

GRAN PARADISO

COMMUNITY **E**MERGENCY **R**ESPONSE **T**EAM

Operations Plan

Rev. Nov. 2024

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INTRODUCTION

What is CERT

CERT is a FEMA-based program that offers a consistent, nationwide approach to volunteer training and organization that professional responders can rely on during disaster situations, which allows them to focus on more complex tasks. Through CERT, the capabilities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters is built and enhanced at the community level. The GP-CERT training and preparation will allow community members to respond and assist each other by providing damage assessment, search and rescue, first aid, and communication with first responders in those hours between the incident and the return of our management company staff.

GP Vision Statement

To develop a continuous and sustainable emergency response protocol within the Gran Paradiso community, and eventually within the surrounding West Villages communities, that will allow neighbors to assist each other in time of need until first responders can get around to our communities. GP-CERT will follow the guidelines of FEMA-based training and would work closely with the other CERTs within the West Villages area to share information and resources. First responders are often overwhelmed in the aftermath of a disaster and our efforts will hopefully allow public resources to be devoted to those communities most in need.

Hurricane Facts

A tropical cyclone is a rotating low-pressure weather system that has organized thunderstorms but not fronts (a boundary separating two air masses of different densities). Tropical cyclones with maximum sustained surface winds of less than 39 miles per hour (mph) are called tropical depressions. Those with maximum sustained winds of 39 mph or higher are called tropical storms.

When a storm's maximum sustained winds reach 74 mph, it is called a hurricane. The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale has ratings or categories from 1 to 5, based on a hurricane's maximum sustained winds. The higher the category, the greater the hurricane's potential for property damage. Hurricanes reaching Category 3 and higher are considered major hurricanes because of their potential for significant loss of life and damage. Category 1 and 2 storms are still dangerous and require preventative measures.

Category 1: Sustained winds of 74-95 mph

Potential Types of Damage: Very dangerous winds will produce some damage such as extensive damage to power lines and poles likely to result in power outages that could last a few hours to several days.

Category 2: Sustained winds of 96-110 mph

Potential Types of Damage: Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage. Well-constructed homes may sustain roof and siding damage, trees will be snapped or uprooted, near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last from several days to weeks.

Category 3: Sustained winds of 111-129 mph

Potential Types of Damage: Devastating damage will occur: Well-built home may incur major damage, many trees will be snapped or uprooted, electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to weeks after the storm passes.

Category 4: Sustained winds of 130-156 mph

Potential Types of Damage: Catastrophic damage will occur: Well-built homes can sustain severe damage, most trees will snap or be uprooted, and power poles downed isolating residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Most areas will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

Category 5: Sustained winds of 157 mph or higher

Types of Damage: Catastrophic damage will occur: Residential areas will be isolated, and power outages will last for weeks to possibly months, most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks to months.

GRAN PARADISO COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM: **PURPOSE AND PROCESS**

The Gran Paradiso Community Emergency Response Team's (GP-CERT) primary focus will be the aftermath of any disaster affecting the GP community. The volunteers will be divided up into three areas in the aftermath of any disaster, each with different responsibilities:

1. Command
2. Damage Assessment
3. Triage

Prior to an emergency such as a hurricane, to the extent possible, the GP CERT Command Team will meet with the GP BOD and management company staff to heighten both the community and the GP-CERT's level of preparedness.

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 management company to communicate with residents regarding emergency preparation and the situation post-disaster.

What the GP-CERT does not do:

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

Unknowns with any GP-CERT plan include:

- The availability of GP-CERT members in GP during an emergency.
- The condition of the roads within GP post-emergency.
- The availability of ambulance and emergency services during the post-disaster period.
- The accessibility to 911.
- The extent of damage at GP.

At GP, we have several things that may serve to our benefit:

- Power lines are underground.
- All residences are built to upgraded Miami Dade hurricane standards.
- We have several current residents who have participated and/or performed in an emergency or first-responder role, as well as several residents who have undertaken Community Emergency Response Team (“CERT”) training.

