



SOA - CERT NEWSLETTER

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Oct – Dec 2023



Your Sequim Operational Area (SOA) CERT Program Newsletter Gets a New Look

TO ALL CERT MEMBERS: We want to try something new, beginning with this issue of the SOA/CERT Program newsletter. Since it's a "newsletter" we do want to be sure to convey the latest news that's both relevant and useful for each of our (550) CERT members and MYN participants. We also appreciate that, sometimes, less is more—so we're planning to publish fewer pages, but with even more pictures of our many CERT activities each quarter. They say a picture is worth a thousand words. Charlie Meyer (Division Chief Carlsborg) will serve as editor, but will be regularly soliciting news items from our Teams. Remember, all previous and current newsletters can be found at the ccfd3.org website under the CERT Program pull-down.

Community Feedback on November's SOA Safety Fair

Blaine Z reported on all the positive feedback he has received so far regarding the Safety & Information Fair event that CCFD3 and the CERT Program hosted on 4 November. All three Fire Commissioners were very impressed with the effort and each of them conveyed their personal thanks. Chief Orr, Asst. Chief Hudson and Fire District Battalion Chiefs were also very pleased with all the positive responses they've received. We estimate that 1200-1300 people attended, despite the rainy weather, which was even more than we originally expected.

The participating agencies all gave positive feedback. They all have told us that this was a terrific event and they want to be invited to participate again next year. Moreover, additional community organizations have let Blaine know that they also hope to be included next year. Both Sequim Gazette and Sound Bank were happy to have sponsored the fair, and now others are quite interested as well. Sequim City officials were very impressed and signaled their intent to provide additional support for next year's event.

The fair was also a helpful CERT recruitment event. Over 38 people expressed interest in the CERT program, and several quickly enrolled in our November CERT Academy class. The clear message from everyone was, "Let's do this again next year!" Blaine suggests that we should plan the event for an **October** timeframe next year to get warmer temperatures and less chance of rain.



MAP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD is evolving too:

Despite the rumors that some have heard, our “Map Your Neighborhood” (MYN) program remains a going concern and, in fact, will continue to grow and expand into many more of our local neighborhoods. MYN is an important adjunct to our formal CERT program because it helps our neighbors to prepare themselves for a possible emergency situation in ways that augment and simplify CERT’s Search & Rescue (SAR) operations. Put simply,

MYN organization at the street level serves to: alert our citizens to the possible risks and hazards that exist here in our area; inform our citizens of useful ways to mitigate or lessen the impacts of possible disaster events; promote preparations and precautionary measures to preserve life and property in an emergency; and facilitate and expedite CERT SAR efforts to “clear” each neighborhood. The MYN program has taken aboard some new and energetic presenters who are eager to spread the word. We’re looking forward to a great future for MYN.

A Participant’s Letter of Thanks

We want to share some excerpts from a letter we received shortly after the Safety Fair. It is representative of the kinds of feedback Blaine and CCFD3 have been hearing about the Fair.

12 November, 2023

[QUOTE] Dear Blaine,

Great job on the CCFD3/CERT First Public Safety and Informational Fair! All of it was very informative and fun. I especially want to express my thanksgiving to the CCFD3 "Touch a Truck". What a great idea! I am always telling my grandson not to touch any vehicles. What a wonderful idea and public relations event to let children and adults "touch" and sit in trucks or vehicles or a helicopter and to be able to ask many questions. I saw many children with big smiles who just loved the event. What a memory for them! What kindness, patience and caring I saw in all the professionals who attended the vehicles and interacted with the children and public. Thank you all very much for your sacrifice and service to the public!

I want to ask you to please pass on to Sparky a big thanksgiving from me and my grandson. My grandson's name is Sebastian Cary. ... Sebastian is only 2 years old and will be three around Christmas time. Sparky made my grandson laugh many, many times. Sparky must come back next year! ...

Sebastian also enjoyed all the other agencies. ... He also really enjoyed “touching” all the vehicles. What a special treat to have such an event! Thank you! ...

Again, thank you for your sacrifice and service to the public, both large and small. CCFD3, we love you!

Sincerely,

Lisa DeRousie and Sebastian Cary [UNQUOTE]

PUBLIC SAFETY & INFORMATION FAIR

Sequim enjoyed its 1st annual **Public Safety & Information Fair** on 4 November at the Guy Cole Convention Center. Despite the rainy weather, the Fair attracted upwards of 1300 visitors. The Fair served our community in multiple ways. It was designed to increase public awareness of the various agencies and organizations that are actively working to serve and protect us; it promoted greater interagency cooperation in public safety matters; and it highlighted the CERT Program as a great way for willing volunteers to serve our communities. CERT members **Donna Stoffel** and **Sally Bays** provided the initial inspiration and super-creative energy to guide the Safety Fair to its ultimate fruition, but dozens of volunteers from CERT and other community organizations also stepped in to help ensure the success of the event.



Sally B. and Donna S. planned the Safety Fair over many months.



Our local Sound Community Bank and the Sequim Gazette were helpful sponsors of the Safety Fair.



Blaine Z. and Fire Commissioner Nicholas shared some fries at the Fair.



Amy and Jim Emmett are both radio personalities on KSQM.



Blaine Z., Chief Orr, and Sheriff King took a moment to stare at the photographer.



