

CERT OFFICE
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Special points
of interest:

- EVENTS
KORNER
- TRAINING
KALENDAR
- CERT QUIZ
- NIMS
- BOH

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GLOUCESTER C.E.R.T.

Volume 1, Issue 7

NOVEMBER 2013

Gloucester CERT... You are incredible!!!

What a terrific experience!!!! On October 18 through 20 of 2013, Gloucester County CERT represented the county in several capacities during the reenactment of the Battle of the Hook.

All the Team members were extremely proud and demonstrated that pride by handling themselves in the most professional manner to date, proving themselves as outstanding ambassadors of this county.

On Friday the 18th, CERT assisted in the receiving of several re-enactors. Out of what seemed a chaotic episode to relive the past, while dealing with this so called future, it was truly amazing how it all came to order. What a hot potato our members had on their hands. Yet, as is true to form, they performed

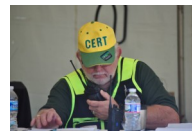
with that professional attitude that reflects our character.



Saturday, the 19th. The weather monster met our team and

early spectators with cool temperatures and rain. From Gloucester HS to Warner Hall, it all started to fall in place.

Volley after volley, the smell of cordite and



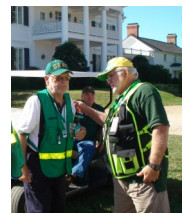
powder filled the air. Yet, we pressed on with our task directing traffic, assisting those with special needs, and guiding the general public in the safest manner to achieve the best viewing opportunity.



The purest pride was so visible on every CERT members face.

No matter what the event, whether it's serving plain water, to assisting in coordinating disaster recovery, CERT is here to stay, and we could never ask for a better team of dedicated members. Thank you so much. Gloucester County is overflowing with pride.

Go CERT!!!



A Special Thank You

On October 18—20, 2013, at The Battle of The Hook re-enactment, CERT was represented by a group of members who had a great time working in various capacities. On behalf of our Emergency Management Coordi-

nator, C. Creig Moore, and CERT Team Program Manager, Jane Wenner, a very, very special Thank You to the entire team. You just keep amazing this County and demonstrate the personal pride you each have

within yourselves. This County is so proud of the entire team. Thank you, so much!



KUDOS KORNER



BATTLE OF THE HOOK

Kudos to the team members who stepped to the plate at the Battle of the Hook. You were magnificent!



It is physically impossible to get everyone's picture in the newsletter, however we do appreciate immensely all your efforts regarding this huge and

important event.

A very special and warm thank you and Kudos goes out to Tim Guju's Boy Scout Troop and also to the Scouts and Venture Scouts of Troop 111. You rock!



Parks & Recreation. From local businesses, clergy, EMT's , re-enactors, and general public. You are being complimented from all



points within the County.

Truly a job well done.



From the Sheriffs Dept. to



One "Moore" Thought...



Halloween sets the wheels in motion as a pre holiday season warm up. With Thanksgiving looming closer, it is a time to reflect on all the things we can be grateful for: especially for our very own existence.

Let us take this time to start looking into ways to project that gratitude by understanding that even though

CERT is a community emergency response team, we do not only respond to emergencies. We can also serve our community by perhaps, extending a helping hand to a neighbor, or helping to feed those in need.

Or perhaps by offering to volunteer handing out coats in a church. Whichever, it's a special warm feeling that we get throughout the Holi-

day season when we try to make a difference.

We have been doing such an exceptional job this year. I'm just grateful to be a part of it, and grateful to be a part of you.



"YOU" are the difference,
"YOU" are CERT

Did you

know...

Ongoing from last month

WHAT TO DO AFTER THE DISASTER

Whether returning from home or venturing outside for the first time, beware of new dangers that may have arisen because of the disaster. You may experience washed-out roads, downed power poles, etc.



Inspect your home for structural damage, loose or damaged electrical wires, and gas leaks before re-entering your home. If you doubt the safety of the structure, contact a professional before entering.

Cont. on page 5

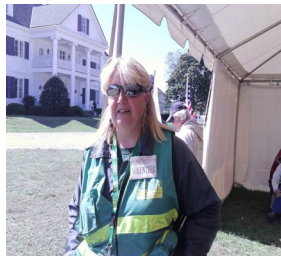
WATER



Who's who ...



CERT— Marsha West—manning an outpost!



CERT— Claudia Clifton—a friendly face goes a long way!



