



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Jan – Mar 2024

New Fire Chief Named for CCFD3

Clallam County Fire District 3 is pleased to announce the appointment of **Justin Grider** as our new Fire Chief. Chief Grider currently holds the Deputy Fire Chief position at Clallam County Fire District 2 in Port Angeles. Chief Grider will replace Interim Chief Daniel Orr on 1 March, 2024.

Fire Commissioners Praise SOA/CERT

Our **SOA/CERT Annual Report for 2023** has been published and is now available on our CERT website. Our report was formally presented in January to our Fire District's Board of Fire Commissioners. Our Fire District's Board consists of three elected Fire Commissioners whose responsibilities entail setting budgets, establishing policy and providing administrative oversight and management of the Fire District. Our District's three elected Commissioners are:

- Jeff Nicholas, Board Chairman
- Michael Mingee
- William "Bill" Miano

During Blaine Zechenelly's presentation of our SOA/CERT Annual Report, the three Commissioners offered the following comments:

Commissioner Nicholas noted, "CERT has generated tremendous goodwill with the community and for the department and we recognize this."

Commissioner Mingee said, "It is important to realize how good this team is. It is one of the best in the State." Then he added, "I think we are going to be freeing up a few shipping CONEX (containers) in the department that could be directed your way."

Commissioner Miano asked about CERT funding and noted that our CERT Program is starting to get some steady state fiscal assistance.

CERT members should be very proud of the significant and positive results that our volunteer services have been able to produce within our urban and rural communities in Eastern Clallam County. CERT members' selfless contributions are making a big difference! Those officials who are responsible for promoting public safety on the Olympic Peninsula have noticed our capabilities and they both appreciate and commend the good work that our CERT volunteers are doing. Thank you!



Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) Transitioning to “Clallam Ready”



Changing of the Guard: Let us introduce ourselves. We are **Dolores Wolfe**, **Eileen Damian** (each with 9+ years as MYN Captains in Dungeness Heights and both retired CERT) and **Muriel McCarty** (7 years combined service as MYN captain in Cedar Ridge/King County and active CERT). As a team we will assist Clallam County Emergency Management and Clallam County Fire District #3 to transition the MYN program to the new “**Clallam Ready**” program for the Sequim Operational Area. We are grateful for Lynne’s past accomplishments within MYN, and for the work many of you have already done in your neighborhoods to help your neighbors prepare for a disaster.

What is Clallam Ready? Individuals commit to prepare themselves and help their neighbors prepare to survive a disaster or emergency. A small investment of time will ensure Clallam Ready neighborhoods are ready for the long haul. An additional benefit is, the training and experiences will provide unique opportunities to get to know your neighbors ahead of time – we have AMAZING communities!

How? – Clallam Ready will share comprehensive plans that provide neighbors with education and preparedness information including food, shelter, and care. Clallam Ready actions include:

- Being the first boots on the ground following self & home evaluation
- Identifying and notifying CERT of houses needing Search & Rescue
- Organizing (preplanned) aftercare in the neighborhood
- Establishing plans for pet care

Why the Name Change? A couple of reasons. First, the name “MYN” is copyrighted and we cannot continue to use it. Secondly, the State of Washington is revamping its “2 Weeks Ready” program, which may work for some areas but will not realistically prepare Sequim for extended periods of post-disaster isolation.

Where? - Sequim’s “Clallam Ready” area will extend from Gardiner to Morse Creek.

When? - Our plan is to go live by June, 2024.

Who? - In the near future we will meet with MYN captains, either individually or in groups, to elicit your thoughts on the MYN program. In the meantime, feel free to e-mail us any forward-thinking ideas and viable changes you’d like to see. We certainly do not want to reinvent the program, just improve it. The new email address and phone number for help/information can be found in the ccf3.org website. Click on “CERT Program” in the banner. Clicking on the blue MYN logo will take you to the MYN site. Contact icons will be under the blue MYN box in the upper left. If you’re unable to find them there, the new email address and phone number are: clallamready.sequim@gmail.com 360-670-0439

Communication Goal: Maintaining effective communication with CERT and the Disaster Preparedness community as a whole – that includes YOU!



