



## **Martinez Area CERT**

[www.martinezcert.org](http://www.martinezcert.org)

Email: [Martinez.CERT@gmail.com](mailto:Martinez.CERT@gmail.com)

525 Henrietta Street

Martinez, CA. 94553

# Summary of Martinez CERT for 2019

The CERT training program graduated 54 students through the 20-hour basic CERT course year 2019 compared to 24 in 2018.

Of the 54 students who completed the course, 29 were sworn in as Volunteer Disaster Service Workers (DSW) for the City. Four new Instructors were trained, bringing our total to 20.

Since the CERT program began in 2006, over 900 community members have completed the basic training course and of that number approximately 70 remain actively involved in CERT today.

### **CERT Volunteer Hours:**

Total logged hours by CERT Members in 2019 were 3,330. This included hours from training, meetings, administration, and events.

CERT Members participated in two practical disaster exercises during the year.

On May 18, 2019, Concord CERT hosted a simulated disaster practical exercise in and around the DVC Campus. Over 80 new CERT graduates from Concord, Brentwood, Pittsburg, Antioch and Martinez participated in a six- hour exercise that involved Search and Rescue, First Aid, Medical Triage, Fire Suppression, Damage Assessment, Incident Command and Communications. AMR Ambulance assisted in providing medical transport training.

On October 26, 2019, Brentwood CERT hosted a simulated earthquake exercise, which lasted more than 6 hours, around their Community Center and Park. More than 75 new students from Concord, Martinez, Antioch, Pittsburg and Brentwood participated in the event. The students went through six scenarios at different locations to practice their skills in Search and Rescue, Emergency Medical, Fire Suppression, Incident Command System, Communications and a CPR refresher. Brentwood Rotary provided a pancake breakfast for all participants before the exercise began.

From December 2018 – to January 2019 Martinez CERT activated to respond to a Mutual Aid Request from California OES. CERT sent seven CERT Volunteers to Butte County over the course of six weeks to help with supply distribution after the Paradise Fire. All our volunteers stayed in Butte County during their deployment and worked a total of 350 hours in post-fire support.



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This was the third year that CERT partnered with the Contra Costa County Fire Prevention District to assist with wildfire threat property inspections, especially along the western edge of the City. Inspections began in June 2019 and continued through August to identify properties that had not mitigated overgrown vegetation. The results of those inspections were followed up by fire inspectors. Martinez became an NFPA recognized "Firewise USA" community due to CERT members wildfire prevention work and education.

This year CERT revised the CERT National logo to reflect the City of Martinez Area CERT. You can view the new logo on the last page of this report.

### **During the year CERT participated in the following community events:**

- John Muir Earth Birthday – Earth Day Celebration
- Martinez Police active shooter training as victims and witnesses
- Home Depot Safety Fair
- Bike to Bridges Charity Ride
- The Fourth Annual CERT Volunteer Barbecue at Hidden Valley Park, hosted by MPD
- 4th of July Parade and traffic control for the evening events at the Marina
- Two CERT City Wide Communications and District Activation Exercises
- National Night Out at two locations
- Health and Safety Fair at Mt. Diablo High School
- Shell Martinez Run for Education to provide traffic control
- Martinez Public Safety Demonstration
- Great California Shake Out Earthquake event
- Light up the Bay County Wide Disaster Communications Exercise
- Fire extinguisher training provided to the Contra Costa College District Offices
- Duck and Cover Safety Presentation for Boys and Girls Club



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### **CERT offered the following continuing education classes for CERT members:**

Personal Emergency Preparedness (PEP) Classes

Emergency Radio Communications Classes

Traffic/Crowd Control Class

Stop the Bleed Class

Red Cross Shelter Worker Class

Tours of the Contra Costa Sheriff's Crime Lab and Contra Costa County Morgue

PG&E Gas and Electric Safety Class

AED machine demonstration

Incident Command System and Incident Command Post Operations

Ropes and Knots uses for CERT

### **Progress on Goals for 2019:**

**To increase CERT's readiness in the areas of training, communications, activation and response. Readiness will be improved by using more localized training of the CERT district members and their coordinators.**

This goal is still in progress and will continue into 2020 with district meetings and localized district training. Three elements of this process were tested during the year. The first, in May 2019, was open to all Districts in which Coordinators and friends were available. The second emergency radio and district activation exercise, held in August, tested our ability to activate three districts and communicate messages to the City Emergency Operations Center. These tests were informative and successful, and by using a variety of radio communications the Martinez City Hall EOC was able to communicate with all participating districts. Martinez has eleven CERT Districts so this will be an ongoing exercise involving all the districts at some point. The August area-wide communications exercise resulted in a Certificate of Recognition by Assemblymember Timothy S. Grayson.



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A third radio exercise called "Light up the Bay" tested our ability to communicate messages from the local Districts to the City EOC and on to the County EOC. This was successful but using amateur radio was a slow way to deliver information. These types of radio communications exercises will become an annual event to test communication equipment and operators' abilities to deliver information from around the City. These exercises resulted in a new Communication Plan for CERT compiled by Judi Clark.

CERT has partnered with the Police Department to use their Nixle System to do notifications for callout in the event of a disaster or major emergency. The callout will occur through text messages and emails sent to the volunteers using the Nixle System. CERT administration is reviewing the current CERT DSW members regarding their interest in participating and updating their contact information. Once this review is completed that information will be forwarded to the PD for loading into the Nixle data base. At that point the PD watch commander can activate CERT volunteers using the Nixle system to respond for an incident requiring additional volunteer help.

- To implement a radio communications system using the existing City licensed UHF repeater system and donated surplus police channel radios. The system allows all 9 CERT district coordinators to check in and be received by the City EOC. This communications system is in place and is working well. It is tested twice a month by the district coordinators checking in from their districts on the City repeated channel with their portable surplus radios. During a disaster, this system along with amateur radio would allow the CERT districts to report their conditions to the EOC from around the City, providing the repeater system is functioning.
- There are two emergency response trailers used by CERT. The trailers are complete with shelving and containers carrying emergency supplies and equipment. The older trailer needs some maintenance work to include updating the battery power system to solar. CERT is seeking a grant from PBF Energy to provide funding to complete the power upgrade and maintenance work. Both trailers are equipped with generators and radios to function as incident command posts.
- CERT received three grants during 2019. The first for \$2,000 from Martinez Community Foundation was used to resupply first aid materials. The second was through the "California Listos for All" Program to support disaster preparedness outreach and education to all members of the community. That grant for \$25,000 began in June of 2019 and runs for 18 months. That grant is for reimbursable expenses only and requires the agency to spend their money and then seek reimbursement from the State. The third



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grant was a State Homeland Security Grant obtained by the C-8 Committee to spend \$2,500 on the purchase of additional PPE (Personal Protective Equipment).

CERT continues to be a viable volunteer training program for Martinez and Pacheco residents, and employees in emergency preparedness and disaster response. At minimal cost to the City this program delivers a trained force of volunteers who can be utilized to assist first responders in a major disaster or emergency.

For more information on CERT training and classes you can find us on the web at Martinez Area Community Response Team <http://martinezcert.org>

CERT can also be found on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

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