



## Message from Incident Commander, Gordon Holtby



I hope you enjoy the 6th edition of The GP Responder. We are nearly through another hurricane season that fortunately did not adversely impact our community. However, the 2021 US hurricane season ranks in the top 20% in terms of activity and energy since tracking began. The mid-October Sarasota County tornado warning also highlights the need for all of us to continue to stay vigilant.

This edition starts off with an article on “The 5 C’s of Effective Emergency Communications,” which skills can be very applicable to our everyday life. We then have an article on GP-CERT Training and Education, which highlights the extensive work and time commitment put in by instructors, as well as the dedication of our volunteers in taking CERT Basic courses to improve their skills and ability to help out the GP community in the aftermath of a hurricane. The final article is an excellent article on “Hurricanes and Storm Surge,” and it covers the basics of storm surge and some myths commonly associated with them. My personal thanks to our contributors – without you we would not have a newsletter!

I wanted to reiterate that new residents are welcome to join the all-volunteer GP-CERT team at any time. We are now doing both on-line and in-person CERT basic training in limited numbers to ensure everyone’s safety. If interested in learning more about GP-CERT, please reach out to any of the volunteers listed at the end of this newsletter for more information on becoming a volunteer or on training opportunities.

As we finish up a year that has gone by all-too-fast, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of our GP-CERT volunteers for their commitment and support throughout 2021. In addition, my wife and I wanted to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, and all the best to you and your families over the holiday season!

Sincerely,

*Gordon Holtby*

[gordon.holtby@gmail.com](mailto: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 or days 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](mailto:gordon.holtby@gmail.com)

# The 5 C's of Effective Emergency Communications

## submitted by Brian Sheftel

What are the 5 C's of communications? **Conciseness, Clarity, Confidence, Control and Capability**

A difficult challenge we will face during an emergency is proper communications. Perfecting these communications skills is critical to an emergency's overall success. You can apply these skills to your everyday life. Applying these skills in everyday life will make you a better communicator.

### Conciseness

When you give direction, advice or a task get right to the point. Do not let your thoughts wander off. What you see or hear is what you will report. Do not add fillers or jargon to your conversation.

**Example:** "Command from Zone 5"

"Zone 5 this is Command go ahead with your message."

"Zone 5 has a tree down across the roadway making it impassable"

### Clarity

A message you want to communicate must be precise and clear.

**Example:** Zone 5 lead transmits to its members about searching an area. The lead will be clear and state, "search all streets and buildings in that area."

### Confidence

Confidence can come from two things. Speaking ability and the information you pass on. You can improve your speaking ability skills by being the aggressor or initiating conversation. The information you pass on must be truthful and pertinent to gain the trust of your peers.

### Control

At some point in your life, you have been overwhelmed with emotions. Never let your emotions control your conversation. Step back, take a deep breath and take a few extra seconds before starting your communications.

### Capability

There are 2 effective ways in becoming a capable communicator. First is to practice, practice, practice. The second is to ask questions at the end of a conversation. They may be "Do you have any questions?" or "How would you handle this task?" Asking questions puts all of the 5 C's into action!

## AED Demonstration and Training



An AED (Automated External Defibrillators) demonstration with Captain Ingalls of the North Port Fire Department took place on Friday, October 15th. CERT volunteers attended the training. Please note that eventually additional demonstrations will be scheduled for all other GP residents. Approximately a dozen GP-CERT volunteers attended the AED demonstration. GP recently added five AEDs around the Clubhouse area. Please visit the following locations to become familiar with their placement. Locations are inside the main Clubhouse near the front entrance, outside the pool baths, in the gym, in the foyer area between the Craft Room and Billiards Room, and by the garage area on the side of the Clubhouse nearest the tennis and pickleball courts.

