



The GP Responder

May 2022

<https://gp-cert.org>

Vol. 3, Issue 2

Message from Incident Commander, Gordon Holtby

I hope you enjoy the 8th edition of The GP Responder. Hurricane season kicked off on June 1st, and NOAA is predicting a 65% chance of an above-normal season, a 25% chance of a near-normal season and a 10% chance of a below-normal season– so please be vigilant, get your supplies, and make your plans now.

This edition starts off with highlights from the GP-CERT Family Safety Day, which went extremely well due to the efforts of both amazing volunteers and members of the North Port Fire Rescue and North Port Police Department. Thanks to all those who helped out. The second article - “GP-CERT Size-Up” – describes what Size-Up is for a hypothetical July 12th hurricane incident. The third article is a “Storm Drain Awareness” article, and the fourth article provides “Flood Information and Tips.”



New residents are welcome to join the all-volunteer GP-CERT team. GP-CERT is about empowering our community – both educating our volunteers about disaster response, and communicating safety messages and information to our residents. 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. Our next bi-monthly meeting is on Tuesday, July 5th @ 6 pm in the craft room (with orientation at 5:30 pm for new volunteers) so please feel free to join us at that time.

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 assist in areas such as damage assessment, access control, communications, and triage (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

Family Safety Day

submitted by Jay Alvord



Your Gran Paradiso CERT team just kicked off their first ever Annual Safety Day. CERT planned this event two years ago, but to our disappointment, COVID forced us to cancel the event. CERT's focus is to inform all homeowners of potential concerns that occur over the summer and during hurricane season. Family readiness during this time of year not only helps the homeowner, but also strengthens the community. The CERT volunteers train multiple times a year to prepare for large disaster events like a hurricane. Our annual safety day is a way for the CERT team to share our knowledge with the community.

Gran Paradiso has a wealth of resources in our community, including the North Port Fire and Police Department. Both agencies have been eager to engage with the

neighborhood to educate and connect with homeowners. Connect is an understatement given all the fun everyone had during the Family Safety Day.

A beautiful flag display greeted our first responders and was setup by our great volunteers of Gran Paradiso. The first responders staged their vehicles which included a fire truck, ambulance, patrol vehicles, and "SWAT Bearcat" for homeowners to explore and learn. The fire department also brought their state-of-the-art fire extinguisher simulator for homeowners to test, learn, and observe. The events kicked off with an amazing volunteer breakfast where our CERT team cooked amazing breakfast burritos and pancakes for homeowners and first responders. Homeowners were able to sit and enjoy a meal with the men and women who are serving our community. Breakfast transitioned into safety classes taught by our first responders. Homeowners were able to rotate between learning stations which included classes such as CPR, AED training, bike safety, hurricane preparedness, and other important classes. The North Port Police department finished off the morning classes with an informative adult fraud prevention class. Thank you again to all the volunteers who made the morning events fun and productive for all.

The CERT team continued the annual Safety Day with afternoon events focused on fun. Homeowners transitioned outside to our Memorial Day Celebration which was a mix of a pool party and events staged in our parking lot with our first responders. Homeowners were able to share in watching our North Port Police put on an amazing K-9 officer demonstration, beautifully performed national anthem, and color guard and rifle presentation given by our local veterans. A "Jart" competition for all ages capped off the afternoon's events. Young toddlers, children, and teens all competed against each other and against first responders to find out who was the true "Jart" champion. After a fun and competitive battle, three "Jart" champions received awards of candy, but an additional three lucky winners walked away with more. Thank you to our local Spotlight Theatres Luxury Stadium 11 theaters for donating six tickets to our event. Each winner was able to take home two tickets each for themselves and a friend to watch a movie of their choice at our local theater.

The CERT Annual Safety Day was a tremendous success, but it only happened due to great volunteers, amazing support from our local first responders, and participation from all our great homeowners. Looking forward to next year!