All GP residents are encouraged to take hurricane preparedness very seriously. History has shown that following a severe storm it can take several days for emergency services and food or water supplies to reach affected residents. Each resident should have a minimum of seven to ten (7-10) days of food and drinking water on hand before any hurricane strikes. Many local TV, radio, and newspaper providers publish hurricane preparedness guides. In addition, hurricane preparedness information can be found in the two following resources:

- Annual “Disaster Planning Guide”, published by Sarasota County, and available at post offices and government buildings/offices.
- Sarasota County Emergency Services website at:
<https://www.sarasotacountygov.net/departments/emergency>

The GP-CERT Command Team will coordinate with the BOD and management company staff to schedule a Town Hall at the beginning of hurricane season and prior to any other potential natural disaster to update the GP community on the GP-CERT disaster plan and any other relevant information.

GP CERT ORGANIZATION, POSITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

ORGANIZATION

The GP-CERT is staffed by community residents who have volunteered their time and services to help our community recover from a major storm event. Planning, direction, and control of GP-CERT is provided by a Command Team. The Command Team may consist of an Incident Commander, Communications, Logistics, and multiple Zone Leaders with various duties and responsibilities.

Other volunteer members are assigned to the various tasks such as search and rescue, first aid, communications, depending on their preferences, skills and abilities. Volunteers do not need to be CERT basic trained and certified, although all members are encouraged to complete the 21-hour basic CERT training program at some time in the future. Anyone can be a volunteer member of the GP-CERT.

The GP community has been divided into six geographic "Zones" with a Zone Leader assigned to each Zone (see Appendix C)

POSITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

CERT LEADER-ADMINISTRATION

During non-emergencies, the CERT Leader is responsible for all administrative duties. The CERT Leader also maintains communication with Sarasota County and the City of North Port Emergency Operations Center on an ongoing basis for up-to-date status of severe storm forecasts (and other disasters) and communicates this information to the Incident Command Team, the BOD, and the GP community.

In the event of an impending disaster, the CERT Leader calls a meeting of the Command Team to update them on information available and decides what action is to be taken. The Zone Leaders will then contact their volunteers and to the extent possible, individual homeowners in their respective zones to advise residents to have a disaster plan enacted and emergency supplies on hand for a minimum of seven to ten days of self-sufficiency.

CERT OPERATIONS

During normal times, the Operations Officer will be responsible for running the day-to-day operations of the CERT team. During a disaster event the CERT Operations officer shall assume the position of Incident Commander (IC) and announce a designated command post location. If necessary, the IC will establish and maintain communications with North Port CERT and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to monitor the status of the storm effects and response, to report casualties and damage assessments, to request casualty evacuation

as needed, and to coordinate the delivery and distribution of any relief supplies such as water and food to the community. If necessary, the IC may appoint a volunteer to assist at the command post.

COMMUNICATIONS

Will have overall responsibility for establishing and maintaining an effective radio communications strategy for the GP-CERT team within GP, and an outside channel with the North Port CERT and EOC. The Communications Officer and any other radio operators on the team must be FCC licensed as amateur radio operators. They will establish and operate an amateur radio station to facilitate contact with North Port CERT and EOC immediately following the impact of a major storm event. The team should be capable of 24/7 operations in the hours and days following a major storm event.

As soon as possible after a major storm event, the Communications Officer will work with the IC at the established command post. The Communications Coordinator, if needed, will check in with all outside agencies such as Sarasota County EOC and Northport Fire Rescue.

Amateur radio equipment required by the Communications team is made available as a courtesy by the individual GP-CERT volunteers who have the proper FCC license to operate this equipment and have graciously pledged to donate the equipment and their time.

LOGISTICS

Has the responsibility for maintaining inventory control records for team equipment and expendable supplies (medical, batteries, etc.) needed by GP-CERT for training and disaster response.

