



The GP Responder

February 2021

<https://gp-cert.org>

Vol. 2, Issue 1

Message from Incident Commander, Gordon Holtby

I am very pleased to present the third edition of The GP Responder. While we made it through the “official” 2020 hurricane season relatively unscathed, it is not too soon to start thinking about preparations for the 2021 season. The COVID-19 pandemic will continue to present challenges, and we will shortly have a new resident Board of Directors to work with. For many of us, 2020 was one of the most challenging years of our lives. Please don’t let your guard down now, as we are finally seeing some light at the end of the tunnel. We are also including some helpful tips for vaccine registration in this issue for those who have not yet been vaccinated.



In spite of the challenges COVID-19 placed in our path, our volunteers “stepped up to the plate” in 2020 and contributed over 500 volunteer hours to meet the matching requirement of the Sarasota County Neighborhood Initiative Grant. GoToMeeting conference calls replaced our usual meetings, and social distancing and mask-wearing all became part of our new “normal.” Details on our next GoToMeeting conference call on March 9th are included in this issue. New residents are welcome to join the all-volunteer team, so feel free to join the call. In the interim, stay safe and healthy!

Sincerely,

Gordon Holtby

gordon.holtby@gmail.com / (847) 612-2571

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

CERT Training

Submitted by Kristi Loret



A key aspect of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in Gran Paradiso is CERT Training. That is, to understand the key aspects of basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations. Refresher training is necessary to stay current in emergency response. In December I received an email about taking a refresher CERT training class. After starting the registration process, I decided to sign up for the CERT Train-the-Trainer course. This course and all other CERT courses are sponsored by Sarasota County. As a result of my recent CERT course, Gran Paradiso will now be able to host our own CERT Basic Training classes! To hold a CERT Basic Training course in Gran Paradiso, however, will require more than just one trainer. Teaching assistance for the medical (triage) and fire safety units, at a minimum, will be needed. If anyone in Gran Paradiso has a nursing or

firefighter background, then please step forward to help prepare and run the CERT Training in Gran Paradiso. It will take more than just one person to establish and run a CERT Training course in Gran Paradiso. All volunteers are encouraged to contact Kristi Loret at KrsLyn310@gmail.com.

Sarasota County has recently begun offering CERT (FEMA certified) classes through the State College of Florida. On a yearly basis they offer two basic CERT classes and 2 Refresher courses. These classes are offered to all of Sarasota and Manatee County, which means there is limited seating. Two years ago, I was lucky enough to attend my CERT Basic Training at Island Walk, their first training class. Based on my experience, I thought it would be an excellent idea to have a CERT trainer in Gran Paradiso and host a course in our community. I decided to take the leap and requested to be included in the Train-The-Trainer class! I spent 3 Saturdays in class learning how to be a CERT instructor and successfully graduated as a CERT Trainer. What I really learned in this course is that I DO need the refresher class! I discovered I know most of the basics, but I have forgotten many of the details! Let's get some classes scheduled!!

Sarasota County CERT Courses

The Sarasota County CERT Webpage is now live. This resource will serve as a place where community members can visit to learn about and register for upcoming classes. They will also find links to regional partners, both the National and State CERT Associations, as well as some training resources from the Emergency Management Institute and Red Cross. Sarasota County provides **CERT Basic** and **CERT Refresher** courses at no cost to participants. This is done to foster a culture of preparedness throughout our community. The link is

<https://www.scgov.net/government/emergency-services/community-emergency-response-teams-cert>

An upcoming course is listed below:

CERT Refresher

This class is a CERT Refresher available to anyone who successfully completed the CERT Basic Training between 2015 - 2019. The Refresher class covers a review of emergency procedures used in a disaster.

Saturday February 27, 9:00am-3:00pm

Register for the CERT Refresher at State College of Florida

Selecting the Right Weather App

Submitted by David Elwart



I am a true weather geek, as such I am often asked what weather page/app should I be using for various activities. Listed below are my favorites. I recommend using bookmarks to save them.

Hurricane Season

My go-to webpage / app during Hurricane season (June 1 - November 30) is the National Hurricane Center (NHC). <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/> on my desktop. The National Hurricane Center is the definitive authority on the prediction and tracking of tropical storms and hurricanes. NHC does not have a “official” app for use on your phone.

