



**Lincoln County Citizen
Corps Coordinating Council (LC5)
Annual Report: July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015
Lincoln County, Oregon**

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Submitted by: Lincoln County Emergency Manager

The following annual report represents the active Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Chapters and the Lincoln County School District TEEN CERT programs as represented by the following chart. Each CERT Chapter has provided a summary of their activities for the reporting time period and an accumulative review of the LC5 activities and goals for 2015 – 2016.

CERT Chapter	Service Area	Sponsoring Agency
North Lincoln County	Lincoln City	North Lincoln Fire and Rescue
Depoe Bay Fire District	Depoe Bay, Lincoln Beach, Gleneden Beach, Otter Rock, Siletz Keys	Depoe Bay Fire District
Central Coast	Newport & greater Newport area	Newport Fire Department
Seal Rock	Ona Beach, Seal Rock to North of Alsea Bay	Seal Rock Rural Fire Protection District
Waldport	Waldport South of Alsea Bay Tidewater	Central Oregon Coast Fire & Rescue Dist.
Yachats	South of Waldport (Corona Ct), Yachats to milepost 174	Yachats Rural Fire Protection District
Toledo/Siletz	Toledo/Siletz/East County Area	None during this reporting period
Teen	Lincoln County	Lincoln County School District

Lincoln County CERT History:

Lincoln County has actively had a CERT or multiple CERT Chapters in place since 2007. Over the past seven years the CERT Chapters have flexed in size based on current volunteer leadership and interested new and active members. Currently there are seven active CERT Chapters in place and two TEEN CERT programs at area high schools. Homeland Security grant funding was available early on (2007-2009) in the formation of the CERT Chapters and the US Department of Education provided funding to initiate the Teen CERT program. These funds were utilized to purchase team member kits, training supplies and activation resources; however, these funding sources became scarce when priorities at the Federal level were refocused to other projects.

CERT volunteers work tirelessly to help ensure trained resources are available to augment traditional public safety agencies during an emergency but their priority is to the neighborhoods CERT members reside in during an emergency. They also serve as a significant force in helping to ensure the success of numerous emergency preparedness fairs, and they are very active in serving the community at public events, for instance, providing crowd management during parades.

CERT Chapter Challenges:

Each of the CERT Chapters face their own independent structural or organization challenges but each of them share in the following challenges:

- Access to on-going continued funding to purchase needed basic CERT kits, supplemental items, and binding of course materials when available through FEMA. None of the Chapters have financial support from their sponsoring agencies (this was never the intent of the sponsoring agency), only a couple have a 501(c)3 on file, but the primary focus of CERT volunteers is preparedness and not fundraising.
- Access to liability insurance for authorized team member training sessions and exercises. Currently insurance is only available through sponsoring agency (not available to all CERT Chapters) or through

the Sheriff's Office (only in county-wide activation) when they are activated for an actual emergency response.

- Volunteer CERT Team Leader Retention/Recruitment – many CERT Chapters have faced the “moving on” of qualified and dedicated team leaders from their communities because of changing life priorities, the balance of work and home activities or because of the time commitment needed to effectively lead the Chapter. For some CERT Chapters this has had a significant impact to their team's effectiveness or stability. CERT Team Leaders all share in a varied degree of responsibilities that can be overwhelming for a smaller group.
- Sponsoring agency administrative support – depending on the size of the sponsoring agency there may be limited time available to administratively support the needs of the CERT Team Leaders.

Review of 2014 – 2015 LC5 Goals:

- Assess feasibility of a single sponsor for current and potential new CERT Chapters to include research other single sponsorship groups in Oregon: *This topic was discussed in length and will be reevaluated after the completion of the current State Homeland Security Grant (SHSG) FY15-16 project August of 2016.*
- Assess feasibility of a standardized CERT Chapter operating guidelines and recertification process: *guidelines were reviewed and a draft prepared which will be reevaluated during the strategic planning process as part of the SHSG project.*
- Assess potential resources for acquiring liability insurance for members during training and exercises: *Discussion was held with County Board of Commissioners regarding the possibility of incorporating all of the CERT Chapters and providing with insurance if a single sponsorship was presented; pending official proposal and agreement by CERT Chapters, sponsoring agency and Board of Commissioners.*
- Assess feasibility for standardized basic CERT kit contents: *This was completed as part of the SHSG FY14-15 funding for CERT kits, information will be included as part of the SHSG FY15-16 project.*
- Assess potential funding resources for additional CERT kits: *Completed, SHSG FY14-15 grant project for new CERT kits.*
- Assess potential single source recruitment, application process, task/event sign-up and volunteer training record management: *This was included with the SHSG 15-16 application which was awarded to Lincoln County.*

Review of LC5 Activities:

- The LC5 Council reviewed and updated the Bylaws and submitted to the Board of Commissioners, April of 2015.
- Held Officer elections March of 2015
- Approved basic CERT Kit items
- Awarded State Homeland Security Grant (SHSG) for CERT Continuity of \$10,672
- Collaboration between CERT Chapters has strengthened over this review period