## GP-CERT Training/Education submitted by Kristi Loret

Gran Paradiso and Island Walk CERT teams joined forces and presented the CERT Basic class and associated skills sessions recently. This was our first joint education adventure and we hope to provide more opportunities in the near future. We offered two options for completing the Basic CERT class: Hybrid or Classical. The Hybrid class consisted of an online course and a 2-day hands-on in-person skills assessment. The Classical class was completed in-person over a three-day period (Friday– Sunday). We had participants from various communities, including several from Gran Paradiso and Island Walk. I am very proud of the work we accomplished and grateful for the students that participated in both classes. Thankfully, we have a set of dedicated instructors that will enable us to facilitate more classes as we look to the future.

If you are interested in attending a class in the future, please reach out and let us know (I will create a master list). Send all inquiries to Kristi Loret at [Krslyn310@gmail.com](mailto:Krslyn310@gmail.com) or call me at 419-509-4554.



Back row: Sal Baglio, Brian Sheftel, Brian Holm, Donna Ziringer, Peter

Front row: Angie O’Bey, Bonnie Foreman, Jean Townley (missing – AnnMarie Dreben)

Sal Baglio, Brian Sheftel, and Jean Townley are Gran Paradiso residents.



Gran Paradiso residents who attended the CERT Basic Training are Rich MacCready on the far left, next to Rich is the instructor, Miguel Garcia from SCFD (not a GP resident), and next to Miguel are GP residents Gene and Carolyn Pliska.

# Hurricanes and Storm Surge

## submitted by David Elwart

As you have discovered after relocating to Florida, it is hard to mention the word “hurricane” without a well-meaning “expert”, maybe even a colleague, friend, or family member recalling a personal experience or something they read or watched on TV. They then proceed to let you know what you must do or need to know. This sounds a bit sarcastic; but actually, it is not a negative. Hurricanes and tropical storms are one topic that unites us as Floridians from Key West to Pensacola, Melbourne to Tampa, Naples to Jacksonville, and all communities in between.

In that light, I would like to cover the basics of storm surges and some of the myths associated with them.

### Storm Surge Basics

There is no question that victims of a hurricane are more likely to succumb to the effects of flooding during a hurricane than any other threat. Storm surge has claimed thousands of lives. An example of just how deadly this can be is Hurricane Katrina. According to the National Hurricane Center, “At least 1500 persons lost their lives during Katrina, and many of those deaths occurred directly, or indirectly, as a result of storm surge” (Storm Surge Overview).

So, what is a Hurricane Storm Surge? A storm surge is water that is pushed onto shore by a hurricane. It is rarely a “wall of water,” but rather a rise of water that can be as rapid as several feet in a few minutes. The storm surge moves with the forward speed of the hurricane, typically 10-15 mph. Wind driven water has tremendous power. One cubic yard of sea water weighs 1,728 pounds – that is almost a ton.

The three mechanisms that contribute to the storm surge are:

1. The action of winds piling up water (typically more than 85% of the surge)
  2. Waves pushing water inland faster than it can drain off. This is known as wave-setup and is typically 5-10% of the surge.
  3. The low pressure of a hurricane sucking water higher into the air near the eye (typically 5-10% of the surge).
- The storm surge depends greatly upon the size and intensity of a hurricane, the angle that it approaches the shore at, how deep the water is close to shore (the slope of the seabed at the coastline) and how fast the hurricane is moving. A storm surge arrives on shore before the eye of the hurricane does.



### Storm Surge Myths

**Myth: Call 911 and you can be rescued, while the water is pouring into your home.**

How? No one will be able to get to you. The water rises quickly, cars can't drive.

**Myth: You will be able to maneuver around in rushing water.**

Probably not. The speed of water in a surge can be equivalent to Class III or IV rapids.

**Myth: You will know in time.**

The surge is usually not a wall of water as is often assumed, but rather a rapid rise of water of several

feet over a period of minutes, meaning it can sneak in unexpectedly.

**Fact: The best way to survive a storm surge is to heed evacuation orders and leave before the surge arrives!**

For additional information on Hurricane Storm Surges please visit this National Hurricane webpage:

[https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/surge/surge\\_intro.pdf](https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/surge/surge_intro.pdf)

(Free storm surge image taken from [pixabay](https://pixabay.com/))



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, Carole Myles, at [cmyles252@gmail.com](mailto:cmyles252@gmail.com).



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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 third 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>