Cindy Z. handled most all of the administrative tasks.



About **35 public service agencies and organizations** chose to participate and make themselves known to the hundreds of visitors who stopped at their colorful display tables to learn about their community services.



Dave Evans explained the CERT mission and our personal CERT equipment to a curious visitor.



The Sequim Food Bank often works with the CERT program to distribute food.



Jim Buck delivered a **“Camp in Your House”** talk and also explained about the Joyce Emergency Planning and Preparation (JEPP) program to the public.



CCFD3 provided fun things for the kids to try, like extinguishing a real fire, and watching how a fire can spread through a dollhouse.



It isn't often that we get to watch a large helicopter land in a ballfield and then also be invited to inspect it up close. That's what LIFE FLIGHT offered at the Safety & Information Fair. LIFE FLIGHT performs quick response airlift services when time-critical transportation is needed to address serious medical emergencies.



The LIFE FLIGHT helicopter event was a big hit with the kids. (Those pointy things are called pitot tubes which are used in flight to determine the aircraft's airspeed.)

Young people watching the helicopter's departure hopefully were given a clearer understanding of the complexity and precision of the life-saving machines that our community depends upon every day. Perhaps one day they'll fly lifesaving missions too.



A Ladder Truck enables firefighters to access tall structures, buildings or towers. They're large and therefore tricky to maneuver, but when you need one, they're a lifesaver.



Our community is served by other forms of heavy equipment. Waste management, public utilities, ambulance services, portable clinics, and law enforcement vehicles were all on display and available for inspection at the Safety Fair.

Holiday Food Distribution Event: 17 November



The Sequim Food Bank delivered 1300 boxes of food for distribution on 17 November 2023.

The holiday season can be especially stressful for some of Sequim's most needy families, who do not have the resources to purchase necessary food items. In recognition of this need, the Sequim Food Bank organizes a major food distribution event and, because of the scope and scale of this effort, must seek assistance from the community to make it happen. CERT is able to provide willing volunteers to guide the traffic through the distribution site and, this November, loaded 1062 boxes of food into the waiting vehicles. As a result, many Sequim families will be able to share in the spirit of the holiday season with thankfulness for those who gave of their time and resources to bring this community event to fruition.



CERT Personnel guided the drivers to the food pick-up area.



Other volunteers were on site to assist in the food distribution effort, including Rotary and Lions club members.



Hundreds of vehicles were guided through the food distribution line. Blake Avenue was bumper to bumper.



TRAINING FORECAST: The New Year is fast approaching and training for the first quarter (Jan-Feb-Mar 2024) will focus on **Search And Rescue**, our main mission and most complex skill set.

January 2024: SAR Planning

- The Plan
- Size up Process completion
- Review of Team/Squad Roles and Responsibilities for:
Captains; Squad Leaders; Searchers 1&2; Rescuers 1&2.
- Respectful communication within the squads.
- Making assignments; ensuring that those doing the job are properly trained and know their roles/responsibilities.

February 2024: Know the Ropes

- 100' rope searches or wall searches with personal ropes for:
 - o Searchers
 - o Rescuers

March 2024: Extricating survivors

- Lifts
- Carries
- Drags

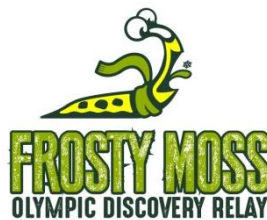
EXCITING NEWS! For a limited time, CERTs have access to a rather complicated building for an impromptu SAR training event. Our training window of opportunity is limited, however, because it has to be completed prior to January 18th. Our Fire District will subsequently use this structure for a burning exercise on the 20th of January. Information coming soon for all teams.

Upcoming CERT Activities: Jan-Mar 2024

YOU CAN HELP: Apart from our normal training schedule, there are two service activities on the calendar for the next quarter, the Sunshine Festival on 2 March, and the Frosty Moss Relay on 16 March. CERTs are needed to help with traffic safety operations.

AUDIT INVITE: Our Training Committee has also issued an invitation to all CERT Captains, Squad Leaders and Members to refresh their familiarity with basic CERT Academy information by dropping in and auditing portions (or all) of these monthly presentations. Our memories do tend to fade over time and some of the course content has been updated, so a review or refresher would likely be quite beneficial. Let Cindy know your intention so that she can make sure there will be room enough for those who wish to attend.

2024	CERT ACTIVITIES	
Jan. 8	Div. Chief Mtg	
Jan. 13	CERT Class 1	Trng.
Jan. 18	CERT OPS REV	
Jan. 18	CERT Capts Mtg	
Jan. 13	CERT Class 1	Trng.
Jan. 20	CERT Class 2	Trng.
Jan. 27	CERT Class 3	Trng.
Feb. 10	CERT Class 1	Trng.
Feb. 12	Div. Chief Mtg	
Feb. 15	CERT Capts Mtg	
Feb. 17	CERT Class 2	Trng.
Feb. 24	CERT Class 3	Trng.
March 2	Sunshine Fest.	Event
March 9	CERT Class 1	Trng.
March 16	Frosty Moss Run	Event
March 21	Div. Chief Mtg	
March 21	CERT Capts Mtg	
March 23	CERT Class 2	Trng.
March 23	CERT Class 3	Trng.



Stay tuned: There will be more to share in the next edition of the SOA/CERT Newsletter.