RECRUITMENT

Is responsible for recruiting volunteers to join the GP-CERT team ensuring that all zones and positions are adequately staffed.

TRAINING

Is responsible for providing the necessary training to all GP-CERT team members.

TRIAGE

Will establish a Triage and assessment area in close proximity to the Incident Command Post. Will be responsible for maintaining accurate records of all injured parties.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Is responsible for the coordination of any special events which may involve CERT participation. Also, is responsible for maintaining the quarterly CERT Newsletter.

ZONE LEADERS

The Zone Leader is responsible for each volunteer within their respective zones. They will recommend alert/preparedness actions and follow-up actions after disasters. Responsibilities include but are not limited to the following:

1. The Zone leader assigns each volunteer certain responsibilities based on their degree of training and experience.
2. Establishes muster points within the Zone where GP-CERT volunteers will assemble after the storm event has concluded.
3. As soon as it is safe, the Zone Leader will contact his/her Zone team volunteers for a quick assessment of street access impairment, as well as any other hazards and property damage. This information is then communicated to the IC.
4. Prior to hurricane season each year, Zone Leaders shall review their roster of team members to update contact information and to identify those team members who are seasonal residents and those who are permanent residents. They will communicate any roster changes to the GP-CERT Leader to make the necessary changes.

ZONE MEMBERS

All volunteers are encouraged to complete the 21-hour CERT basic skills training program; but such training is NOT required. Volunteers are assigned to tasks based upon their personal desires, skills, and experience. ***Volunteers are expected to be active participants in all GP-CERT meetings and drills.***

GP-CERT members should be the ambassadors of hurricane preparedness to the community by making their neighbors aware of the basic personal preparedness guidelines published by the county. They should encourage those with special needs to register well in advance of a storm with both the County and their Zone Leaders.

Post-storm, they should first attend to their own family and property needs, report into their assigned Zone Leader, and begin the process of assessing damage and injuries, and reporting findings to their assigned Zone Leaders.

Team members shall report to their Zone-specific rally or assembly location as soon as possible after the end of storm event.

Each Zone team should begin to carefully canvas their block and report any medical issues to the Zone Leader and begin basic first aid on any victims that they encounter. They shall document all victims encountered and summarize their condition and disposition. The Zone Leader will in turn communicate this to the IC.

ACTION PLAN: GP CERT STORM PREPARATION PROCEDURES

IMPORTANT NOTE: *If Sarasota County EOC issues a "Mandatory Evacuation Order" in advance of a storm that encompasses the GP community, the GP-CERT shall immediately suspend further preparations for a storm response. The CERT Leader in conjunction with Operations will communicate this order to all team members. Team members will help to spread the word about this mandatory evacuation order and encourage all residents to comply with the order. When the EOC permits residents to return to the GP community, returning team members should contact their Zone Leader to let them know they have returned. As soon as possible thereafter, GP-CERT will re-activate.*

I. SEVEN DAYS PRIOR TO EVENT

- A. The GP CERT Leadership will meet with our management company and BOD to discuss and formalize all planning requirements.

II. SIX DAYS PRIOR TO EVENT

- A. An email should be sent by the CERT Leader to all CERT Team Members alerting them that a GP-CERT plan **may** be implemented.
- B. Zone Team Leaders will then contact their Zone members to see who anticipates remaining in the community during the event.

III. THREE DAYS PRIOR TO EVENT

- A. CERT Operations communicates the storm watch to the Command Team and Zone Leaders.
- B. Zone Leaders rechecks head count of available team members and communicates this number to CERT Operations.
- C. Communications Officer contacts NP CERT Communications Officer to verify details and availability of the NP CERT radio net and any special operating procedures.
- D. CERT Leader will draft and submit to the management company and POA BOD a notice to the community about the forecast storm event with a strong reminder to begin their storm preparations and to be prepared to be self-sufficient for a minimum of 7-10 days post storm. The management company will send this notice out by "email blast" to all GP residents. All GP-CERT team communications at this time should be by phone, SMS text message or email. Two-way radio communications are not used at this time.

