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

This 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 and an accumulative review of the LC5 activities and goals for 2019 – 2020.

Beginning March of 2020, all volunteer groups across the Nation, entered a new era of coordination – one of limited personal interaction, of new resource needs for web-based communication/coordination and requests from local government to activate to support their communities.

The CERT Chapters of Lincoln County met these new conditions with an open mind to flexibility and a continued commitment to serve their communities. June 2020 was the first county-wide emergency activation of the CERT Chapters. They were requested to activate by Lincoln County Public Health as part of the global pandemic response to COVID19. Their mission was to coordinate and staff the distribution of face coverings to the public in drive thru events on June 13<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

Their efforts continued throughout the remainder of 2020 in assistance to COVID19 and the response to the Echo Mountain Complex Fire which will be reported in the FY20-21 annual review.

*The CERT Chapters of Lincoln County extend their appreciation to the local government and public safety agencies who continue to support their efforts to serve their communities in their mission in community preparedness and response.*



**North Lincoln CERT  
June 2020 – Face Covering Distribution**

<b>CERT Chapter</b>	<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Sponsoring Agency</b>
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 (Newport)	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

**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.
- Continued changes in CERT Chapter Team Leadership due to departures and retirements; Volgistics has helped considerably with continuity between Team leadership transitions.
- Recruitment and retention of volunteers due to limited opportunities to activate CERT chapters beyond community events; though 2020 has provided multiple opportunities to support their communities due to real world response.
- 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).

*The following outlines the available funding and insurance access to the CERT Chapters.*

CERT Chapter	Liability Insurance	W/C Insurance	Liability, W/C – County BOC	Sponsoring 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 (Newport)	No	No		No – Fundraising Only	Yes
South County CERT	No	No		Yes	Yes
Teen CERT	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A



**South County CERT (Yachats Area)  
 June 2020 – Face Covering Distribution**

**North Lincoln CERT (Otis Area)  
 June 2020 – Face Covering Distribution**



### Goals - Review of 2019-20:

The CERT Chapters of Lincoln County selected 4 focus areas for 19-20: training, volunteer retention, staff support and state-wide collaboration. However, due to COVID19 conditions beginning in March of 2020 many CERT Chapters delayed in person trainings, meetings, etc. Goals not accomplished due to COVID conditions were deferred.



- **Training:**
  - Offer CERT Basic Train-the-Trainer course to continue to develop a cadre of trainers – open across all Chapters. **Completed** – 1 session held; 5 students completed training at 24 hour class time.
  - Offer CERT Communications Module session by each CERT Chapter – **Partial Completion** - Central Coast (Newport) and North Lincoln were able to complete their sessions.
  - Offer CERT Leadership course for professional development and growth of additional (new) chapter leaders. **Deferred to 21-22**
  - Offer a damage assessment course to general CERT members coordinated with County/City/Tribal Emergency Managers. **Deferred to 20-21**
- **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>. – **Completed** – Survey initiated Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020
  - Use CERT Member Survey to determine if resources should be applied for through SHSG; if so, then apply as appropriate. **Deferred to 21-22 pending state-wide initiative**
- **Staff Support** - recruit a CERT Chapter Support Liaison Volunteer through the LCSO – Emergency Management Division – **Completed** - January 2020, 2 individuals recruited for staff support roles
- **Statewide CERT Collaboration** - 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. – **Completed** – Email communication sent September 2019 – pending further response from the State.

### Goals – Selected for 2020-21:

- **Training:**
  - Offer CERT Communications Module session to those Chapters not yet completed (South County and Depoe Bay)
  - Offer CERT Leadership course for professional development and growth of additional (new) chapter leaders.
- **Volunteer Retention** – Use data from the February 2020 CERT Member Survey to outline goals to improve volunteer retention, volunteer experience and growth of available leadership team members.
- **Volunteer Coordination** – Validate all current CERT Members for each Chapter and ensure Volgistics (volunteer coordination software program) is current.
- **Statewide CERT Collaboration** – Follow-up to the 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.

**South County CERT (Waldport Area)  
June 2020 – Staging Supplies for Face Covering  
Distribution**



**Depoe Bay CERT (Gleneden Beach Area)  
June 2020 Face Covering Distribution**



**South County CERT (Waldport Area)  
June 2020 Face Covering Distribution**

**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	26	42	60	41	N/A	N/A
Total # Registered in Volgistics	37	86	35	51	N/A	N/A
<b>Actual Activations, # of Events</b>						
Unplanned sponsoring agency activation - 2 Each County Wide Requests	2	3	2	2	N/A	N/A
<b>Training Activities</b>						
Total # new students trained (Basic Course)	2	6	16	0	N/A	76
Total # training sessions	2	10	11	6	N/A	5
Total # volunteer hours	905	1504	450	988	N/A	N/A
<b>Exercises (Drills)</b>						
Total # of exercises	0	1	0	0	N/A	N/A
<b>Community Service Events <sup>(2)</sup></b>						
Parades, marathons (crowd management)	1	0	0	0	N/A	N/A
Readiness fair, community festival, farmers market	2	1	1	3	N/A	N/A
Preparedness outreach (door to door, town hall or other)	2	1	0	0	N/A	N/A
Assist to teach Teen CERT modules	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A
Assist with EM planning (tsunami mapping, county exercise support, etc.)	1	0	0	1	N/A	N/A
Public Health COVID Face Covering Distribution	2	2	2	2	N/A	N/A

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

The following describes the annual functions of our active CERT Chapters. All 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 monthly. 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.



Central Coast CERT (Newport Area)  
June 2020 – Face Covering Distribution

Depoe Bay CERT (Gleneden Beach)  
June 2020 – Face Covering Distribution for  
Depoe Bay Chamber of Commerce



**Central Coast CERT (South Beach Area)  
June 2020 – Face Covering Distribution**



• **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 13 years, the CERT Chapters have flexed in size based on current volunteer leadership and active members. As of July 2020, 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.



**Depoe Bay CERT (Gleneden Beach Area)  
June 2020 – Face Covering Distribution**

**Annual Report Distributed to:**

- CERT Chapter Leaders (digital copy sent 12/09/20)
- CERT Chapter Sponsoring Agency Leadership (digital copy sent 12/09/20)
- County Board of Commissioners (presented at 12/21/20 BOC meeting)
- County Sheriff (sent digital copy 12/09/20)
- Office of Oregon Emergency Management – Citizen Corp Liaison (sent digital copy 12/09/20)
- County CERT Chapter Website (posted 12/09/20)