CERT — Sarah Farmer is no stranger to strangers



CERT QUIZ

1. The numbers within the 704 Diamond are for _____ only.

2. The placards on page 2-27 are what kind of placards? _____.

3. The other two are? _____ and _____.

4. Anhydrous ammonia is a _____ gas!

5. CERT must be able to function _____ and _____ to save lives.

Bonus: In emergency medicine, airway _____, _____, and _____ are the "killers".

All answers are found in Unit 2 and 3 of your CERT Manual.



Each month we will focus on a unit of the CERT Manual.

TRAINING CALENDAR

Nov. 13—Walter Reed Riverside Medical Exercise

Nov. TBA—ROTC CERT Training

Dec. 7—CERT Dinner—Location TBA



Hear no evil, see no evil, and speak no evil!!!

Please send in any ideas, stories or suggestions for the newsletter.

This is your newsletter and "YOU MATTER"

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The one and only...
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EMERGENCY SERVICES
C. Creig Moore—Coordinator
Jane Wenner— Program Manager



Jane's Korner

Welcome to the Fall!!!

Welcome to the new CERT members that just completed the CERT Training. We look forward to working with you! Here are a few upcoming events.

CERT will be at Walter Reed Hospital on November 13, to participate in an exercise.

The Annual CERT Appreciation Christmas Dinner will be December 7th. The

time and place will be announced.

We will be starting monthly trainings after January 1 2014. Please check our website <http://>



**Gloucester CERT,
Ready for action**

[www.gloucesterva.info/
EmergencyServices/
tabid/676/Default.aspx](http://www.gloucesterva.info/EmergencyServices/tabid/676/Default.aspx)
or go to the county website at gloucesterva.info and go to departments and click on Emergency Management. We will be posting all activities on the calendar. If you have any questions, please email Jane at: jwenner@gloucesterva.info or call 804 693 1390.

Thank you for all that you do!

Answers to last months quiz:

***BONUS : Base 2-26

1. Asphyxiant and explosive 2-6
 2. Leave building immediately 2-8
 3. Underwriter Laboratories 2-16
 4. Fire extinguishers 2-17
 5. Diamond 2-25
-

[Continued from page 2]

Do not enter a fire damaged house until authorities have inspected it. Check the refrigerator and discard spoiled food. Contact your insurance agent.

Help children cope!

A child can be traumatized by a disaster whether it is experienced first hand, seen on television or learned about from adults. Monitor the nature and quantity of disaster—related programming your children are exposed to and contact your school to determine how teachers are dealing with the situation.

If your children have questions about the disaster, answer them truthfully, but don't allow the subject to dominate your conversations. Provide reassuring words and affection

Continued in the next issue. :)

W.M.D. CORNER: by Henry Thompson



IN THE NEWS!!!

The recent Sarin attack in Syria is certainly a newsworthy item. Sarin is an organophosphorous nerve agent. Similar compounds are used to make a number of pesticides, rodenticides, etc. It is important to note that the suffix “icide” means “someone or something that kills”. How many words can you think up that end in this suffix?

Now this is a big deal! These nerve agents work by inhibiting cholinesterase. This process is similar to one kind of snake venom: neurotoxic venom. Not all snakes employ this type of venom which is why it is sooo important to ID the snake after a bite. Your homework assignment, should you accept it, is to search on “Cholinesterase inhibitors” and learn how these agents (and this type of venom) can disrupt the individual signals sent between neurons and muscles.

Take a look in your CERT Participant Manual on page 8-6. The graph depicts the impact of the five B-NICE categories versus their threat or risk of being used against someone. All chemical agents are grouped as higher risk but lower impact weapons. I would say that Sarin is at the high end of this rating. It was used by Saddam Hussein against the Kurdish people in Iraq. It was used by the Aum Shinrikyo cult on a Tokyo subway against innocent rush-hour commuters.

Is the usage of Sarin gas a legitimate concern in the USA? Yes it is and that is why it is – in the news!

Virginia Department of Fire Programs

For more fire safety information visit us online at www.vafire.com

Heating Safety

According to the U. S. Fire Administration more than one-third of Americans use fireplaces, woodstoves and other fuel-fired appliances as primary heat sources in their homes. Unfortunately, many people are unaware of the fire risks associated with these heating sources.