- E. All GP-CERT team members should enact their family preparedness plans, including such things as charging golf carts and cell phones, laying out a flashlight for your personal use, familiarize themselves with the Zone map, and review the most recent GP-CERT operational plan.

IV. **The Day the Management Company Employees Leave the Premises**

- A. Once the CERT Leader has been notified by the General Manager, the CERT Leader will send out an email to all Command Team Leads and Zone Leaders that employees will be leaving the grounds. The email will also indicate that the GP-CERT plan will be implemented and provide a TENTATIVE time that volunteers should assemble at their designated places post storm event. The actual team activation time will be determined after the storm has passed, and the IC has determined that it is safe to proceed.
- B. The management company will be responsible for alerting all residents of the fact that all management company employees are leaving Gran Paradiso.
- C. The Communications Officer will monitor GMRS Channel 8 during the 24 hours leading up to the storm. Command Team and Zone Leaders should make an initial communications check with the IC during this time period. The IC will initiate contact with any Command Team member who has not checked in to verify their presence with a working radio before the storm.

V. **The Day of the Storm Event:**

All CERT Members and their respective families need to hunker down, be safe, and try to be comfortable.

VI. **The Day Immediately following the Storm event - GP-CERT Post Emergency:**

- A. All GP-CERT members should first ensure the safety and well-being of themselves and their family members and assess any damage to their personal property and home.
- B. Command Team members should check for SMS text messages that may have adjusted the team activation time. If there are no messages or cell service is not working, then Command Team members should check in at the pre-set designated command post for team activation. At this time the IC will announce either activation of the GP-CERT or a new tentative rally time if storm winds are still too high for a safe response.

VII. **Mobilization:**

- A. Zone Leaders will meet with their members and begin Damage Assessment and Triage in their respective zones.
- B. If a zone is free and clear of any emergency, they may be directed by the IC to assist with:
 - a. Checking on certain streets and condition of residents.
 - b. What (and how) to communicate to residents or to a particular neighborhood.
 - c. What streets or areas need to be closed.
 - d. What resources need to be called in even though they may not be available.
- C. The Zone Leaders should coordinate with their zone members to ensure that they are conducting a systematic search and rescue response following procedures established by the CERT Basic Training Manual and the CERT Field Operating Guide. The recommended sequence and priorities of search and rescue efforts should be as follows:
 - a. First Priority is to locate, identify, and render first aid to injured persons, and to previously identified residents with Special Needs to ensure their continued well-being.
 - b. Second Priority is to assess and report damage to structures, roads, and interruptions of water, sewer, or electric service.
 - c. Zone Leaders shall make immediate reports to the IC of all seriously injured or non-responsive casualties, as well as for active electrical hazards or leaking water or sewer lines. Otherwise, they shall make hourly status reports to the IC.

VIII. **The Termination of the GP CERT Team**

GP-CERT will be terminated after the General Manager of the management company or designate has conferred with the GP-CERT IC to determine if there is a further need for the use of the GP-CERT. At that time the IC will communicate this decision to Zone Leaders.

- A. It is important that the Zone Leaders return all forms and equipment to the designated area. Each Zone Leader shall prepare and turn in an After-Action Report that identifies what went right, what went wrong, and what needs to be changed for the next disaster response. If warranted, these reports should

identify those individuals providing exceptional service during the response, and these individuals should receive special recognition.