To What Are We CERTs Committed?

CERT'S PURPOSE: Our Sequim Operational Area's SOA/CERT program serves the citizens of the Olympic Peninsula by organizing coordinated teams that have collectively committed themselves to work together **to reduce or mitigate loss of life** in the aftermath of a major disaster in our community. CERT volunteer team members are deployed to serve in the specific neighborhoods in which they live, so they're well-placed to serve those citizens in their area who might require immediate, urgent assistance.

TEAM PREPARATION: CCFD3's tailored program has set up 17 regionally-based team organizations with robust command, control and communications structures and individualized team operations assignments. Each team meets monthly to conduct training specific to its assigned area of operation. This high degree of **team preparation is necessary** because of the severe risk and uncertain timing of a geologically imminent, Cascadia Subduction Earthquake or some other disaster event.

PERSONAL SAFETY: A primary concern of CERT training is the preservation of personal safety for our responding CERT members. To be considered operationally ready and safe to deploy, every SOA/CERT member must **continuously refresh** his/her specific response skills. To do this, each CERT team meets monthly to train and maintain individual and **team coordination** skills. New training topics will be presented from time to time, but the main emphases during CERT training meetings will be **skills reviews and operational safety**.

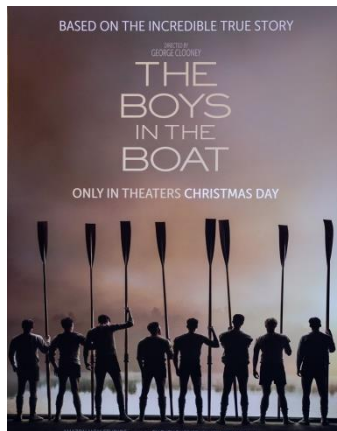
MISSION SUCCESS: The ultimate success of CERT's responder operations continues to depend on the willingness of citizen volunteers to step forward and serve their fellow neighbors in need, without any pay or compensation. Our CERT members continue to prove their **on-going willingness to serve** our community in various ways, even in non-disaster contexts. This is important community work. The SOA/CERT Program is demonstrably a highly valuable community resource that works to achieve the greatest good for the greatest number. We thank all of our CERT members for their continued participation.

Service Activity: Boys in the Boat Event

Sequim's Sunrise Rotary Club sponsored a major fund-raising event to build a home for homeless teens dedicated to Sequim's own **Joe Rantz**, whose rowing team won gold medals at the 1936 Olympic games in Berlin, Germany. The team's struggles and eventual victory were the subject of George Clooney's new movie, "The Boys in the Boat," which was premiered here on **December 8**. Our CERT volunteers guided the traffic flows at both the theater at Deere Park and at the Reception Tent at the Sequim Museum.



Sequim High School students created a TikTok video request to George Clooney to bring his movie premier to Sequim to help fund the shelter for homeless youth like Joe Rantz. They were successful, and were given the chance to see the premier at Deere Park Cinema. CERT members managed the traffic and parking. More details about the shelter fund can be found here: <https://joerantzrotaryyouthfund.org/>



Traffic management is not physically taxing, but it does need to be done safely, with vests and wands, radios and proper clothing to handle the weather. It's actually kind of fun as well.



When CERT members come together, great things start to happen. Every CERT member becomes part of a larger effort that serves our local community in some visible and tangible way that other people can see and appreciate. But the teams themselves also experience renewed camaraderie and *esprit de corps* that strengthens their teamwork and prepares them for greater cooperative operations in the future.

