



The GP Responder

November 2020

<https://gp-cert.org>

Vol. 1, Issue 2

Message from Incident Commander, Gordon Holtby

I am very pleased to present the second edition of The GP Responder. As this issue comes to press, we are nearly through the “official” 2020 hurricane season – which ends November 30th. Fortunately, while the season was extremely active, to date we have not seen a major storm impact our area. Given all the other challenges of 2020, we are thankful for small blessings!



In late October, we closed out our Sarasota County Neighborhood Initiative Cycle 32 grant and received reimbursement in the amount of \$9,269. Thanks again to all volunteers who contributed to this important undertaking, and a special thanks to Priscilla Leishman, who coordinated the purchasing effort, and to Tom Porada, who did a fabulous job on the communications system.

To reiterate, this grant allowed us to purchase equipment and supplies that may prove to be invaluable in the event of a storm or other natural disaster impacting our community.

My wife and I would like to wish everyone both a wonderful Thanksgiving and a healthy and happy holiday season. We are hopeful that 2021 will see containment of the COVID-19 virus, and a return to a more normal lifestyle for all of us.

Sincerely,

Gordon Holtby

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Volunteers Needed!

GP-CERT is a volunteer organization that deploys in the aftermath of disasters in the community. There is a continued need for volunteers to work in areas such as damage assessment, search and rescue, team organization, communications, and basic first aid. Volunteers will be assigned to tasks based upon their desires, skills, and experience. Background/training in these areas is encouraged, but not required. The GP-CERT training and preparation will allow community members to respond and assist each other in those hours between the incident and the return of our property management staff.



For more information or to volunteer, please go to the GP-CERT website at <https://gp-cert.org> or contact Gordon Holtby at gordon.holtby@gmail.com

Virtual Fire Prevention Seminar

By Trent DePersia and Gordon Holtby

In case you missed it – October was Fire Prevention Month. However, Fire Prevention is not just for the month of October – but it is an approach to keep safe from fires and related hazards during the entire year! Fire Prevention is especially important during the holidays in November and December, which are the peak period for house fires.

The City of North Port Fire Marshal, Peter Marietti, held a virtual Fire Prevention seminar on October 15, 2020. At that time, he emphasized the need for fire prevention in every home. This includes having a family plan in place so all family members know exactly what to do should a fire break out. In a fire, on average you have less than 3 minutes to get out of your home safely! The U.S. Fire Administration also suggests testing all smoke detectors on a monthly basis to ensure they are in working order, and replacing batteries annually (unless you have lithium-ion sealed 10-year batteries). All family members should also know where working fire extinguishers (i.e., the gauge is green) are located, how and when to use them safely, and the optimal escape route in the event of a fire.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the Top Fire causes are attributed to Cooking, Heating, Electrical, Smoking, and Candles. Some simple fire safety tips to address some of these causes include:

Keep an eye on the kitchen. The number one cause of home fires is unattended kitchen cooking. To help avoid kitchen fires, watch what you cook, especially deep fryers and other frying equipment. To prevent a fire from spreading, keep a fire extinguisher nearby to help contain a small fire. As an added level of precaution, keep children and pets away from stoves and ovens.

Check the laundry room. Washers and dryers are another area of the home you can keep an eye on to help prevent fires. The vast majority (92%) of laundry room fires start in the dryer, where dust, fiber and lint get trapped. It's important to clean out the dryer lint trap every single time you use it. It is also recommended to have a professional cleaning once a year to maintain proper ventilation. Fires can also start in a washer because of failing equipment, including wire or cable insulation, appliance casing or the drive belt. It's also recommended that you only run your washer and dryer when you are home. More details can be found at <https://www.nfpa.org/News-and-Research/Data-research-and-tools/US-Fire-Problem/Home-fires-involving-clothes-dryers-and-washing-machines>

Keep electrical outlets safe. As you add technology, chargers and lights to your rooms, make sure you don't overload electrical circuits. Keep a look out for a frayed cord or an outlet with too many electronic cords plugged into the outlet or extension cord. And don't put extension cords under rugs – walking on them can cause the wires to fray.



