



The GP Responder

March 2023

<https://gp-cert.org>

Vol. 4, Issue 1

Message from GP-CERT Operations, Brian Sheftel

I have been a member of the GP-CERT Team for a couple of years. My background started over thirty years ago in the fire service, and ended in 2020 when I retired as a Lieutenant with the Meriden Connecticut Fire Department. I was a Fire Instructor, Hazardous Materials Technician and Fire Officer just to name a few. I took many FEMA classes over the years as well. Over my long career, I was exposed to all types of emergencies.

I am very excited to take my experience and knowledge into the position of GP-CERT Operations. During an incident, I will assume the position of Incident Commander. On a day to day basis, I will work closely with all of our GP-CERT volunteers.

Our GP-CERT Team is making some new and exciting changes for 2023. With the help of our awesome volunteers, this year has started off strong. We have designed a new organizational chart, which is below, and our operational plan is being updated.

GP-CERT Family Safety Day has been planned and finalized. It will take place Saturday, May 6, 2023 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in the main parking lot.

With hurricane season approaching we are looking for volunteers to join our dedicated and incredible team. It is a great opportunity to meet new people, and to serve your community. If you are interested, please contact anyone on our GP-CERT team or visit our Facebook page, Gran Paradiso Community Response Team (GP-CERT.)

Sincerely,
Brian Sheftel



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

SRQ PADRE Airport Disaster Drill

Submitted by Ed Litcher

On February 22nd members of GP-CERT (Gran Paradiso-Community Emergency Response Team) participated in Sarasota Bradenton's Airport (SRQ) Passenger Aircraft Disaster Response Exercise (PADRE). The PADRE exercise is required by the Federal Aviation Administration every year for all commercially operated airports. Every third year a "full scale" or "live action" drill must be conducted in order to allow airport fire, police and operations departments to review and implement their emergency plan through participation with airport tenants and local first responder and aid agencies.

The scenario for the drill is a major aircraft accident at SRQ Airport. Allegiant Airlines generously provided an aircraft for the drill which was actually conducted on one of SRQ's runways. The drill required two types of

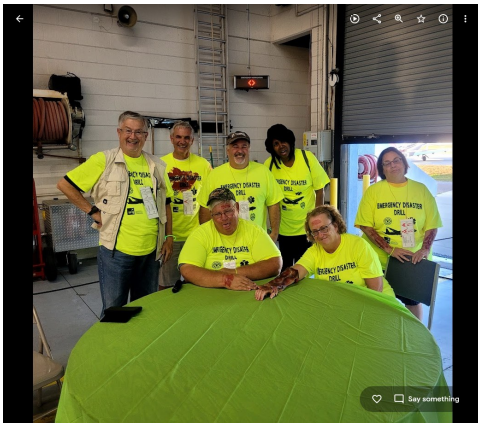


volunteers; aircraft accident victims to be treated by first responders on scene, and friends and family members of victims on the plane who challenge and/or harass airline and airport personnel as to the well-being of their loved ones. As my wife Barbara and I were victims, identified to first responders by the yellow t-shirts we were provided, I can only describe the drill from that point of view. On arrival at the staging area we were provided victim cards that described our injuries and vital signs on one side of the card and detailed descriptions of our

injuries, how we should react during the drill, and what we should expect from the first responders with whom we'll interact. We were also told to have fun with our roles and "ham it up" to whatever level we'd like. If needed, additional moulage make-up and appliances were applied.

I can provide perspective of how I observed and interacted with a few people involved. Barbara and I along, with Gordon Holtby and several others, were able to extricate ourselves from the aircraft and were positioned around the plane on the runway. Barbara and I collapsed on the runway outside the plane due to the extent of our injuries. Barbara's injury included missing fingers on one hand and burns to her other arm. I had glass imbedded in my forehead and also had two fingers decapitated in the crash. Gordon however remained mobile, wondering about dazed and confused while still trying to get to his business meeting. We each chose different ways to interact during the drill. Barbara lay on the ground calling for help while the initial first responders essentially ignored her. Seeing this, I chose to interact and talk to the official drill observers, fire, and airport operations personnel on-scene in order to get their perspective on the goals of the drill and whether they thought the responders were getting valuable experience from the exercise. I also mentioned to the people I spoke with that the realism of the drill was a little questionable as all victims outside the plane left the first responders alone while they figured out how to proceed. In real life I believe we would have been all over those responders desperately trying to get help. I offered to organize 4 or 5 victims as a harassment squad but was politely told that wouldn't be necessary. So much for my attempt to have "fun."