Service Activity: Boys in the Boat Event



This historical picture is the 1936 University of Washington's varsity crew team, which later that year won the gold at the Olympics in Berlin. Standing from left: Don Hume, **Joe Rantz**, George Hunt, Jim McMillin, John White, Gordon Adams, Charles Day and Roger Morris. Kneeling: Bob Moch as Coxwain. **Joe Rantz** attended Sequim High School. His story was recounted by author Daniel James Brown, "The Boys in the Boat", Penguin Books, 2013. George Clooney made the story into a movie. Here are some previously published details: <https://www.sequimgazette.com/life/no-ordinary-joe/>



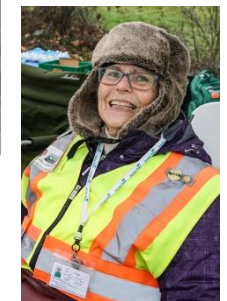
The CERTs created a safe, pedestrian crosswalk on Sequim-Dungeness Avenue at night. The flashing lights of the CCFD3 ambulance helped alert the traffic to the new situation, and the stanchion "candlesticks" served to define the traffic and crosswalk paths. One thing about working traffic management tasks at night, our CERT members are issued **Jedi Light Sabers**, for safety's sake, to direct the cars. Safety first, as always.



The Rotarian sponsors of the night's movie premier activities were effusive in their expressions of appreciation for the work of our CERT volunteers. The CERT program is being noticed and complimented by community leaders throughout the Sequim Operational Area. You are making a difference, and it shows!

Service Activity: 15 Dec Holiday Food Distribution

The Sequim Food Bank distributed 1200 holiday meals to needy families on 15 December 2023. **Twentyeight CERT members** were present to assist with traffic management and loading the food into the waiting cars and trucks. Also present were teams from the local Rotary and Lions Clubs . The effort also involved volunteers from Trinity United Methodist Church. About 450 vehicles were guided past the five loading tents. The task only required about four hours of work, but the visible contributions of our willing volunteers were seen and appreciated by our Sequim community. This is a prime example of “Neighbors Helping Neighbors.”



Training Activity: January Search Exercise

During the week of 8 January 2024, our CERT Training Committee organized and hosted a Search & Rescue exercise at a local house that had been scheduled to be demolished and burned later that month. In cooperation with CCFD3, the house was opened and “Survivors” were pre-positioned inside that the searchers would need to find, triage and report. CERT members who desired such SAR experience were able to sign up and be scheduled to “clear” the structure. No extractions were conducted. Searchers could choose whether to conduct a rope search or a wall search.



The CERT Training Committee carefully assessed the structure in advance to ensure that all safety concerns would be addressed. (In all CERT operations, the safety of our CERT members is a constant concern.) As each of the different search events were conducted, participants were signed in, assigned a communications radio frequency and provided a safety orientation briefing at the outset of each activity. First aid supplies were on hand, as well as the forms that would need to be used in the event of any mishap. A command shelter was erected against the rain to keep the paperwork dry. Our CERT Training Committee is very, very thorough.



CERT members were able to participate in or observe this SAR exercise. Note that this house was a two-story structure which offered an interesting new perspective for the searchers. The searchers were confronted with bare electrical wires, slippery surfaces, stairs, and other obstructions to complicate their efforts. The lean-to addition on the side of the house had fallen off its cinder-block foundation. All-in-all, the exercise offered a rare opportunity for our SOA/CERT program to explore a SAR problem that would closely resemble the kinds of situations we might encounter in the aftermath of a real disaster event.

Training Activity: January Search Exercise

After the CERT's Search & Rescue exercise was completed, Fire District #3 performed a controlled burn of this condemned structure on 20 January. The burn was conducted as a live fire training exercise for firefighters from Sequim and also from neighboring Fire District #2 and the Port Angeles Fire Department. In past years, the condemned house had received numerous structural modifications and enlargements that, for the most part, had never been inspected for code compliance. Because the vacant house could not economically be brought up to code and placed back on the market, the owner agreed instead to allow the Fire District to demolish and burn it.



(Burn photos by: Jay R. Cline)

KSQM Broadcasts Monthly CERT Interviews

Radio Station KSQM has proven to be a great friend and ally of the SOA/CERT Program. CERT member (and CERT3 Co-Captain) Jim Emmett hosts a regular show on KSQM, and as part of his show content he has begun to conduct a series of on-the-air interviews with SOA/CERT personalities. His interviews serve to feed a growing community interest in our CERT program activities. By such regular CERT exposure to the listening public, Jim is working to encourage more people to consider preparing themselves, their families and their households for potential emergency situations and possibly choosing to join our SOA/CERT Program in even greater community service to others.



