



**Lincoln County Citizen
Corps Coordinating Council (LC5)
Annual Report: July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016
Lincoln County, Oregon**

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Submitted by: CERT Chapter Leaders, LC5

The following annual report represents the active Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Chapters and the Lincoln County School District TEEN CERT programs. 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 Rural Fire Protection 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 (sponsorship discontinued May 2016)
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

CERT Chapter Challenges:

While CERT Chapters may face their own independent structural or organizational challenges, they all face the following adversities:

- 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. The Seal Rock Fire District opted to no longer continue sponsorship of their local Chapter due to concerns of administrative liability.
- 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.
- 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 2015 – 2016 LC5 Goals:

- 85% completion of the State Homeland Security Grant (SHSG) FY15-16 (grant period 10/2015 – 09/2016) CERT Chapter Continuity Development Proposal which included:
 - Finalization of standard operating guidelines and forms across CERT Chapters. *(Completed by LC5; awaiting county legal review).*
 - CERT Assistance Application- Develop process and application for agencies to request CERT assistance for non-emergency events. *(In development and review).*
 - Conduct strategic planning meeting with CERT Chapter Leaders. *(Completed 01/16/2016).*
 - Member Coordination:
 - Implement Volunteer Coordination Software – Volgistics. *(Training completed, pending list of active CERT members from each CERT group)*
 - New Member Orientation, develop. *(In progress)*
 - Mass Notification – Enter into county system, Everbridge. *(Pending Volgistics)*
 - Training: Training courses x 2 *(Train the Trainer course completed 5/6/16 - 5/8/16-9 students; CERT Tools for Leadership Success Course scheduled 08/27/16.)*
 - Member Recruitment/Retention: Development of tools for CERT Chapter Leaders. *(Initial tools reviewed; completion expected July-Aug)*
 - Training and Exercise: Development of 24 month training and exercise schedule/calendar to include tools for advertisement. *(Completion expected Aug-Sept.)*
 - Resources: Conduct multi-chapter resource inventory and consolidate into one database *(Pending inventories in Excel format from CERT leaders).*
- Complete initial data submission for FY15-16 Annual Report for BOC *(80% completed)*
- Evaluate project selection for SHSG FY16-17 grant application *(No projects were selected or submitted for the FY16-17)*
- Develop a common disaster communication plan for Lincoln County CERTs *(Deferred to FY16-17)*

LC5 Strengths & Activities:

- Successfully hosted and graduated nine CERT members through the CERT Train-the-Trainer course as part of the SHSG project addressing the development of team instructors for the Basic CERT Training Course. In the course of this training, CERT members recognized the need for a cadre of instructors specializing in various fields to teach specific CERT Basic modules in Lincoln County.
- Collaboration between CERT Chapters has continued to strengthen throughout this review period as evidenced by CERT Chapters having welcomed CERT trainees residing in other jurisdictions within Lincoln County to participate in their basic training and re-certification processes.
- Refined annual report chapter data section to more clearly reflect Lincoln County Citizen Corps Coordinating Council accomplishments.

Goals for 2016 – 2017:

- Evaluate project selection for SHSG FY17-18 and submit in January 2017; funding for designated CERT Training Kit/Props to be utilized by each CERT Chapter: mannequins, moulage kit, bandages, fire extinguishers, gloves, etc.
- Continue to develop a CERT website within Lincoln County's website to make information regarding trainings, meetings, community events, and volunteer opportunities more readily accessible to CERT members and the general public.
- Develop a common disaster communication plan for Lincoln County CERTs. *(Deferred from FY15-16)*
- Finalize projects for the SHSG FY15-16 grant due 09/30/16.

CERT Chapter Membership Activities:

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

	Lincoln City	Depoe Bay	Newport	Seal Rock	Waldport	Yachats	Toledo – Siletz	LCSD - TEEN
Active Members, total #								
Total # active members	51	63	36	17	6	(1)	(2)	Varies
Actual Activations, # of Events								
Unplanned sponsoring agency activation	(No actual activations were noted in the county)							
Training Activities								
Total # new students trained (Basic Course)	4	19	22					40
Total # training sessions	12	22	20	4	40			2 semesters
Total # volunteer hours	1200	1843	328	217	55			N/A
Exercises (Drills)								
Total # of exercises	1			3	2			
Community Service Events⁽³⁾, # of Events								
Parades, marathons (crowd management)	5	2	1	4	4			1
Readiness fair or community festival	1	1	3	2	1			
Preparedness outreach (door to door, town hall or other)	1	3	2	4				
Assist to teach TEEN CERT modules		2		3	5			
Assist with EM planning (tsunami mapping, county exercise support, etc.)		1	1	2	2			

- 1) Yachats has a sponsored group but currently no active volunteers
- 2) Toledo/Siletz has no sponsoring agency at this time
- 3) Community service events can double as training events

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 County CERT History:

Lincoln County has had multiple CERT Chapters in place since 2007. Over the past nine years, the CERT Chapters have flexed in size based on current volunteer leadership and active members. As of June 2016, 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.