



NEWSLETTER

Issue 1

Winter 2008

Sudbury Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

77 Hudson Road, Sudbury, MA 01776
978-443-2239

Website: www.sudbury.ma.us/committees/cert
Email: cert@sudbury.ma.us

C. Flynn, Editor

WANT TO BE A CERTIFIED CERT? NEW CERT TRAINING CLASS IS SCHEDULED:

Sudbury CERT is asking other CERTs to join us by informing their members who have not participated in an official CERT Training course to sign up for this program, which is scheduled for **Tuesdays, March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 10 (a Thursday due to Sudbury Town Meeting), 15 & 22, with exam on Saturday, April 26 (or May 3—a backup date).** The classes will be held weekly from 6:30 to 9:30 PM, for a total of 20 hours, plus the end exam on Saturday morning, 9:00 to 1:00. Location of classes is: Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, Conference Room B (where Workshops were held), 390 Lincoln Road. One of the classes will be held elsewhere—to be determined.

The CERT Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community. CERT members who have already taken the course know and appreciate the information available, which is invaluable in the event of any natural or man-made disaster.

Be prepared! Sign up at MEMA's Training Registration System (TRS) at www.mass.gov/mema, on the menu bar on the right-hand side of the screen. MEMA can no longer accept emailed or faxed applications. Please make sure the information in your profile is correct, *especially your email address*. **Any questions re TRS can be addressed to Judy Sartori, the Training Department Registrar at 508-820-2028, or via email to MEMA.Training@state.ma.us.**

THE SUDBURY FOUNDATION APPROVES GRANT

An \$1000 gift has been received from The Sudbury Foundation, to be used on our Education & Outreach activities in 2008.

DONATION TO CERT

CERT bags, helmets, and extra vests were presented by **Sudbury's Permanent Fire Fighters Association Local 2023**. This wonderful equipment gift will help Sudbury CERTs become a viable resource to first responders during an emergency.

ONGOING TRAINING

- As soon as the NIMS course can be scheduled, notice will be sent to all Sudbury CERTs.
- CPR IDs should be distributed soon for those who took the course given by Chery Finley.
- A First Aid course may be in the works, too.

SHELTERS UPDATE

After a very successful mock shelter drill at the Fairbank Community Center, we are planning to hold another exercise in the spring at a different location.

Sudbury Pines Extended Care and Wingate at Sudbury nursing home have volunteered to be overflow shelters. Barbara will be surveying them soon and adding them to our shelter list. With the addition of these heated facilities, we have ten areas in Sudbury to serve as shelters.

Barbara gave this list to Chief MacLean, along with a map showing the location of each shelter.

Additionally, Barbara has asked MEMA if they can give a Shelter Manager course that all certified CERTs on the Shelter Team could attend.

Interested in joining the Shelter Team? Contact Barbara Bahlkow at bab_apb@comcast.net.

FUNDING REPORT:

To prepare for the funding efforts, Richard Simon prepared an Executive Overview of Sudbury CERT, which included the budget. The Town of Sudbury wrote a 'letter of clarification of the organization's federal tax status' which allows all donations to be tax deductible. A copy of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue Certification of Exemption for the Town of Sudbury and the Executive Overview are included with all letters of requests for donations for CERT.

We have made contact and/or sent letters of donation requests to six local banks, The Sudbury Foundation, Wal-Mart in Framingham (and Corporate), Walgreen's in Framingham (& Corporate), B.J.'s Wholesale Club in Framingham (and Corporate), Robinson's Ace Hardware in Framingham, Stop and Shop in Framingham, Target in Framingham, Brooks Pharmacy in Sudbury, Energizer Corporate, Price Chopper in Marlborough, as well as others. Many of the franchise stores, such as those in Shaw's Plaza, told us we needed to apply directly to the Corporate office." We found that others, such as CVS, limited their donations to guidelines which did not include CERT.

The Sudbury Villagers gave us the first donation of \$100. Bank of America donated \$500. The Sudbury Foundation donated \$1000. Target gave a \$50 in a store certificate, which was used to buy "Go-Bags" to be filled with disaster supplies and given to needy seniors at the Senior Center, under the direction of Kris Kiesel. B.J.'s Wholesale Club in Framingham and Price Chopper each gave \$25 certificates, which were used to buy food for the shelter at the Senior Center (the food is there).

Numerous other donations have been made, many of which have come from CERTs themselves. One of these was another Go-Bag, another was a \$30 first-aid kit, another was a 10x10-foot canopy that was used at Sudbury Day in September and will be used in the future. Many contributed paper and printing supplies and gas, and, and.... Last, but certainly not least, was the raffle which was held at Sudbury Day. Many people gave \$5 donation for a raffle ticket—and for supplies for the Go-Bags for the seniors. The winning person received the \$30 donated first-aid kit. The rest of the money will be used to buy supplies.

On March 6, Chief MacLean and Richard Simon will be the guest speakers at a Sudbury Villagers meeting. The members have been asked to bring donations to the meeting for the Go-Bags. Donations come in large and small sizes, and all donations are welcome! We need more helpers on the Funding Team. Our goal for the next six months is to more than double what was raised so far.