In 2006, Virginia experienced 904 chimney or flue-related fires resulting in \$163,106 in property losses. Often these fires are due to creosote buildup in chimneys and stovepipes. All home heating systems require regular maintenance to function safely and efficiently.

No matter what heating device you use in your home, there are safety measures you can take to prevent fires. The Virginia Department of Fire Programs encourages you to consider the following heating safety life-saving tips: **Keep Fireplaces and Wood Stoves Clean Have your chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned annually by a certified chimney specialist.**

Clear the area around the hearth of debris, decorations and flammable materials. Always use a metal mesh screen with fireplaces. Leave glass doors open while burning a fire. Install stovepipe thermometers to help monitor flue temperatures. Keep air inlets on wood stoves open, and never restrict air supply to fireplaces. Otherwise you may cause creosote buildup that could lead to a chimney fire.

Use fire-resistant materials on walls around wood stoves. For wood stove fuel and fireplaces use only seasoned wood, not green wood, artificial logs, or trash. Never leave a fire in the fireplace unattended. Extinguish the fire before going to bed or leaving the house. Soak hot ashes in water and place them in a metal container outside your home.

Kerosene Heaters

Kerosene heaters may not be permitted in certain areas. If you use a kerosene heater, use only the recommended fuel. Always refuel outdoors safety away from your home.

Allow the heater to cool before refueling and only refuel outdoors.

Heating Safety— Space Heaters

Just like its name, space heaters need space. Remember to keep all combustibles at least three feet away from each heater. When buying a space heater, look for control features, such as automatic shut-off and tip-over shut-off. In addition, carefully read over and follow the manufacturers' installation and maintenance instructions.

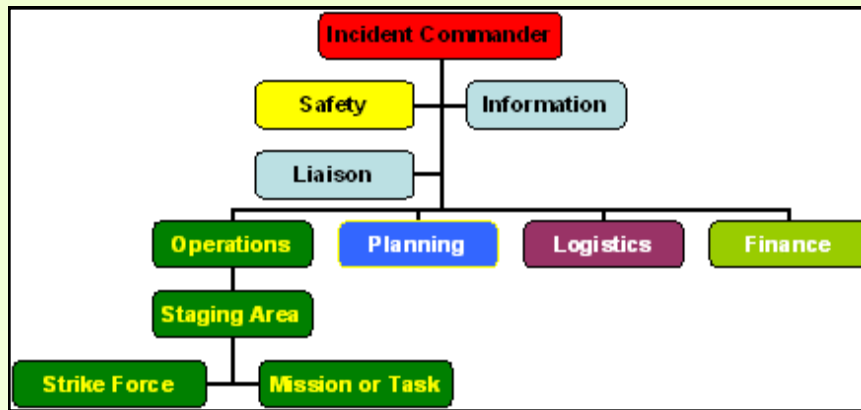
Safely Burn Fuels

Never use flammable liquids to start a fire. Use only seasoned hardwood. Soft, moist wood accelerates creosote buildup. Consider building small fires that burn completely and produce less smoke. **Protecting the Inside/Outside of Your Home**

Stack firewood outdoors at least 30 feet away from your home. Keep the roof clear of leaves, pine needles and other debris. Cover the chimney with a mesh screen spark arrester. Remove branches hanging above the chimney, flues or vents. Install smoke alarms on every level of your home. Test them monthly and change the batteries at least twice a year. Consider installing the new long life smoke alarms.

Provide proper venting systems for all heating equipment. Extend all vent pipes at least three feet above the roof. Extend all vent pipes at least three feet above the roof.

NIMS (National Incident Management System) position of the month:



PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

The PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER is a member of the command staff, reports to the Incident Commander and is responsible for the collection and release of information about the incident to the news media and other appropriate agencies and or organizations.

Public Information consists of the processes, procedures and systems to communicate timely, accurate and accessible information on the incident's cause, size and current situation to the public, responders and additional stakeholders (both directly affected and indirectly affected). Public information must be coordinated and integrated across jurisdictions, agencies and organizations; among federal, state, tribal and local governments and with NGOs and the private sector.



Well-developed public information, education strategies and communications plans help to ensure that lifesaving measures, evacuation routes, threat and alert systems and other public safety information are coordinated and communicated to numerous audiences in a timely, consistent manner.

The Gloucester County CERT team, "PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER" is:



BONNIE GRANT

Next month, we'll take a peek at the role of the "LAISON OFFICER", Kool Stuff !!!

