events.

6. Other Business

The CERT Association was started to standardize training and operational procedures. The NIMS credentialing has superseded this mission. Nick Phillips suggested a new mission, structure, and leadership for the Association, and the fire chiefs who serve as the Association directors have agreed. Changes to the Association will be the focus of the next meeting.

7. Next Meeting

Pending approval by the Public Library, the next meeting will be

Monday, November 9, 2015
7:00 pm to 8:45 pm
Independence Public Library