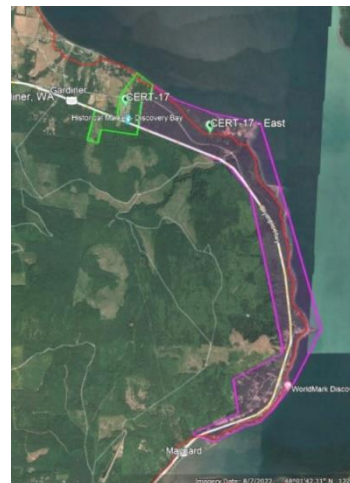
Jim's interviews are regularly scheduled on the **third Friday of each month, from noon to one o'clock**. Jim interviewed Cindy Zechenelly in January and John Anzalotti in February.

Mark your calendars to listen to Jim and his guests on April 19, May 17 and June 21.

SOA/CERT Program Creates New CERT-17

Our SOA/CERT program has added a new team to our fold. CERT 17 will assume operational responsibility for the portion of Hwy 101 that extends from Holland Drive at the Discovery Bay Resort southward to Maynard Road which is nearly at Discovery Bay. This picture illustrates the long, narrow operational area that CERT 17 will support.

Karen Kittlehurst has agreed to lead CERT 17 as its first Captain.



Wildland Fire Evacuation Planning

Our CERT training focus during 2024 will include, among other things, the topic of Wildland Fire Evacuation measures that, for CERTs (since we are not firefighters) will consider how best to support traffic management consequent to an imminent fire threat situation. CERT Wildland Fire support tasks may include:

- Traffic Control of key choke points i.e. major highways
- Staging support of Fire Personnel and equipment
- Perimeter security and traffic management of evacuation centers, base camps and shelters
- Emergency Command Center support for responder message centers, communications, logistics and/or public information.

This is a new topic of study for us, so CERT members are invited to suggest or nominate relevant training topics or formats and forward them through their Captains.



<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/056e3765adce45479643f39432d73763/page/Intro/>

CERT Receives Medical Loan Closet Donations

The **Sequim Soroptimist Club** operates a Medical Loan Closet that offers specialized medical equipment on a loan basis in order to offset medical costs for persons in need. Their “closet” recently had an overabundance of bedside commodes. Our own CERT medical supplies czar, Butch Zaharias, was therefore able to pick up 34 surplus bedside commodes in November, and will eventually collect excess wheelchairs and four-wheel walkers in the near future. Once our SOA/CERT needs have been met, the Soroptimist club will resume sending this type of surplus equipment overseas.



Butch Zaharias, Ernylee Chamlee, David Roscher, Penny Weitendorf and seven other CERT members collected 34 bedside commodes (BSC's) for subsequent redistribution to their SOA/CERT teams.



HOUSE BURN SAR: We had a great three days of training on 360/ropes/wall searches at the CCFD#3 House Burn location in January. We were disappointed we had to cancel the last 2 days because of weather. (Check out additional pictures of our training and the burn operation on the CERT Website.)

WILDLAND FIRE SAFETY: CCDF#3 and CERT Leadership have directed the Training Committee to focus some training on Wildland Fire Safety. So, instead of training on SAR in June, we are working on wildfire safety curriculum.

FEEDBACK ? : We hope all of our CERT and MYN members are enjoying the information and training presented on our website. As always if you have any corrections, questions, or suggestion, contact us!

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TRAINING FORECAST 2nd Qtr:

April: Captain's Choice

May: Communications:

--Radios

--Frequencies, including our new repeater channel

Documentation

June: Wildfire Safety

--Firewise - Preparing Your Home

--Ready, Set, Go

--Understanding Fire Behavior

Upcoming CERT Activities: Apr-Jun 2024

YOU CAN HELP: Apart from our normal training schedule, there are some extra activities on the calendar for the next quarter. They're highlighted in light yellow.