Stay safe if you smoke. It's the leading cause of deaths in home fires. Smoldering cigarettes and ashes can easily burst into flames when they come in contact with flammable materials, like furniture and carpeting. If you do smoke, make sure you put smoking materials all the way out. Never smoke in bed where you could easily fall asleep and set fire to your bed. Be especially careful with smoking on exterior balconies and open porches where 18% of all smoking-related fires start.

Curb sources of flame. Candles, lighters and matches can be a big temptation for kids who want to play with them. It's recommended to replace all candles with flameless, battery-operated candles to keep your children (and pets) from coming in contact with open flames. Keep lighters and matches stored where children can't reach.

Detect it early. Smoke detectors offer an early warning system that can give you enough time to get out the house. Make sure your home's smoke detectors are working and placed inside and outside sleeping areas, and on each floor of your home.

Fire Marshal Marietti also suggested visiting the extensive collection of safety tip sheets located on the NFPA web site (<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education>). In addition to the tips already mentioned, there is information and tips regarding escape planning, fire extinguishers (placement and use), generators, and hurricanes. These safety tips address a variety of fire and life safety topics regardless of where you live or your travel destination (i.e., Take Safety With You). Remember, Fire Prevention is not just for the month of October – it's for every month!

Weather Station

By David Elwart



Do you live part time or even full time in Gran Paradiso (GP) and wonder what the current weather conditions are in Gran Paradiso? No matter where you are in the world, as long as you have access to the Internet, you can view the current weather conditions on my personal weather station via the app, Weather Underground

https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/KFLVENIC125?cm_yen=localwx_pwsd_ash

or via the Tempest Station Maps

<https://tempestwx.com/map/11919/27.0557/-82.3467/13>

My weather station will keep you up to the minute with the weather conditions here in Gran Paradiso with the Current Temperature (and feels like), Humidity, Dewpoint, Wind Direction, Speed, Gust, Barometric Pressure, UV, and Precipitation Rate and Accumulation.

I have been fascinated with weather since childhood and have owned several personal weather stations over the years. One of the first things I did when my wife and I moved into our new house in GP a year ago was to request Architectural Review Committee (ARC) approval to set up and mount a new Weather Station. I chose a station from Tempest Weather Stations that is new to the personal weather station market. This station is small in size and uses new technologies to measure rainfall (rate and accumulation via a Haptic sensor rather than a traditional tip bucket) and a sonic sensor for wind (speed and

direction).

From David Elwart's Weather Station

The statistics below are from the recent Tropical Storm Eta that passed through the Venice area.

Weather History for KFLVENIC125

Previous Daily Mode November 11 2020 View Next

Summary
November 11, 2020

	High	Low	Average		High	Low	Average
Temperature	78.3 °F	75.7 °F	76.8 °F	Wind Speed	19.0 mph	4.7 mph	9.8 mph
Dew Point	77.9 °F	75.4 °F	76.4 °F	Wind Gust	31.3 mph	--	15.7 mph
Humidity	99 %	99 %	99 %	Wind Direction	--	--	SE
Precipitation	2.33 in	--	--	Pressure	29.81 in	29.67 in	--



The Gran Paradiso – Community Emergency Response Team (GP-CERT) has been formed to assist neighbors in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. The team is comprised of your neighbors who have undertaken the appropriate training to assist where needed.

Please submit articles and/or corrections to the newsletter publisher, Jeff Myles, at jmyles19@gmail.com. Jeff thanks the following contributors to this newsletter, Trent DePersia, Robert Spong, and Tom Porada.



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GP Zone Map can be found at	https://gp-cert.org/?page_id=521

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The GP Responder is a publication of the Gran Paradiso—Community Emergency Response Team. Our plan is to publish it every second month throughout the year. The GP Responder is forwarded to all residents by ICON, our management company, and it is also available for viewing in the GP-CERT website at <https://gp-cert.org>