I love Weather Underground. The site has a Severe Weather Page(s). Topics include Hurricane & Tropical Cyclones and can be found at: <https://www.wunderground.com/hurricane> Information on Hurricanes includes a tracking map, public advisory, satellite image, discussion and computer models. Other pages on the site include a severe weather map for the US, Wildfires and more.

Everyday Weather

For everyday weather, I use Weather Underground where I have my own personal weather station data https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/KFLVENIC125?cm_ven=localwx_pwsdash.

Weather underground uses a global community of 250,000+ people connecting data from environmental sensors like weather stations and air quality monitors to provide hyperlocal weather forecasts.

Beach

One of the sites that I check on prior to going to the beach is the State of Florida Fish and Wildlife Red Tide Current status page. <https://myfwc.com/research/redtide/statewide/>

The daily sampling page helps you plan your beach trip. <https://myfwc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=87162eec3eb846218cec711d16462a72>

The MOTE Marine Laboratory and Aquarium Beach Conditions Reporting System <https://visitbeaches.org/> Select the beach you will be visiting (Manasota, Caspersen, Venice, North Jetty or Nokomis) and learn about the current water color, air temperature, water surface temperature, wind direction, surf and surf height and much more.

Boating

For those of you who go boating, these in my opinion are must have apps on your mobile device or phone: US Coast Guard, Storm Radar, Tides, and WindAlert. All are available for free from your favorite app store.

Storm Radar advises you of weather alerts such as Small Craft Advisory, when to expect rainfall and more.

Tides allows you to select a location and see when the High and Low tides will occur.

WindAlert allows you to select a location and see by hour the Wind Speed (MPH), Gust, Direction, Sky (cloudy, sunny, etc.) Temperature, Wave Height (ft), and Periods.

For weather geeks (or non-weather geeks)

Windy <https://www.windy.com/>

This site allows you to turn on and off various layers such as wind, clouds, temperature, clouds, radar and satellite. There are many more layers.

Covid-19 Vaccination Tips

Florida now has a Statewide Registry for COVID. You register once and you'll be contacted when it's your turn. The registry is for seniors and first line workers and the web address is: <http://myvaccine.fl.gov/> You can sign up for this registry for nearby counties (i.e. Charlotte County).

However, Sarasota County has opted out of the Statewide Registry, so if you want to receive a vaccine WITHIN Sarasota County, you must register through Everbridge at <https://bit.ly/2KAbbks> Do not go directly to Everbridge to set up an account, but go through the Sarasota County DOH link to it. Even if you are under 65, register and get your place in the registry, so that you will be in the front of the queue when Sarasota County moves beyond the 1A (over 65 and healthcare workers) group.

When your number comes up in the Sarasota County registry, and they contact you, it will be from:
Phone number: 941-861-8297 - Text (SMS) messages: ID 88911 - Emails: DOHcovid19vaccine@scgov.net

If you receive a notification for an appointment (currently at 21,163 in the queue), please respond within 2 hours. Sarasota County vaccines are being provided at Sarasota Square Mall (former Old Navy building down the hall from Costco) in Sarasota and the Venice Community Center at 326 Nokomis Ave. South, Venice on the island.

If you want to try to schedule through the Publix or future CVS/Walgreen pharmacy “lotteries”, if you are successful in getting into the registration queue, don’t choose the first date and time available, as most people do. Instead, choose the last date available and a late morning or afternoon slot. If you are a veteran, when you can get a vaccine at your local VA health facility, they will contact you. You don’t need to sign up or come to a VA facility to request or receive a vaccine.

Upcoming Meeting

Our next GP-CERT volunteer conference call will be held on Tuesday, March 9th at 6pm.

The link to join is as follows:

Please join GP-CERT meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://www.gotomeet.me/MitchFarrah/gp--cert-meeting-march-9-2021>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: [+1 \(669\) 224-3412](tel:+16692243412)

Access Code: 233-267-317

Join from a video-conferencing room or system.

Dial in or type: 67.217.95.2 or inroomlink.goto.com

Meeting ID: 233 267 317

Or dial directly: [233267317@67.217.95.2](tel:233267317@67.217.95.2) or 67.217.95.2##233267317

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/233267317>



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.



GP-CERT 2020-2021	
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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>