Gordon in my opinion did have the most fun as he would interact with the first responders in English and French, as well as wander between the various groups of victims constantly getting the responders to question their victims' count when they compared numbers. As for the medical treatment we received on the runway, well, it's good to know that there will be more drills in the future. Once the drill started it was close to an hour before any



on-site triage began and we were tagged according to our injuries, Barbara was Red, I think I should have been Red but was tagged Yellow, and Gordon as a Yellow. Follow on treatment by medical personnel then took another 20 to 30 minutes to commence, if at all. I think the rule of thumb was that if you were tagged RED, then you were DEAD, having bled out long before you received any treatment. I do believe that the main focus of the drill was safely securing the area, assessing the plane and its' integrity before putting more lives at risk, removing victims from the aircraft and then moving all victims to a triage-staging area

for treatment and then transport. These goals all appeared to be successfully met.

Additional activities we had the chance to observe during the exercise. Airport personnel arrived first to the scene with additional units being deployed to the runway from the surrounding community based on anticipated arrival times. A large fire well behind the plane provided airport fire personnel experience with foaming the runway. Search and rescue teams were deployed on the side of the runway in a pattern that allowed them to locate victims who might have been thrown from the plane or wandered away from the crash site. Finally, two medical helicopters landed near the crash site to simulate the removal of the most critically injured victims. As a humorous sidebar I can't help but wonder what the passengers on a Southwest Airlines plane that taxied on an adjacent runway were thinking as they looked out their windows and saw the Allegiant plane with people strewn all over the ground and fire and rescue personnel arriving from all directions!

Participating in any of the disaster drills offered at the state, county, or local levels is the best CERT learning experience I can imagine. If you ever have the opportunity to volunteer for one of these events, please give it consideration. Observing the emergency responders perform their duties first-hand provides a greater level of appreciation for what actually happens during an emergency.

Finally, I wish to say that I have great respect for the people in our community who have volunteered to undertake this task and provide post-disaster support to Gran Paradiso residents until first responders are able to respond. GP-CERT is a "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" team that will be here should that moment come. I also hope that another IAN opportunity will be 30 to 50 years down the road, and that we never have to use these skills, which we will continue to refine outside of training events.



BE PREPARED FOR THE NEXT DISASTER

June 1st begins hurricane season. Be prepared with the following items.

The screenshot shows the Amazon product page for the LuminAID 2-in-1 Solar Camping Lantern and Phone Charger. The product is a white, cube-shaped lantern with a red handle and a red charging cable. The price is \$74.99, with a Prime One-Day delivery option. The product has 2,200 ratings and is marked as a Best Seller. The page also shows the Amazon logo, navigation menu, and a Windows taskbar at the bottom.

LuminAID 2-in-1 Solar Camping Lantern and Phone Charger - Inflatable LED Lamp for Camping, Hiking and Travel - Emergency Light for Power Outages, Hurricane, Survival Kits - As Seen on Shark Tank

Visit the LuminAID Store
★★★★☆ 2,200 ratings
91 answered questions

Amazon's Choice in Lantern Flashlights by Lumin...

