

CINDY ZECHENELLY RECEIVES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT CITATION FROM CLALLAM COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 3.



Cindy Zechenelly, the Administrative Officer for Sequim Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) received a Special Lifetime Achievement Award from CERT's sponsor, Clallam County Fire District #3 (CCFD3) on May 19, 2026. In the past 10 years, she has donated over 4,000 hours service to the community.

The purpose of the award and citation was to honor the extraordinary service of a volunteer who has made a lasting, positive difference in our community. That extraordinary volunteer is Cindy Zechenelly.

Ten years ago in the summer of 2016, Blaine and Cindy Zechenelly, working together, created a new program within CCFD3 that was designed to organize, train, equip and maintain a readily deployable cadre of highly trained citizen volunteers who would be able to safely augment local First-Responders. This new program, the Sequim CERT program, was formed to enable a significant, large-scale community response to the Olympic Peninsula's urgent need for enhanced emergency preparedness for a wide-spread disaster event.

During those ten years, Cindy has supported Clallam County's Emergency Managers and CCFD3 by helping to administer a successful CERT program that has grown to 17 regionally-based team organizations, featuring robust command, control and communications structures, operational assignments, and monthly team training meetings, which now involves over 478 CERT volunteers.

Cindy's prodigious CERT administration work consists of registering all new CERT volunteers, coordinating Academy classes, calendaring CERT events, issuing official IDs, compiling yearend report statistics, supporting public information work, and contributing to after action reports. Her work hasn't gone unnoticed. In March of 2020, Cindy received formal recognition of her many contributions from Governor Jay Inslee and Serve Washington.

From 2016 to date, Cindy has processed and the Academy has trained over 978 individuals. Because Cindy also keeps track of all CERT timesheets, we know that between 2016 and the present, total CERT volunteer hours have been worth \$4,887,416 to our community.

The CERT Program relies on the willingness of citizen volunteers to serve their fellow neighbors in need, without any pay or compensation. Cindy Zechenelly's selfless leadership has supported this highly cost-effective program that materially augments Clallam County's professional responders during an emergency. Her indefatigable volunteerism exemplifies the true strength of our community. It is therefore our honor and pleasure to acknowledge Cindy today for all she has accomplished throughout these past ten years.