DISASTER DATA IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND *(from FEMA Website)*

At the onset of a disaster, the ability to rapidly deliver concise, accurate information is of vital importance to decision makers. Yet, catastrophic disasters can often compromise the telecommunications infrastructure - putting lives and property at further risk. One New England company's innovative information system may make communications blackouts during catastrophic events a thing of the past . . . *Full story follows:*

In the early stages of a disaster, the ability to rapidly communicate concise and accurate information is of vital importance to key decision makers. Yet, catastrophic disasters can and often compromise or even cripple the telecommunications infrastructure—putting lives and property at further risk.

One New England company has designed an innovative new information system that they hope will make communications blackouts in catastrophic events a thing of the past.



"We develop software for gathering data in the field that takes information and conducts rapid analysis on a real-time basis," explains CEO Michael Gray.

Founded four years ago, GRT has already begun successful partnerships with Raytheon, The American Red Cross and the U.S. military. The system has been tested to process disaster victims, locate resources and coordinate logistics support from the field; all of which can help to significantly speed up the recovery process.

"Our hope is to utilize the technology to achieve a more efficient and accurate assessment of infrastructure damage during the very initial stages of a disaster," said Sarah Cherne, executive director for the Great Bay Chapter of The American Red Cross in New Hampshire. "The technology will not just improve but revolutionize how we assess damage, identify human and material resource needs and ultimately determine financial needs to support the entire relief operation."

The field operator using the PDA is simultaneously supported by a 24/7 Virtual Network Operations Center (VNOC) for technical help. The data coming in from the field is then transferred to the VNOC, where it is stored, analyzed and accessible through a secure web-based network. With this information, key decision makers and field operators can coordinate and plan the most effective strategies.

Gray sees this technology changing the future of disaster assistance and humanitarian aid. A former State Department officer, he worked on relief campaigns in the Balkans during the 1990s and recalled the frustration of being limited by pen and paper knowing it would be days, if not weeks until key officials would receive the data he was collecting in the field.

"You're going to be much closer to the ground truth if you have multiple points of information reporting

back in from the field," says Gray. "You're going to see a consistency that shows you what's happening in different areas. You're not dependent upon one person sending in a report saying this is what's happening in the field, so this is how you should respond."

In 2007, the U.S. military working with the Thai armed forces and other allied Asian nations tested the GRT device in its joint exercise "Cobra Gold." The device was tested for its application in possible humanitarian relief, such as a potential Avian flu outbreak.

"You see the use of this technology which would conceivably be into a country or region that is suffering the scourge of avian influenza," says Col. Brendan P. Kearney, USMC (Ret.), Vice President of Civil-Military Affairs for GRT.

Disaster relief workers operating the PDAs were able to collect contact information, while medical personnel were able to input medical records data all into customized templates.

"This is where this technology allows you to go ahead and continue to function knowing full well that telecommunications infrastructure may collapse or has collapsed as a result of what the pandemic has done," said Kearney.

Gray also notes that the company is FIPS 140-2 compliant (Federal Information Processing Standard); a government standard for Sensitive but Unclassified (SBU) use.

"Ultimately, the powerful aspect of this tool is the ability to share information between different organizations and information that is accurate," said Gray. "We're not imposing a new system on people. This technology is coming anyway."

CROSSROADS

Crossroads is the regional version of area town LEPCs, and Sudbury Fire Chief Kenneth MacLean is Chair. Its member towns (Sudbury, Wayland, Concord, Lincoln & Weston) will be holding a Tabletop mock Emergency Operations Center (EOC) exercise in Concord, likely in March, and a representative from Sudbury will be asked to attend.

SUDBURY LEPC TABLETOP EXERCISE

On Tuesday, October 23, 2007, from 9:00 AM to Noon, an LEPC Tabletop Exercise was held in the Lower Town Hall and facilitated by Fire Chief Kenneth MacLean. Representatives from town departments participated, guests were also invited and to comment afterwards, and CERT members Richard Simon & Carole Flynn took Minutes.

This exercise was an environmental event with a HAZMAT component. Prior to the event, background information was disseminated on the three segments: Pre-incident, Incident, and Post-incident. The aim was to spot any flaws in planning, so everyone can be up to speed in the event of an actual disaster.

LEPC TABLETOP EXERCISE, OCT. 23, 2007



**GET READY,
BE PREPARED!**

STAY ALERT NEW ENGLAND

Region I Situational Awareness Report

Updated on Monday, July 30, 2007



- Green - No Current Disaster Activity
- Yellow - Potential Threat of Disaster/Localized Disaster
- Red - Disaster Requiring State or Federal Response

Preliminary Damage Assessments have been completed in Maine and Vermont for the mid-July storms and flooding.

Patriots' Day Nor'easter

Disaster declarations have been issued for [Maine](#), [New Hampshire](#), [Vermont](#), [Connecticut](#), [Massachusetts](#) and [Rhode Island](#).

FEMA Region I has created a web page that puts real-time hazard threat information right at the fingertips of New England residents. Get up-to-date information on storm threats, river levels and flood potential - even weather related road closures. The Situational Awareness report will give you important information to help prepare you and your family for an impending threat. Go to: <http://www.fema.gov/about/regions/regioni/index.shtml>

SUDBURY DAY, SEPTEMBER 2007:



**WORKSHOP #1 – EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,
OCT. 9, 2007**



WORKSHOP #4 – MRC, OCT. 30, 2007



SHELTER DRILL – NOV. 20, 2007



FIREFIGHTERS' GIFT TO CERT

