



The GP Responder

December 2023

<https://gp-cert.org>

Vol. 4, Issue 4

Message from GP-CERT Leader, Gordon Holtby

I hope you enjoy this 14th Edition of The GP Responder. Our GP community came through the 2023 hurricane season relatively unscathed despite it being one of the most active seasons on record. During 2023 there were 30 named (sub) tropical storms, 20 hurricanes and 8 major hurricanes. We just need to keep an eye on Isaac in 2024 as storms starting with “I” – Idalia (2023), Ian (2022) and Irma (2017) have been challenges. In addition, despite the “official” hurricane season being over, the recent tornados in TN highlighted the need to stay vigilant.



The first article is all about our training session conducted this past September and joined in by folks from IslandWalk and North Port. All residents are welcome to join the all-volunteer GP-CERT team and take part in our educational programs. Rich MacCready’s second article details how to prepare your hurricane equipment for the off season. The third article in this month’s newsletter details the *5 Cs of Effective Emergency Communications*, a reprint from our November 2021 newsletter and well worth another read. Finishing the newsletter is an article from November 2020 about our community weather station.

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, January 9th, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the Craft Room so please feel free to join us at that time.

My wife and I wish everyone a happy holiday season as well as a healthy and prosperous 2024!

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

We Did It!

submitted by Kristi Loret



The end of September found us accomplishing a new goal for GP-CERT! We hosted our first CERT Basic class here in Gran Paradiso. While it was challenging to acquire a room for three consecutive days, we did manage to work around the problem.

With the assistance of a few gentlemen from Island Walk, we taught eight new members of CERT – a few from Gran Paradiso, Island Walk and North Port. We utilized the aerobics room for an afternoon of ‘Search and Rescue’ and took advantage of the library in the main clubhouse for the classroom and skills sessions. We want to thank the maintenance staff and the front office for all their assistance in setting up and running the class.

On Day 2 of our class, we put the students to the test using their newly learned skills. They learned basic medical skills to care for wounds and how to assess survivors. They also learned methods of assisted carry; this is how someone can help an injured person leave a ‘dangerous’ location. Those skills, as well as the method of searching the interior of a building were utilized for the scenarios provided. With all these new skills, we divided the

class into 2 teams. While one team performed the ‘search and rescue’, the other team participated as the wounded. We utilized the locker rooms and the aerobics room as our scene of the damage. Both teams performed well finding and figuring out what needed to be done for the wounded they found. While we thought we had cleared the area of residents not involved in our class, we missed one! To our surprise there was a gentleman in the sauna that we neglected to identify until the teams went through. Thankfully the search team successfully identified him as not being part of the class. Oh, did I forget to tell you that the team was made up of men and women searching all areas – OOPS! All was good, just a bit of embarrassment that we missed someone! Either way, great memories were made, and skills were tested.

A huge shout out to Brian Sheftel, Rich McCready, and Kristi Loret for donating their time and knowledge throughout the 3-day class. Our other instructors included Paul Nienaber and Gerry Witt, both residents of Island Walk. And finally, a very big welcome to our new Basic CERT trainees – Ron Donner, Francesca Clark, and Kevin O’Donnell! Stay tuned for future chances to attend a local CERT class – most likely at the community college.



Front row, left to right: Francesca Clark (GP), Jane Carreiro (IW), Song Su (IW), Mary Moe (IW), Paul Moe (IW), Ron Donner (GP), Kristi Loret (GP)

Back row, left to right: Kevin O’Donnell (GP), Bob Duemmel (NP)

End of the 2023 Hurricane Season Checklist

submitted by Richard MacCready

Okay, the hurricane season has ended and all we had to deal with here in GPland was a bit of breezy weather thanks to Idalia. Which brings me to my first question, is the pronunciation “I deal ya” or “I day I a”? I’ve heard both.

Well, on to better things. At the end of the season, I “undo” the checklist that I “did” back in the Spring. I also repeat an item or two that I performed at the start, during and now at the end of the hurricane season. Some are quick, some take a bit more time, but I am usually done in about two hours. So, for what it’s worth to you, here’s my “End of Hurricane Season” checklist.

