



Cuyahoga CERT Association

General Meeting #18

Monday, August 15, 2016
7:00 pm to 8:45 pm
(1900-2045 Hours)

Independence Public Library
6361 Selig Blvd.
Independence, Ohio 44131

Notes

1. Attendance:

Paul Berne	Tri Community CERT
Tom Cole	Olmsted CERT
Dan Groth	Moreland Hills CERT
Tom Hartman	Brecksville/Broadview Heights CERT
Sharon Nicastro	COAD
Steve Peine	Quad City CERT
Beverly Pettrey	CSU CERT
Nick Phillips	North Royalton CERT
Sheila Roman	Garfield Heights CERT
Karen Seidman	Cleveland Heights CERT
Bill Zaker	Brecksville/Broadview Heights CERT

2. Reports on Republican National Convention

• Lt. Beverly Pettrey, CSU Police Department and CERT

- CSU has 25 law enforcement personnel. Everyone worked mandatory 12-hour shifts. CSU does not have field force training and equipment (riot control), so Cleveland Police would have been called.
- CSU had one arrest and one medical call during the week. Although nothing significant occurred, the constant heightened awareness and vigilance caused fatigue.
- There were high profile events on the campus (e.g., Al Sharpton appearance), so classes were moved off campus for student safety.
- 500 Ohio State Highway Patrol personnel were housed on campus.
- An Incident Command Post operated 24/7, and CSU had a representative at the Cleveland Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
- All rubbish containers and loose objects that could be thrown were removed from campus.
- A continuity of operations plan (COOP) was in place in case operations had to move off campus.
- Steps were taken to target-harden (make less vulnerable to attack) dormitories where police were staying.
- Throughout the Cleveland area there were many incidents that were averted due to vigilance and timely investigation of suspicious circumstances.
- The Cleveland police bike patrol was a great success. They kept tension down because they did not look intimidating.



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- The media did a good job of scaring people away from downtown. Fewer people were a benefit.
 - Cleveland Police provided radios for out-of-town police for interoperable communication.
 - There were a lot of entries on Knowledge Center (situational awareness software). Some incidents did not get closed out, which caused some confusion.
 - All sectors were represented in the EOC, but people were working in silos (not integrating their activities).
 - CSU CERT was prepared to respond, but there was nothing suitable for them to do. They would only have been activated for safe activities.
- **Nick Phillips, North Royalton CERT**
 - Nick has a radio program on WHK, so he had a media pass to the convention.
 - He was most interested in watching the security measures at Quicken Arena. Delegates were well-credentialed. They had badges from the Secret Service as well as badges for each day. Volunteers checked badges.
 - The show of force was amazing. Republicans are generally pro-law enforcement, so there was a lot of congeniality and hand-shaking. Police from out of town liked Cleveland and the Cleveland people.
 - **Other**
 - CERTs were prepared for PODs and to help the Red Cross with sheltering.
 - It would not have been appropriate for CERTs to be downtown even for safe tasks (e.g., handing out water) because of the unknowns.

3. Message from Walter Topp, CCOEM Administrator

Sharon,

I will be leaving the Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management within the next several days.

Please extend to all members of the Citizen Corps and the Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) group my sincere appreciation for the support they have provided to the Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management and the residents of Northeastern Ohio during the past four years.

It has been an eventful period as the Office of Emergency Management has achieved EMAP accreditation, constructed a new Emergency Operations Center (EOC), implemented a municipal emergency management certification program and successfully conducted Ohio's first-ever National Special Security Event (NSSE).

None of these achievements would have been possible without the generous and dedicated support of the extraordinary volunteers and members of the Citizen Corps and the COAD. Together, your efforts have contributed greatly to emergency preparedness and public safety for all residents of Cuyahoga County and Northeastern Ohio.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Walter Topp



4. OEM Positions

- Mark Christie, Interim Emergency Administrator
- Bryan Kloss, Interim Operations Manager
- John O'Donnell, Hazmat Coordinator
- Serena Steele, Training and Outreach Coordinator (CERT Contact)
- Macklin Flynn, Planning
- Adam Griffith, Outreach

5. Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)

- Sharon provided a handout that describes Cuyahoga County COAD. It is an umbrella organization that networks and coordinates any and all organizations that might be involved in disasters – government agencies, non-profits, businesses, educational institutions, faith-based organizations, and community organizations. COAD is an extension of the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) and Ohio VOAD. Sharon is the President.
- Because it might be some time before a new Citizen Corps Coordinator is secured, Sharon suggested that CERTs join COAD to stay connected to the emergency management community and maintain situational awareness. CERTs would be part of the Volunteers Committee.
- COAD is similar to Citizen Corps. Members operate and respond as they normally would but are coordinated with other organizations for greater efficiency and effectiveness and less duplication of effort.
- The County OEM is trying to get the FEMA G288 Volunteer and Donations Management course for Cuyahoga County in February. This course will be helpful for the Volunteers and Donations Committees of COAD.

6. WVIZ Program

- Citizen Corps is working with WVIZ-TV to produce a series of program for high school students about career opportunities in emergency management with an emphasis on volunteering as a means of gaining experience that could give them an edge in securing a job after high school.
- Several CERTs mentioned that they accept minors as volunteers.
- Beverly Pettrey said CSU is attempting to provide college credits as a means of attracting students to CSU CERT, and CSU is developing an emergency management major.

7. Credentialing

- Ohio EMA liked the CERT credentialing program. Rhonda Meggitt suggested a few minor changes and asked if it could be used as a template for the rest of the State.
- A new document with the credentialing criteria and process that was agreed upon at the last CERT Association meeting will be sent to the CERTs.

8. Individual and Community Preparedness eBrief

- Sharon will no longer be forwarding these eBriefs because the e-mail comes back undeliverable. To keep up with FEMA announcements, please subscribe individually.
- Subscribe at <https://www.ready.gov/citizen-corps-subscribe>



9. America's PrepareAthon!

- Sharon provided a FEMA card on 10 Ways to Participate in America's PrepareAthon! and showed a document called *Know Your Alerts and Warnings* as an example of a PrepareAthon activity. See more resources at <https://community.fema.gov>.
- These would be good activities for CERT engagements.

10. CERT Reports

- Tri Community will have CERT Basic Training on Tuesdays and Thursdays in October and November. They have five students and need five more to hold the class.
- Southwest General Health Center will have CERT Basic Training from September 14 to November 16. Last report was that they had enough for a class, but they might have room for more.

11. Other Business

- WestShore CERT has a new coordinator, Julie Morron. She holds several positions with the Rocky River Police Department.
- Karen Seidman attended a meeting in Columbus about the FEMA G197 course about planning for people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs. Ohio EMA would like to adapt the course for Ohio. Ohio EMA is offering the G197 course in Columbus. It is two days. The two biggest issues are communication and transportation.

12. Next Meeting

- Monday, November 14, 2016
- Independence Public Library
- 7:00p-8:45p
- Nick Phillips and Tom Hartman will be taking over the facilitation of the CERT Association.