

Recent Developments to Tempe CERT

Tempe CERT Overview

For the past four years, Mr. Ernie Paquette and Ms. Dawn Hermanson have been co-leads of the Tempe Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in Arizona, which is overseen by the Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Personnel/ Professional Development section. Tempe CERT partners with the Scottsdale Emergency Manager to provide the basic CERT classroom instruction at least twice a year.

Recent Activities

Tempe CERT has been very active recently; working on multiple large-scale initiatives and continuing to perform their more routine preparedness activities. For example, Tempe CERT has developed a strategic plan and completed an important project to map members to their closest cross streets and fire stations. In addition, they have established several important agreements with community partners, including the local Amateur Radio Repeater Trustee.

Twice a year, Tempe CERT assists the Arizona Burn Center, the American Red Cross, and the Tempe Fire Medical Rescue with smoke detector installations. This includes the setup of the HAM radio Network Control System (Net Control) to help manage communications traffic during the smoke detector installation effort. In addition, they assist the Tempe Fire Medical Department annually with Fire Safety Day, handing out relevant documentation and demonstrating fire extinguisher use (in most cases to children). Moreover, they perform fire extinguisher training at businesses in coordination with the Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Public Training Officer.



Members of the Tempe CERT

Tempe CERT reinforces the basic CERT training with bi-monthly meetings. These meetings include presentations and trainings including:

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Spotters
- Salt River Project (SRP)
- Arizona Public Service (APS)
- Southwest Gas
- Pet rescue and first aid
- State of Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs
- Care 7
- Team Rubicon
- American Red Cross
- Guardian Tactical Concepts
- Tempe Police Active Shooter
- Bites and stings specific to Arizona



Tempe's CERT currently has two trailers being equipped for deployment—one for communications and one containing emergency supplies and equipment.

For the past two years, Phoenix CERT has asked Tempe CERT to participate in the Rock 'n' Roll Marathon as a backup for medical emergencies. They established a Net Control for the half marathon in Tempe and placed HAM and Non-HAM operators at medical tents throughout the marathon. Tempe CERT worked trailer-to-trailer with Phoenix CERT, and the operation was a success in both years. They anticipate continued networking with Phoenix CERT in the future and strongly encourage their CERT members to obtain their HAM radio license.

Original article submitted by Tempe CERT