Goals for 2015 – 2016:

- Completion of the SHSG FY15-16 *CERT Chapter Continuity Development Proposal* to included:
 - Finalize standard operating guidelines and forms across CERT Chapters
 - CERT Assistance Application- develop process and application for agencies to request CERT assistance for non-emergency events
 - Conduct strategic planning meeting with CERT Chapter Leaders
 - Member Coordination:
 - Implement Volunteer Coordination Software – Volgistics
 - New Member Orientation, develop
 - Mass Notification – enter into County system, Everbridge
 - Training: Develop CERT Team Leader Orientation and Training (x2)
 - Member Recruitment/Retention: Develop tools for CERT Chapter Leaders
 - Training and Exercise: Develop 24 month training and exercise schedule/calendar to include tools for advertisement

- Resources: Conduct multi-chapter resource inventory and consolidate into one database
- Conduct and submit LC5 annual review for FY15-16 to BOC by August 1, 2016 for prior fiscal year
- Evaluate project selection for SHSG FY16-17 grant application
- Develop a common disaster communication plan for Lincoln County CERTs

CERT Chapter Membership and Activities:

CERT Chapters participate in many training, exercise and community events each year. Granted it is true CERT Teams are rarely activated for a true emergency but their greatest impact on communities of Lincoln County is in their community service events which ultimately prepare them to work together for actual activations.

The following describes the annual functions of an active CERT Chapter but it should be recognized the overlapping and collaboration of continuity of participation among the Lincoln County Chapters. All of the Chapters share their training and exercise sessions and time and time again we see that they assist each other with the community service events to ensure adequate manpower is available for such events.

- **Training Activities:**

New CERT members must first complete a 17-hour course of training over a period of several weeks. CERT Basic Training classes provide skills in basic disaster preparedness, including operating a fire extinguisher, fire safety and utility controls, disaster medical training (both quick rescue treatment for the three main killers: opening the airway, controlling bleeding, and treating shock; and setting up for basic First Aid for multiple casualties), performing light search and rescue operations, understanding disaster psychology, and terrorism. This training is capped by a disaster simulation where CERT trainees demonstrate the skills that they have learned.

Once individuals have completed Basic Training, completed the application and background check process they may join the CERT group of their choice and participate in ongoing training events. Some CERT groups offer trainings on a monthly basis. Examples of the ongoing training events include the use of FRS/GMRS radios, advanced technical training related to their skill sets and other additional training that will augment the members capabilities but may not be directly related to their CERT job duty, i.e., NOAA SkyWarn Spotter training, and Red Cross shelter operations, traffic safety, etc.

- **Emergency Activations**

The ultimate test of a CERT member is during an actual emergency. When a sponsoring agency needs to utilize CERT volunteers during a disaster or other event, the agency will activate their CERT Chapter or in the case of a catastrophic event CERT members can self-activate to assist within their immediate neighborhoods or communities as outlined in their activation protocols.

- **Emergency Exercises-Drills**

To prepare for the day a team is activated, CERT teams participate in or organize emergency exercises and drills. Examples of these exercises include: tsunami evacuations, communication drills, specific technical drills, etc.

- **Community Service Events**

CERT Chapters serve in many capacities, such as crowd management, communications at various parades and festivals, information providers at readiness and community fairs and door to door outreach specifically for emergency preparedness information. By nature, CERT volunteers are community spirited people, and agency sponsors and communities are encouraged to take advantage of their skills, dedication and enthusiasm. These events sometimes serve as dual purpose; providing a training platform as well as opportunity to practice learned skills.

	Lincoln City	Depoe Bay	Newport	Seal Rock	Waldport	Yachats	Toledo – Siletz	LCSD - TEEN
Active Members	47	44	20	13	4	0	2	
Actual Activations, # of events								
Unplanned Sponsoring Agency Activation	No actual activations were noted in the County							
Training Activities, # of students								
Basic CERT Course (Initial Training) - New students trained			12					35/18 ⁽¹⁾
Ongoing training sessions	12	20		7	6			
Recertification, annual ⁽²⁾		3						
Exercises (Drills), # of events								
Standard Exercises	1	1			3			1/1
Tsunami Evacuations				1	1			
Community Service Events^{(3)*}, # of events								
Neighborhood outreach	2	3						
Readiness fair participation	3	2	1	1	2			
Parades, marathons (crowd management)	2	1	1		2			
County fair or community festival		1						
Preparedness outreach (door to door, town hall or other)		2						
Assist to teach TEEN CERT modules		4		1	2			
Assist with EM Planning (tsunami mapping, county exercise support, etc.)				1	1			
Assist fire department with live fire training or other event								

⁽¹⁾ Taft graduated CERT students = 35, Waldport = 18

⁽²⁾ Recertification – Depoe Bay Chapter is currently the only chapter conducting recertification events

⁽³⁾ Community service events can double as training events