Generator and Battery Maintenance

1. Take the batteries out of the flashlights. I store them nearby, but if they are two years old (no, I do not write the date on the batteries), I just replace batteries during the “even years,” which means I will be buying batteries for my flashlights this Spring.

2. The generator has multiple steps. At the end of the season, suction out the majority of the gasoline in the fuel tank. Keep just under a gallon of gas in the fuel tank (it holds five gallons), to ensure it can start at a moment’s notice. Run the generator one last time and I let it run until it runs out of gas. This keeps the internal parts of it clean and doesn’t clog up the fuel line and carburetor. At the start of the season, change the oil and filter on even years. Add five gallons of gas in the gas can. Just under a gallon of gas goes into the generator itself. Start the generator and let it run for 15-30 minutes. It might take 2-3 attempts to start the generator as it draws the new fuel through the fuel line and carburetor. I turn off the generator by turning the fuel valve off versus hitting the “off” button, this ensures that I do not clog up the generator. I review my 4-page generator procedure.



Yes, people who know me are not surprised that I have a procedure and that it is four pages long. I believe a copy of it is located in our CERT’s website “File” section if you are inclined to inquire about it.

Eat the Provisions

Fortunately for us, we use the “stable” food for the hurricane season as our “travel food” for our Christmas trip drive up north. Okay, the Kind bars are donated to the Food Bank. I’ll eat them, but only when necessary. The same is true for the MREs. The water is now placed in the “rotation” for household consumption. Yes, I have two cases of water that are not used during the hurricane season, as they sit in the garage right next to the trunk of the car for easy access. I’m all for having things easy to access during an event.

Rotate the Medications

Our medications are stored in toiletry kits, which we use for travel, be it for hurricanes or cruises. At the end of the hurricane season, they are rotated into the medicine cabinets for daily consumption and new versions of the medications are inserted into the toiletry kits.



I also found the following items on the Internet, that I will pass along. These are not on my checklist for the end of the hurricane season, but I do perform them throughout the year.

1. Check your insurance policy: Review your insurance policy to ensure that you have adequate coverage for your home and belongings in case of a hurricane. If you need to make any changes, do so before the next season starts. We do this when our renewal is due.

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Pictures courtesy of [Pixabay](#)

2. **Inspect your home:** Check your home for any damage that may have occurred during the hurricane season. Look for any leaks, cracks, or other damage that may need to be repaired. We do this task at the same time as the insurance policy renewal.
3. **Trim trees and bushes:** Trim any trees or bushes around your home that may have grown too close to your house or power lines. This will help prevent damage to your home or power outages during the next hurricane season. We trim the trees and bushes during the month of February, while it is still cool enough outside.
4. **Stock up on supplies:** Make sure you have enough supplies on hand in case of a hurricane. This includes non-perishable food, water, batteries, flashlights, and other emergency supplies. This is part of our Spring “Prepare for Hurricane Season” checklist.
5. **Create an emergency plan:** Create an emergency plan with your family in case of a hurricane. This should include a plan for evacuation, a list of emergency contacts, and a plan for how to communicate with each other during an emergency. This is part of our Spring “Prepare for Hurricane Season” checklist.
6. **Stay informed:** Stay informed about the weather and any potential storms that may be heading your way. Sign up for alerts from your local emergency management agency and keep an eye on the news. We utilize information provided by several sources, The Weather Channel, the local Channel 7 weather reports, our own GP weatherman, our own GP weather station and the National Hurricane Center’s website. Stay safe!

Weather Station

submitted by David Elwart
(previously published in November 2020 newsletter)

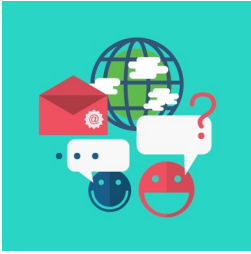


Do you live part time or even full time in Gran Paradiso (GP) and wonder what the current weather conditions are in Gran Paradiso? No matter where you are in the world, as long as you have access to the Internet, you can view the current weather conditions on my personal weather station via the app, Weather Underground https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/KFLVENIC125?cm_ven=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).

The 5 C's of Effective Emergency Communications

submitted by Brian Sheftel

(previously published in November 2021 newsletter)



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 two 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!



Pictures courtesy of [Pixabay](#)



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>