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						
April 1	CERT Team 2	10:00 - Noon	May 1	CERT Capt's mtg	2:00 - 4:00 PM	June 1st	CERT Class 3	7 AM - 5 PM
April 3	CERT Cpts Mtg	2:00 - 4:00 PM	May 1	CERT Team 8	5:00 - 7:30 PM	June 1st	CERT Team 11	10:00 - Noon
April 3	CERT Team 8	5:00 - 7:30 PM	May 1	CERT Team 10	5:00 - 7:30 PM	June 1st	CERT Team 6	1:00 - 3:00 PM
April 3	CERT Team 10	5:00 - 7:30 PM	May 2	CERT Team 5	2:00 - 5:00 PM	June 3rd	CERT Team 2	10:00 - Noon
April 4	CERT Team 5	2:00 - 5:00 PM	May 2	CERT Team 4	6:00 - 7:30 PM	June 5th	CERT Capt's mtg	2:00 - 4:00 PM
April 4	CERT Team 4	6:00 - 7:30 PM	May 2	CERT Team 12	6:30 - 8:00 PM	June 5th	CERT Team 8	5:00 - 7:30 PM
April 4	CERT Team 12	6:30 - 8:00 PM	May 4	CERT Class 1	7 AM - 5 PM	June 5th	CERT Team 10	5:00 - 7:30 PM
April 6	CERT Team 11	10:00 - Noon	May 4	CERT Team 11	10:00 - Noon	June 6th	CERT Team 5	2:00 - 5:00 PM
April 6	CERT Team 6	1:00 - 3:00 PM	May 4	CERT Team 6	1:00 - 3:00 PM	June 6th	CERT Team 4	6:00 - 7:30 PM
4/7/2024	DART/CERT Traing	TBD	May 4	Crazy Callen	10:00 AM - 4:00PM	June 6th	CERT Team 12	6:30 - 8:00 PM
April 11	CERT Team 3	6:00 - 8:00 PM	May 5	Crazy Callen	8:00 AM - Noon	June 13th	CERT Team 3	6:00 - 8:00 PM
April 11	CERT Team 9	6:00 - 8:00 PM	May 6	CERT Team 2	10:00 - Noon	June 13th	CERT Team 9	6:00 - 8:00 PM
April 13	CERT Class 1	7 AM - 5 PM	May 9	CERT Team 3	6:00 - 8:00 PM	June 18th	CERT Team 13	6:00 - 8:00 PM
April 16	CERT Team 13	6:00 - 8:00 PM	May 9	CERT Team 9	6:00 - 8:00 PM	June 19th	CERT Team 7	6:00 - 8:00 PM
April 17	CERT Team 7	6:00 - 8:00 PM	May 10	Evening Fireworks	9:00 PM-CCFD3	June 20th	CERT Team 17	5:00 - 7:00 PM
April 18	CERT OPS REV	1:00-2:00 PM	May 11	Irrigation Parade	11:00 am - 2:00 PM	June 20th	CERT Team 14	6:30 - 8:30 PM
April 18	CERT Team 17	5:00 - 7:00 PM	May 15	CERT Team 7	6:00 - 8:00 PM	June 22nd	DART Exercise	TBD
April 18	CERT Team 14	6:30 - 8:30 PM	May 16	CERT Team 17	5:00 - 7:00 PM	June 27th	CERT Team 1	2:00 - 4:00 PM
April 20	CERT Class 2	7 AM - 5 PM	May 16	CERT Team 14	6:30 - 8:30 PM	June 27th	CERT Team 16	6:00 - 7:30 PM
April 25	CERT Team 1	2:00 - 4:00 PM	May 18	CERT Class 2	7 AM - 5 PM			
April 25	CERT Team 16	6:00 - 7:30 PM	May 21	CERT Team 13	6:00 - 8:00 PM			
April 30	CERT Class 3	7 AM - 5 PM	May 23	CERT Team 1	2:00 - 4:00 PM			
			May 23	CERT Team 16	6:00 - 7:30 PM			

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