

**Date Submitted:** 08/28/2019

**Submitted by:** CERT Chapter Leaders, LC5

The following annual report represents the active Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Chapters and the Lincoln County School District Teen CERT programs. Each CERT Chapter has provided a summary of their activities for the reporting time period and an accumulative review of the LC5 activities and goals for 2018 – 2019.

CERT Chapter	Service Area	Sponsoring Agency
North Lincoln County	Lincoln City	North Lincoln Fire and Rescue
Depoe Bay Fire District	Depoe Bay, Lincoln Beach, Gleneden Beach, Otter Rock, Siletz Keys	Depoe Bay Rural Fire Protection District
Central Coast (Npt)	Newport & greater Newport area	Newport Fire Department
South County CERT	Seal Rock, Waldport and Yachats	Central Oregon Coast Fire & Rescue Dist.
Teen CERT	Lincoln County	Lincoln County School District
East County	Toledo/Siletz/East County Area	No active Sponsor or CERT Chapter



One of the CERT Chapters hosting a table at the Readiness Fair



CERT Volunteers coordinating how to set up a shelter

**CERT Chapter Challenges:**

While CERT Chapters may face their own independent structural or organizational challenges, they all face the following adversities:

- Access to liability insurance for authorized team member training sessions and exercises
- Access to on-going continued funding to purchase needed basic CERT kits, supplemental items, binders for course materials.
- Continued changes in CERT Chapters Team Leadership due to departures and retirements; Volgistics has help considerably with continuity between Team leadership transitions.
- Recruitment and retention of volunteers due to limited opportunities to activate CERT chapters beyond community events.
- Lack a formalized way to collaborate with CERT leaders across the state; limited recognition at the state level of CERT Chapter Leaders for their continued and consistent efforts to maintain programs. (Federal State Homeland Security Grant provides a category specifically for volunteer groups such as CERT to apply for program funds).

CERT Chapter	Liability Insurance	W/C Insurance	Liability, W/C – County BOC	Spons. Agency Funding Supt.	Access to 501c3
North Lincoln County	No	No	Provided for County Wide Activations Only	No – Fundraising Only	Yes
Depoe Bay Fire District	No	No		Yes	No
Central Coast (Npt)	No	No		No – Fundraising Only	Yes
South County CERT	No	No		Yes	Yes
Teen CERT	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A

**Review of 2018– 2019 LC5 Goals:**

- Schedule and conduct a CERT Basic Train-the-Trainer course to continue to develop a cadre of trainers
  - Completed August 17 – 19, 2018 – 5 students trained.
- Finalize consideration for all CERT Chapter Volunteer hours to be saved in Volgistics program
  - Completed commitment from all CERT Chapters.
- Continue to develop the Lincoln County CERT Communications module
  - Completed – module revised to include Lincoln County specific information and now ready for implementation in 19/20
- Submit a State Homeland Security Grant for the acquisition of additional CERT kits.
  - Completed January 2019 and awarded May 2019



**CERT Volunteer setting up the CERT Trailer**

**Goals for 2019 – 2020:**

- Training:
  - Offer CERT Basic Train-the-Trainer course to continue to develop a cadre of trainers – open across all Chapters
  - Offer CERT Communications Module session by each CERT Chapter
  - Offer CERT Leadership course for professional development and growth of additional (new) chapter leaders
  - Offer a damage assessment course to general CERT members coordinated with County/City/Tribal Emergency Managers
- Volunteer Retention – conduct survey of past and present members to determine why prior members left and/or query how to retain current members – survey to be completed by December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Use CERT Member Survey to determine if resources should be applied for through SHSG; if so, then apply as appropriate.
- Staff Support - recruit a CERT Chapter Support Liaison through the LCSO – Emergency Management Division
- Submit recommendation to Office of Oregon Emergency Management to create a list server for CERT Chapter Leaders state-wide and to identify if funds could be made available to host a 1 day CERT Chapter Leader conference

**LC5 Strengths & Activities:**

Collaboration between CERT Chapters continues to be strong. There is a continued hope for a sponsored Chapter in the East County. However, CERT Chapters continue to welcome CERT trainees residing in other jurisdictions within Lincoln County to participate in their training courses.

Currently, all Chapters have a core group of volunteers that regularly attend meetings and participate in events. There also continues to be an influx of volunteers who received training elsewhere (in U.S.) and have relocated to the area. This provides new faces and fresh energy to our thriving CERT groups.



**CERT volunteers practicing how to set up a shelter**



**The completed CERT Trailer**

The CERT Training Trailer has been used several times to provide classes across the county. It provides a valued benefit, as CERT Chapter Leaders can easily access all the materials and supplies necessary to complete the basic CERT course.

**CERT Chapter Membership Activities:**

CERT Chapters participate in many training, exercise and community events each year. Although CERT Teams are rarely activated for a true emergency, their greatest impact on communities of Lincoln County is in their community service events which ultimately prepare them to work together for actual activations.