GP-CERT SIZE-UP

submitted by Brian Sheftel

At 1:30 pm on July 12, 2022 Gran Paradiso CERT (“GP-CERT”) is activated due to a hurricane that just passed through our community. All Zone Leaders meet up with their respective teams. All teams are dispatched to survey their zones and report back to the Incident Commander. The Zone 5 Leader and team head towards Lagente Circle. While enroute the team notices road blockages due to downed trees and flooding. In the distance they also notice roof damage to several buildings due to the high winds. We now need to report some of our initial findings to the Incident Commander. We do this by Sizing-Up the scene.

What is Size-Up?



Size-Up is the initial evaluation of an emergency situation by our GP-CERT volunteers in each of the six GP zones. It is a determination of immediate hazards to responders, other lives and property. Also included is the need for additional resources.

Example: Zone 5 Leader to Command, Go ahead Zone 5 Leader, Zone 5 has some downed trees and flooding. Also, Command we can see some roof damage to several buildings. Zone 5 will report back upon our arrival.

When does Size-Up begin?

Size-Up begins with the initial receipt of GP-CERT activation- What happened? What is happening and what is likely to happen?

GP-CERT Size-Up Steps

1. Gather facts - time, weather, building construction, occupancy, hazards
2. Assess and communicate the damage
3. Consider possibilities
4. Assess your own situation
5. Establish priorities
6. Make decisions
7. Develop plan of action
8. Take action
9. Evaluate progress

Who performs Size-Up?

Every member performs their own Size-Up. It’s the Zone Leader’s responsibility to report his or her team’s findings to the Incident Commander.

When does Size-Up end?

Size-Up is continuous throughout the entire operation. It is the gathering of information and knowledge that will protect all members of GP-CERT. Size-Up ends when the incident is deemed under control by the Incident Commander.

Now taking into account the GP-CERT Size-Up, can you create your own Size-Up with the above scenario?



Pictures taken from open source site [freeimages.com](https://www.freeimages.com)

Storm Drain Awareness

submitted by Cheryl Heeren



As we are in the middle of rainy season, it is very important that we as a community be aware of the potential for flooding of our streets, driveways, etc. due to clogged drainage grates, storm drains due to leftover contractor debris (sand, cement, dirt, mulch, etc.), and joints along the street curbs that have become overgrown with grass and weeds. Our Board has been contacted to see who is responsible for drain maintenance.

Meanwhile, here are a few tips for maintaining the storm grates, drains, and curb joints:

1. Inspect the top of the drain grating regularly, as well as the curb joints. It is very easy for water to backup when it does not have a clear path to a drain. Clear off the area on and around the storm drain grate. If you can easily sweep or remove the debris, it would be very helpful to both you and your neighbors to do so.
2. And, if you cannot do that, but are aware of a potential problem, kindly contact GP management to advise them of the issue so it can be promptly taken care of.
3. Lastly, avoid opening and unclogging the storm drain or grates yourself by placing your hands or arms into these areas.

Reprint from the “North Report”, the City of North Port’s Quarterly Newsletter, May 2022.

Flood Information and Tips

Here are the seven quick flood protection tips:

1. Sign up for “Alert Sarasota County” on North Port’s website.
2. Check your flood zone and the latest FEMA flood insurance rate maps information at CityOfNorthPort.com/Flood
3. To protect properties in high risk flood zones (AE), talk to your insurance agent about flood insurance requirements. Remember there is a one month period before a flood insurance policy is effective.
4. Don’t drive through flooded areas. When in doubt, turn around.
5. Protect personal property by elevating electrical appliances and checking culvert pipes and swales to prevent blockages.
6. Designate a place where your family can gather during an evacuation.
7. For flood information, homeowners can also call the City’s hotline at 941-429-1052.



To stay up-to-date on City news, download the “North RePort” app in your respective app store to quickly access City information. Make sure to enable push notifications for the most important updates, from finding your recycle day, to reporting an issue in the City, to submitting a police tip. CityOfNorthPort.com/NorthReportApp

Flood photo attribution - [Nazrin Babashova](#) on [Unsplash](#)



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.



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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>