Disclaimer:

Although this plan is issued under the auspices of the GP-CERT, none of this group of volunteers offer any warranty, expressed or implied, for the material in this document, either for the accuracy or function of the content or any effects of its use. The GP-CERT is attempting to establish an organizational structure and a plan of action to help the GP community in the event of a disaster. The GP-CERT employs the Good Samaritan Act guidelines (FL Statute 768.13) of neighbors helping neighbors:

768.13 Good Samaritan Act; immunity from civil liability —

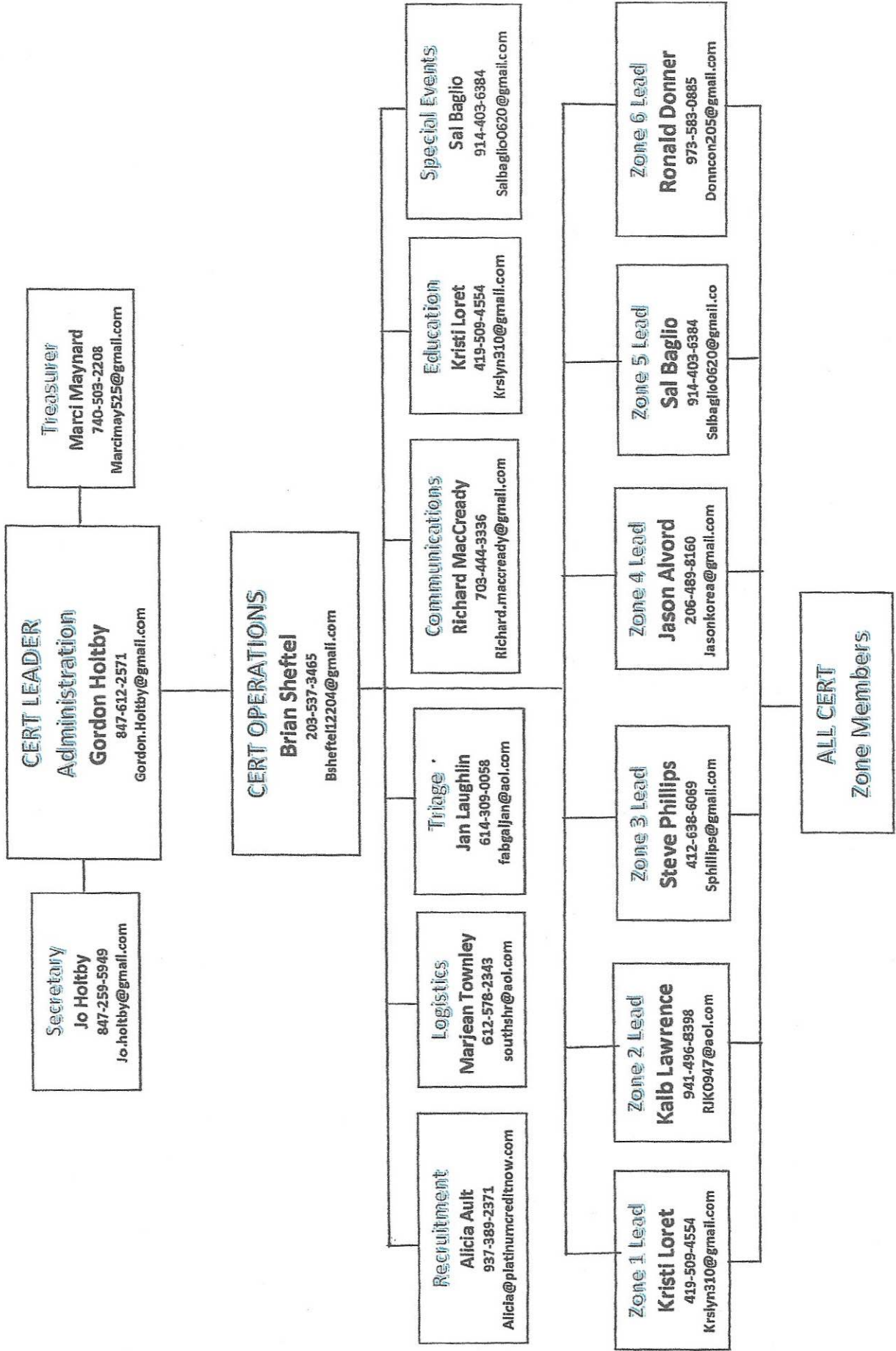
Volunteers are for the most part protected by the Florida Good Samaritan law that is quoted below:

- (1) This act shall be known and cited as the "Good Samaritan Act".*
- (2)(a) Any person, including those licensed to practice medicine, who gratuitously and in good faith renders emergency care or treatment either in direct response to emergency situations related to and arising out of a public health emergency declared pursuant to s. 381.00315, a state of emergency which has been declared pursuant to s. 252.36 or at the scene of an emergency outside of a hospital doctor's office or other place having proper medical equipment, without objection of the injured victim or victims thereof, shall not be held liable for any civil damages as a result of such care or treatment or as a result of any act or failure to act in providing or arranging further medical treatment where the person acts as an ordinary reasonably prudent person would have acted under the same or similar circumstances.*

SPECIAL NOTE – Short Notice Storms

In the event we are alerted of an impending Storm Warning (i.e. Tornado or Severe Tropical/ Thunder Storms) with winds in excess of 50MPH issued for the Venice area, CERT Operations will send a notification to the Command Team and all Zone Leads including KW Management to be on standby and to turn on their radios and await further instruction in the event we need to activate after the storm passes.

GRAN PARADISO CERT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



APPENDIX B

GP-CERT COMMAND TEAM:

CL CERT Leader: Gordon Holtby
Cell Phone Number: 847-612-2571
E-mail: gordon.holtby@gmail.com

IC CERT Operations: Brian Sheftel
Cell Phone Number: 203-537-3465
E-mail: bsheftel12204@gmail.com

RC Recruitment Co-Chair: Alicia Ault
Cell Phone Number: 937-389-2371
E-mail: Alicia@platinumcreditnow.com

LOG Logistics Officer: Marjean Townley
Cell Phone Number: 612-578-2343
E-mail: southshr@aol.com

COM Communications Officer: Richard MacCready
Cell Phone Number: 703-444-3336
E-mail: Richard.MacCready@gmail.com

ZONE LEADERS

Zone 1: Name: Kristi Loret
Cell Phone Number: 419-509-4554
E-mail: krslyn310@gmail.com

Zone 2: Name: Lawrence Kalb
Cell Phone Number: 941-496-8398
E-mail: RJK097@aol.com

Zone 3: Name: Steve Phillips
Cell Phone Number: 412-638-6069
E-mail: sphillips3@gmail.com

Zone 4: Name: Jason Alvord
Cell Phone Number: 206-489-8160
E-mail: JasonKorea03@gmail.com

Zone 5: Name: Sal Baglio
 Cell Phone Number: 914-403-6384
 E-mail: salbaglio0620@gmail.com

Zone 6: Name: Ronald Donner
 Cell Phone Number: 973-583-0885
 E-mail: Donncon205@gmail.com