Best Seller

\$74.99

✓prime One-Day
FREE Returns

Eligible for Return, Refund or Replacement within 30 days of receipt | Free Amazon tech support included

74.99

✓prime One-Day
FREE Returns

FREE delivery Tomorrow, March 31
Order within 48 mins

Deliver to Carole - Venice 34293

In Stock

Qty: 1

Add to Cart

Buy Now

Secure transaction

Ships from Amazon
Sold by LuminAID
Returns Eligible for Return, Refund or Replacement within 30 days of receipt
Support Free Amazon tech support included

Add a Protection Plan

The screenshot shows the Amazon product page for the LIFESAVER Cube. The product is a white, cube-shaped water filter with a blue handle and a blue cap. The price is \$130.97, with a Prime One-Day delivery option. The product has 33 ratings and is marked as a Best Seller. The page also shows the Amazon logo, navigation menu, and a Windows taskbar at the bottom.

LIFESAVER Cube

Visit the LIFESAVER Store
★★★★☆ 33 ratings

1 Price Change

\$130.97

Thank you for being a Prime member. Get \$100 off: Pay \$30.97 \$130.97 upon approval for the Amazon Prime Rewards Visa Card.

Enhance your purchase

Payment plans

\$12.77/mo (12 mo) at example APR of 30% (rates from 10-30% APR)

Brand LIFESAVER
Color White
Product 8"L x 8"W x 8"H
Dimensions
Material other
Capacity 5 Liters
Included Water Filter

130.97

FREE delivery April 3 - 5. Details

Or fastest delivery March 31 - April 3. Details

Deliver to Carole - Venice 34293

In Stock

Qty: 1

Add to Cart

Buy Now

Secure transaction

Ships from Comet Warehouse
Sold by Comet Warehouse
Returns Eligible for Return, Refund or Replacement within 30 days of receipt

Add a Protection Plan:

4-Year Protection for \$29.99
 3-Year Protection for \$21.99

Add to List

Disaster Planning

Submitted by Carole Myles

Here are links to planning guides and a warning notification system for the upcoming hurricane season which lasts from June 1st through November 30th.

- Tampa Bay Prepares <http://tampabayprepares.org/>
- Sarasota County All-Hazards Disaster Planning Guide <https://tbrpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Sarasota-County-Disaster-Planning-Guide-2022.pdf>
- Sarasota County Hurricane Preparedness <https://www.scgov.net/government/emergency-services/hurricane-preparedness-6291>
- Sarasota County Prepare Your Home <https://www.scgov.net/government/emergency-services/hurricane-preparedness/homeowners>
- Sarasota County Contact Center 311, 941-861-5000

Sarasota County Notification/Warning System

Alert Sarasota County is a free, secure, advanced, and effective community notification system that allows you to receive calls, email alerts, or text messages, about events that could impact your neighborhood or help protect your family or property. This system allows Sarasota County to send critical communications to all or targeted areas within the county when immediate actions are required. Your contact information remains private, and will only be used for public health, safety, and wellness purposes.

Anyone with a physical address in Sarasota County may participate. Visit [scgov.net/beprepared](https://www.scgov.net/beprepared) for more information, to register now or update information, or call 311, 941-861-5000.

Services GP-CERT Provides during Emergencies

Submitted by Gordon Holtby

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 assist during the time period between the departure of GP's management company and their return. This gap, when basically no one is in charge at GP, may be as short as 24 hours or as long as circumstances dictate. The purpose of the GP-CERT is to:

- Assess and evaluate the extent of damage, providing some light search and rescue, as well as first aid procedures
- Attempt to clear any storm drains blocked with debris to prevent flooding
- Communicate with outside authorities and first responders
- Collaborate with the BOD and management company to communicate with residents regarding emergency preparation and the situation post-disaster

What the GP-CERT does not do:

- Go house-to-house to check on residents
- Put up hurricane shutters or protective plywood (focus is on post disaster activities)
- Coordinate the evacuation and relocation of residents
- Enter any hazardous area

Unknowns with GP-CERT in the event of a disaster include:

- Availability of GP-CERT members in GP during an emergency (due to evacuation orders)
- The condition of the roads within GP post-emergency
- The availability of ambulance and emergency services during the post- disaster period
- Communication with and accessibility to 911 and the Emergency Operation Center
- The extent of damage at GP



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 KW, our management company, and it is also available for viewing on the GP-CERT website at <https://gp-cert.org>

