



Cuyahoga CERT Association

General Meeting #17 Notes

Monday, May 16, 2016
7:00 pm to 8:45 pm
(1900-2045 Hours)

Independence Public Library
6361 Selig Blvd.
Independence, Ohio 44131

1. CERT Training Recognition Program

The group reviewed the program. Some CERT members are working toward the award. Bill Zaker of Brecksville/Broadview Heights CERT completed the intermediate level and showed his certificate and challenge coin.

There were two questions:

- (1) How recently must the courses be completed?
- (2) At what level(s) is the challenge coin awarded?

Answers from Ohio EMA:

- (1) It depends. Ohio EMA will decide on a case-by-case basis. To avoid any problems, submit a certificate for the latest version of a course.
- (2) Challenge coins are awarded for the intermediate and advanced levels.

Sharon Nicastro will re-send information about the program. No one at the meeting had any training needs related to this program.

2. ICS Forms Training

Two CERTs inquired about training for ICS forms, but neither was represented at the meeting. No one at the meeting had any training needs related to ICS forms.

3. Volunteer Registration Centers

Volunteer Registration Centers will be used to process volunteers if a large incident requires spontaneous volunteers or CERTs to cross borders. Sharon Nicastro reviewed the process that is being planned for Cuyahoga County. Volunteers will go through stations – Reception, Orientation, Registration, Screening/Assigning, Background Check, Oath, Badging, and Deployment. Just-in-Time training will be completed at the VRC or on scene depending on the circumstances. Pre-credentialed volunteers will need to complete Reception, Orientation, Screening/Assigning, and Deployment only.

The VRC plan still needs to identify individuals who can staff the VRC and needs to identify suitable facilities that are not already being used for shelters and PODs. Churches and YMCAs were suggested.

Tri Community CERT will host a walk-through of the plan before the RNC to identify major problems. A full-scale exercise will be held at a later date.



4. Credentialing

North Royalton, Garfield Heights, Cleveland State, Quad City, Brecksville/Broadview Heights, and Tri Community indicated that they have volunteers who are ready for the NIMS credentialing, so we certainly have enough to get started.

The group discussed ways to implement the credentialing process. Regional locations will be chosen, sessions will be scheduled, and the equipment will be available from the County Office of Emergency Management. Volunteers can do everything that will be required.

The biggest part of the project will be providing the documentation. Sheila Roman from Garfield Heights CERT appears to have the perfect solution. On a flash drive, create a folder for each volunteer. Certificates, background check attestation, and oath can be added to each folder as a file. Documents can then be quickly transferred to the credentialing database.

Sharon Nicastro will find out how the system works and will send the credentialing information to the CERTs.

5. CERT Association Restructuring

There does not appear to be any interest in having a formal organization with officers. In the alternative, we will dissolve the current Bylaws, and the Directors (Fire Chiefs) will become Advisors. We will continue to share information and coordinate projects. We can identify topics of interest, and members or outside speakers can make presentations. In order to bring in speakers, we will need at least 20 people at meetings.

Nick Phillips is currently the CERT representative to the Citizen Corps Council. T.J. Hartman of Brecksville/Broadview Heights CERT will be the co-representative.

6. CERT Reports

CERTs who operate PODs have been meeting with the Board of Health to plan for possible activations during the Republican National Convention.

7. Other Business

None

8. Next Meeting

Monday, August 15, 2016 – 7:00 pm to 8:45 pm
A meeting might be scheduled sooner if coordination for RNC is needed.