	No. Lincoln	Depoe Bay	Newport	So. County	Toledo – Siletz <sup>(1)</sup>	LCSD - TEEN
<b>Active Members, total #</b>						
Total # active members	33	80	60	44	N/A	NA
Total # Registered in Volgistics	33	74	26	38	N/A	NA
<b>Actual Activations, # of Events</b>						
Unplanned sponsoring agency activation	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
<b>Training Activities</b>						
Total # new students trained (Basic Course)	7	0	24	9	N/A	77
Total # training sessions	18	4	20	12	N/A	3
Total # volunteer hours	2352	392	1105	992	N/A	N/A
<b>Exercises (Drills)</b>						
Total # of exercises	4	1	0	0	N/A	0
<b>Community Service Events <sup>(2)</sup></b>						
Parades, marathons (crowd management)	2	0	1	3	N/A	N/A
Readiness fair or community festival	4	0	4	3	N/A	N/A
Preparedness outreach (door to door, town hall or other)	6	3	0	8	N/A	N/A
Assist to teach Teen CERT modules	0	4	0	3	N/A	N/A
Assist with EM planning (tsunami mapping, county exercise support, etc.)	1	0	0	1	N/A	N/A

- 1) Toledo/Siletz has no sponsoring agency at this time
- 2) Community service events can double as training events.

The following describes the annual functions of an active CERT Chapter but it should be recognized the overlapping and collaboration of continuity of participation among the Lincoln County Chapters. All of the Chapters share their training and exercise sessions and time and time again we see that they assist each other with the community service events to ensure adequate manpower is available for such events.

- **Training Activities:**

New CERT members must first complete a 17-hour course of training over a period of several weeks. CERT Basic Training classes provide skills in basic disaster preparedness, including operating a fire extinguisher, fire safety and utility controls, disaster medical training (both quick rescue treatment for the three main killers: opening the airway, controlling bleeding, and treating shock; and setting up for basic First Aid for multiple casualties), performing light search and rescue operations, understanding disaster psychology, and terrorism. This training is capped by a disaster simulation where CERT trainees demonstrate the skills that they have learned.

Once individuals have completed Basic Training, completed the application and background check process they may join the CERT group of their choice and participate in ongoing training events. Some CERT groups offer trainings on a monthly basis. Examples of the ongoing training events include the use of FRS/GMRS radios, advanced technical training related to their skill sets and other additional training that will augment the members capabilities but may not be directly related to their CERT job duty, i.e., NOAA SkyWarn Spotter training, and Red Cross shelter operations, traffic safety, etc.

- **Emergency Activations**

The ultimate test of a CERT member is during an actual emergency. When a sponsoring agency needs to utilize CERT volunteers during a disaster or other event, the agency will activate their CERT Chapter or in the case of a catastrophic event CERT members can self-activate to assist within their immediate neighborhoods or communities as outlined in their activation protocols.

- **Emergency Exercises-Drills**

To prepare for the day a team is activated, CERT teams participate in or organize emergency exercises and drills. Examples of these exercises include: tsunami evacuations, communication drills, specific technical drills, etc.

- **Community Service Events**

CERT Chapters serve in many capacities, such as crowd management, communications at various parades and festivals, information providers at readiness and community fairs and door to door outreach specifically for emergency preparedness information. By nature, CERT volunteers are community spirited people, and agency sponsors and communities are encouraged to take advantage of their skills, dedication and enthusiasm. These events sometimes serve as dual purpose; providing a training platform as well as opportunity to practice learned skills.

**Lincoln County CERT History:**

Lincoln County has had multiple CERT Chapters in place since 2007. Over the past 12 years, the CERT Chapters have flexed in size based on current volunteer leadership and active members. As of July 2019, there are four active CERT Chapters in place and four Teen CERT programs at area high schools. Homeland Security Grant funding was available early on (2007-2009) for the formation of the CERT Chapters and the US Department of Education provided funding to initiate the Teen CERT program. These funds were utilized to purchase team member kits, training supplies and activation resources; however, these funding sources became scarce when priorities at the Federal level were refocused to other projects.

CERT volunteers work tirelessly to help ensure trained resources are available to augment traditional public safety agencies during an emergency but their priority is to the neighborhoods in which CERT members reside during an emergency. They also serve as a significant force in helping to ensure the success of numerous emergency preparedness fairs, and they are very active in serving the community at public events, for instance, providing crowd management during parades.

**Annual Report Distributed to:**

- CERT Chapter Leaders (digital copy sent 09/09/19)
- CERT Chapter Sponsoring Agency Leadership (digital copy sent 09/09/19)
- County Board of Commissioners (presented at 09/04/19 BOC meeting)
- County Sheriff (sent digital copy 09/09/19)
- Office of Oregon Emergency Management – Citizen Corp Liaison (sent digital copy 09/09/19)
- County CERT Chapter Website (posted 09/09/09)