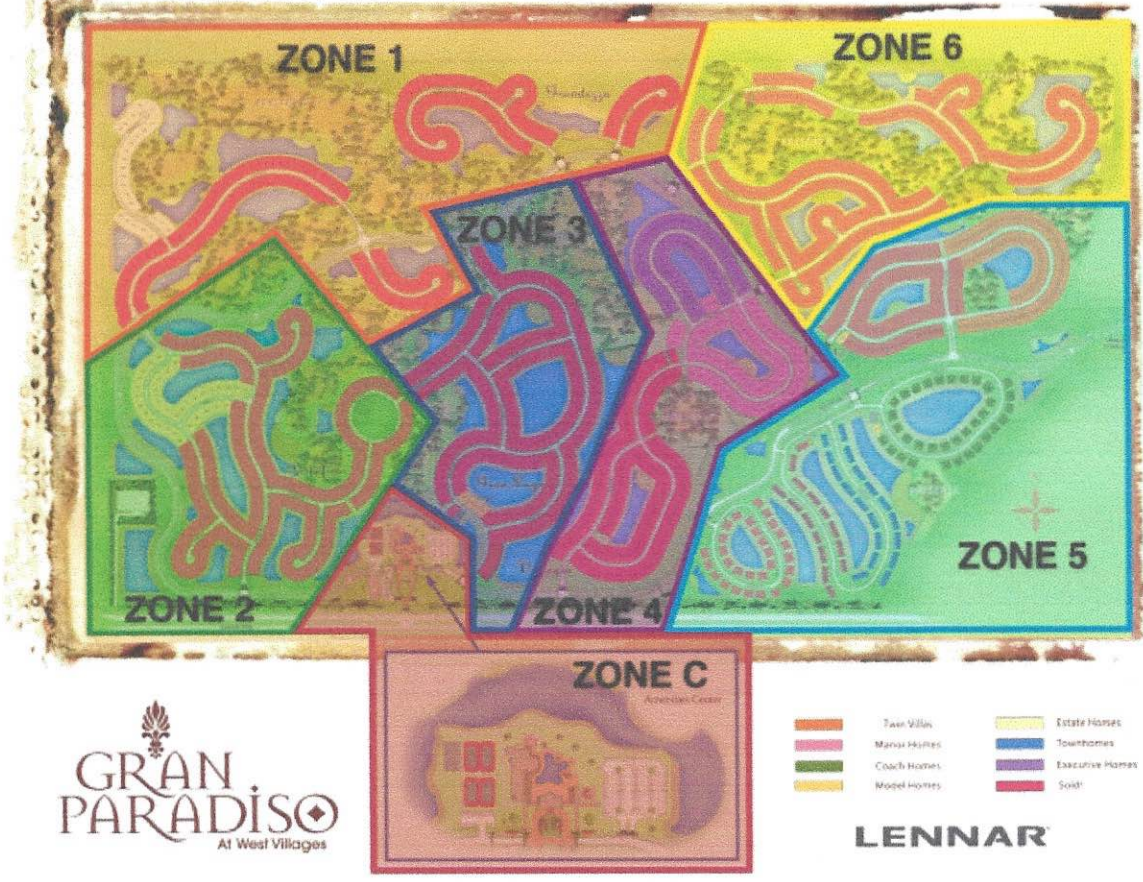
APPENDIX C - ZONE MAPS

Find your Zone by locating your street name and looking at the color coded column on the left for the Zone number. Each Zone is led by a Zone Leader who will direct you during an emergency.

See below for maps of the whole community and each individual Zone.

Zone	Road #	Road Name	Name Type	Zone	Road #	Road Name	Name Type
1	1	Vancanza	Drive	4	1	Tesoro	Drive
1	2	Valprato	Court	4	2	Benissimo	Drive
1	3	Caravaggio	Court	4	3	Basilica	Drive
1	4	Campanile	Court	4	4	Trattoria	Loop
1	5	Duomo	Court	5	1	Ragazza	Circle
1	6	Loggia	Court	5	2	Lagente	Circle
2	1	Passagio	Drive	5	3	Ghiberti	Circle
2	2	Cristoforo	Place	5	4	Prego	Place
2	3	Uffizi	Court	5	5	Garibaldi	Lane
2	4	Portenza	Lane	5	6	Amica	Loop
2	5	Classico	Court	5	7	Felice	Drive
2	6	Brillante	Drive	6	1	Canavese	Lane
2	7	Elegante	Court	6	2	Romagna	Place
2	8	Reale	Circle	6	3	Richezza	Drive
3	1	Granlago	Drive	6	4	Vecchio	Lane
3	2	Famiglia	Drive	6	5	Cinqueterre	Drive
3	3	Grazie	Place	6	6	Valore	Court
3	4	Amerigo	Lane	6	7	Vita	Court
3	5	Saluti	Place	6	8	Buono	Court
				C	1	Renaissance	Bldv
				C	2	Prestigio	Bldv

