USC CERT Basic Training

CERT Organization

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Setting the Stage

- CERTs are able to:
  - Assist emergency services personnel when requested in accordance with standard operating procedures (SOPs) developed by the sponsoring agency and by area of training
  - Assume some of the same functions as emergency services personnel following a disaster
  - Prepare families and communities prior to emergencies and assist neighbors during an emergency when first responders are not immediately available

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Course Preview

- Unit 1: CERT Organization
- Unit 2: Fire Safety and Utility Controls
- Unit 3: Disaster Medical Operations, Part 1
- Unit 4: Disaster Medical Operations, Part 2
- Unit 5: Light Search and Rescue Operations
- Unit 6: Disaster Psychology
- Unit 7: Disaster Preparedness

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Unit Objectives

- Describe the CERT organizational structure
- Explain the Incident Command System (ICS) and how CERT operates within this structure
- Describe the 9-step one-scene size-up process
- Describe how to use CERT standard documents

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Principles of On-Scene Management

- Maintain the safety of CERT workers
- Provide clear leadership and organizational structure
- Improve effectiveness of rescue efforts

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CERT On-Scene Management

- Well-defined management structure
- Manageable span of control
- Common terminology
- Effective communication
- Consolidated action plans
- Comprehensive resource management
- Accountability

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Objectives for On-Scene Management

- Identify scope of incident
- Determine overall strategy
- Deploy resources
- Document actions and results

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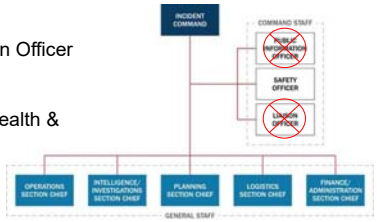
Incident Command System

Non-CERT roles
- Public Information Officer
- Liaison Officer

Safety Officer
- Environmental Health & Safety



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CERT Operations

- Command structure
- CERT Team Leader (TL)
- Command Post (with DPS)
- Expanded structure as needed

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Dealing with the Media

- Refer media inquiries to DPS Incident Commander
- Do not let media inhibit CERT goals
- Be careful about information released

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NIMS Implementation

- Ability to work together
- IS-100: Introduction to ICS
  - https://emilms.fema.gov/IS100c/curriculum/1.html
- IS-700: Introduction to NIMS
  - https://emilms.fema.gov/IS700b/curriculum/1.html

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CERT Mobilization

- CERTs take care of themselves, their families, their homes, their neighbors
- CERT will receive a TrojansAlert Callout
- Report to predesignated staging area:
  - UPC: Pardee Plaza (Trousdale & Exposition)
  - HSC: CHP Parking Lot
- TL is established, organizes the group
- TL prioritizes actions (with DPS)
- Organization is flexible and evolves based on new information

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On-Scene Size-up

1. Gather Facts
2. Assess and Communicate Damage
3. Consider Probabilities
4. Assess Your Own Situation
5. Establish Priorities
6. Make Decisions
7. Develop Plan of Action
8. Take Action
9. Evaluate Progress

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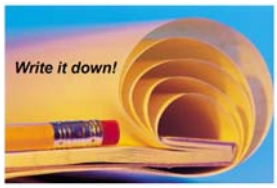
Documentation

- Command Post
  - Documents situation status
    - Sign in/out
    - Incident locations
    - Access routes
    - Identified hazards
    - Support locations
- Section Chiefs
  - Provide Command Post with information



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Assignments

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Personal Protective Equipment

- Helmet/Head lamp
- Goggles
- N95 Mask
- Gloves (work and non-latex)
- Flashlight
- Knee pads
- First Aid Supplies
- Triage tags
- Sturdy shoes or work boots

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Know Your Role

- Be confident in your role
- If you are not comfortable with your role talk to the Team Leader and get reassigned!
- Safety first

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