



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: September 18, 2008 REPORT NO: 08-135

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of September 24, 2008

SUBJECT: Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Update

REFERENCE:

REQUESTED ACTION:

Accept the report.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

SUMMARY: San Diego's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) was called into action for the first time during the October 2007 Wildfires that devastated both the City and County. Since that time, we have achieved many accomplishments:

- Graduated one CERT and two Business Emergency Response Team (BERT) academies
- Conducted four Refresher trainings
- Established and executed new battalion team trainings
- Provided over 20 team meeting, training, and continuing education opportunities
- Conducted community outreach through fairs, web sites, and presentations
- Created two new positions (Operations Manager and Instructor Manager) for uniformed personnel
- Revised final drills and trainings

New program guidelines:

- More expectations before Disaster Service Worker (DSW) card is earned
Mandatory team participation, continuing education, and skills training
- More leadership from team leaders
Leaders keep track of training, team meeting hours, and send monthly reports to office
- Increased responsibilities for Liaisons
Liaisons are point of contact between CERT office and the teams
Divided by Battalions, based on FD battalions

Outcomes of new program guidelines:

- Increased communication between volunteers and CERT office
- Increased leadership and involvement from instructors
- Increased involvement from team members
- Identifying high-value volunteers and leveraging their contributions effectively
- Created pathway for exploring more ways to support FD and expanding our value to the City before, during, and after disasters
- Increased satisfaction among existing volunteers

Looking ahead:

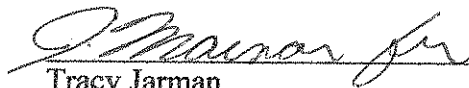
- Developing more partnerships with BERT customers and identifying ways to incorporate their assets during disaster responses (vis a vis, shelters, staging areas, communications) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that operate in San Diego
- Continue to grow community outreach efforts to underserved populations and open up dialogue about value of disaster preparedness
- Expanding the role of volunteers to support Fire-Rescue and the City

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS: N/A

PREVIOUS COUNCIL and/or COMMITTEE ACTION: N/A

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS: Ongoing

KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND PROJECTED IMPACTS: Community and City



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Fire Chief



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