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) ZONE MAP



ZONE 1



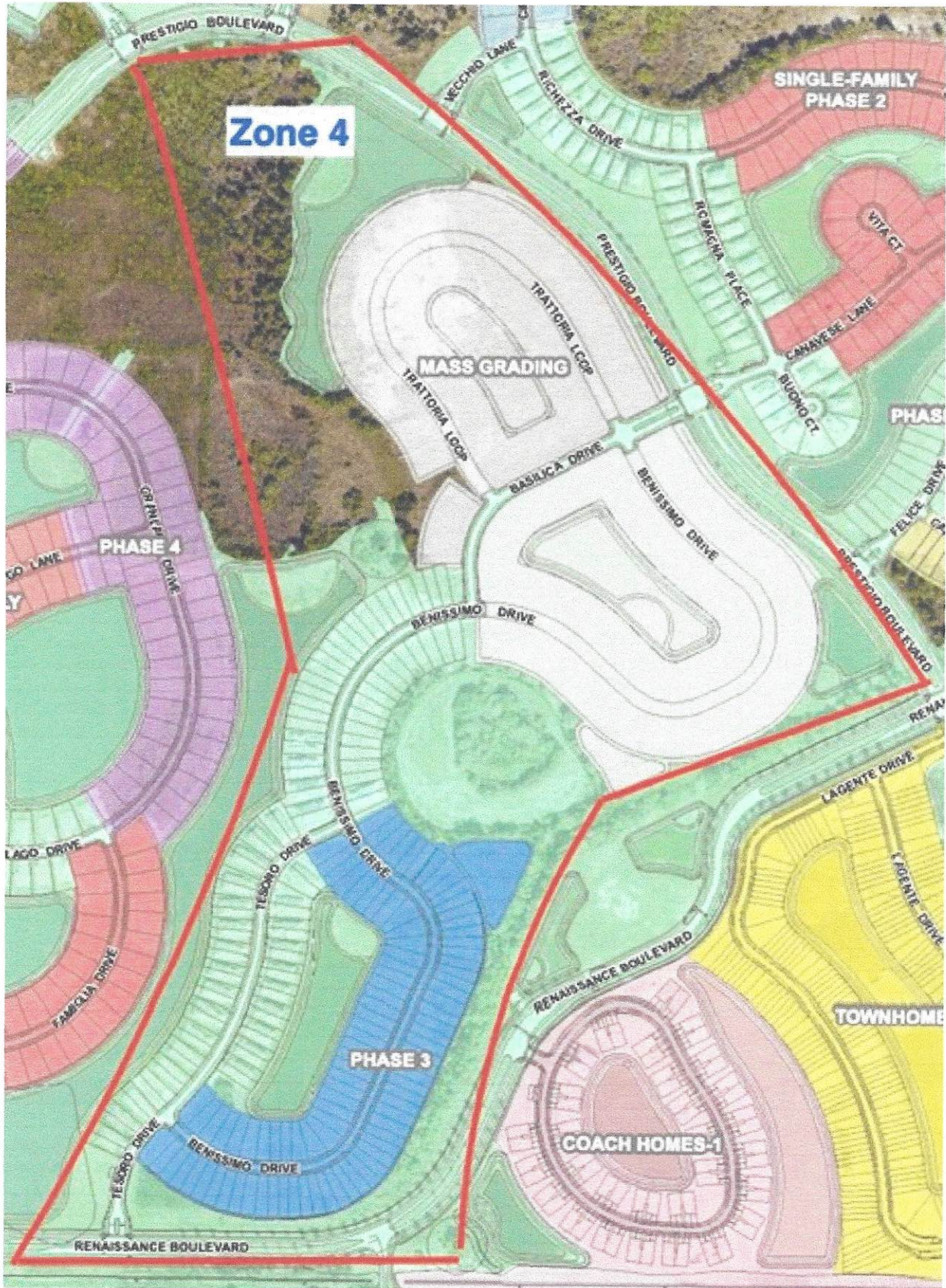
ZONE 2



ZONE 3



ZONE 4



ZONE 6

