



CERT NEWS



IN THIS ISSUE: Recent CERT events (1-3) Upcoming CERT events (4) Emergency Worker Card (5) Emergency Alerts (5) CERT 49 (6)

October 2023

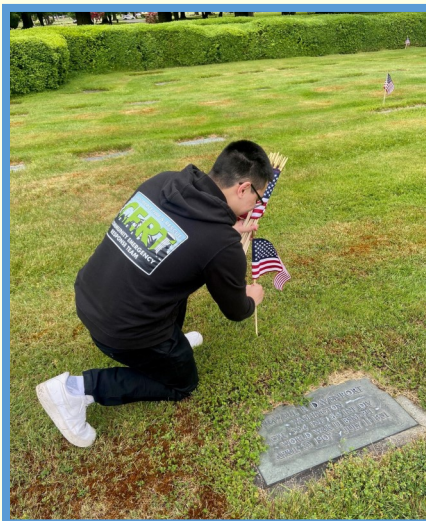
RECENT WEST PIERCE CERT EVENTS...

EFN Hunger Walk

On May 6th volunteers from West Pierce Fire & Rescue CERT participated in the EFN hunger walk. The Hunger Walk is an annual opportunity for community members to support Emergency Food Network's mission of providing food to our neighbors in need "so that no person goes hungry." Proceeds from the Hunger Walk helps EFN provide Pierce County with a consistent, diverse, and nutritious food supply. This Year, West Pierce CERT raised \$770!



U.S. Veteran's Flag Placement



On Saturday, May 27th, 11 CERT volunteers helped to place 10,000 flags at Mountain View Funeral Home, Memorial Park & Crematory to honor the veterans who fought and served our great country.

On Saturday, June 3rd, CERT staffed a booth at the Annual WPFR Open House and talked to hundreds of community members about preparedness and CERT!

Open House / Duck DAZE 2023



Brush Fires

This past summer was brutal for our community in terms of fires. WPFR firefighters faced several major brush fires, where call volume for these incidents has increased by over 400% over this time in 2022. Two of the most significant in August were in Lakewood, one impacting the Jamestown Mobile Home Park, where 9 homes were destroyed and 5 additional sustained damage. Unfortunately, while conducting their search, firefighters found 2 victims.

The other was at Fort Steilacoom Park. During the incident, we had 20 engines, 2 ladder trucks, 4 medics, 2 brush trucks, 2 tenders, 2 dozers, and 2 DNR helicopters. Fortunately no homes were damaged. 2 firefighters were evaluated for heat-related injuries. The causes of both these fires are under investigation.



Photo credit: Wendy Huber CERT 35

M & O Levy



In August, voters Approved the WPFR Maintenance & Operations levy! We are proud to be able to continue delivering the high-caliber service you have asked for and come to expect from West Pierce Fire & Rescue. This is not a new tax, but a replacement of the current levy, set to expire at the end of 2023, and accounts for 25% of our operating budget.

Photo credit: Neely Sipes-May CERT 42



Disasterville Quarterly Training



On July 26th, CERT members gathered at Station 20 to do a tabletop exercise called Disasterville. Disasterville is an interactive, hands-on activity that simulates a town with buildings and figurines that a disaster of your choice has hit. This tabletop exercise was an excellent way for CERT to practice doing things such as triage, light search and rescue, and setting up a medical treatment area in a town where an earthquake has hit.



Emergency Food Network Repack

On May 10th, July 21st, and August 9th West Pierce CERT volunteered at the Emergency Food Network. Over all three dates CERT helped fill over 750 grocery bags with different combinations of food, snacks and fruits.



The EFN repack program provides food to 75+ food pantries, meal sites, and shelters in Pierce County. EFN depends on volunteers to transform bulk food shipments into family size portions

Pierce County CERT Meet and Greet

In August, the Pierce County CERT programs; Gig Harbor CERT, Puyallup CERT, Tacoma CERT, and West Pierce CERT, met at the CPTC Rotunda to introduce the programs and discuss future collaborative trainings. This meeting focused on sheltering with the goal of having Pierce County CERTs trained the same in shelter support operations. Future joint training will be held on Wednesday, November 29th. More information on page 4.



Here is a look at all events West Pierce Fire & Rescue CERT has been involved in since May.

Green=Training

Yellow=Response

Purple=Public event

White=Role Payers

Event	Meeting Date	# Returning Volunteers	# New Volunteers	# Hours
Emergency Food Network	5/10/2023	1		7.5
EFN Hunger Walk	5/6/2023	5		15
Mt. View Memorial Day	5/27/2023	11		28
Duck Daze/Open House	6/3/2023	6		16
State of the Department/Levy Chat	6/21/2023	8		16
SummerFest	7/15/2023	5		24
Stellacoom Radio Net	7/17/2023	4		2
Emergency Food Network	7/21/2023	5		12
CERT Quarterly Training	7/26/2023	11		21.25
PCNET-Disaster First Aid	7/15/2023	1		2
PCNET- Radio 101	7/25/2023	3		6
PCNET-Psycho First Aid	7/29/2023	3		6
Emergency Food Network	8/9/2023	3		6.5
PC-NET Mass Care	8/14/2023	4		8
Stellacoom Radio Check	8/14/2023			
PC CERT Shelter Training	8/17/2023	17	24	102.5
CERT 49	9/5-9-23		13	283
CERT 49 roll players	9/23/2023	10	1	30.5
Total Volunteer Hours:				586.25

Upcoming CERT Events..

Fall Safety Day

On October 21st from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm at WPFR Station 21. We will have CERT volunteers help staff and share preparedness information to families of Pierce County.

EFN Repack

We need at least 7 CERT volunteers per day to help repackage bulk food items into smaller, family-sized portions or sort and pack rescued produce for distribution to food pantries. All volunteers over the age of 18, must [fill out this volunteer application](#) prior to volunteering with EFN. If you have previously filled out a volunteer application, you do not need to fill it out again. For more details and/or to sign up, please email me at Aidan.Rotondo@westpierce.org.

We will send out an email with upcoming repack dates soon.

CERT Street Clean Up

On Thursday, November 2nd from 10:00am - 1:00pm CERT will help clean our street on Steilacoom Blvd. For more details/or to sign up, please email me at Aidan.Rotondo@westpierce.org.

Pierce County Joint CERT Sheltering Training

On Wednesday, November 29th from 6:00-8:00 PM This in-person training will be held at the Tacoma Fire Department Training Division on Marshall Avenue in Tacoma, WA. In this training we will dive into a comprehensive training program covering various aspects of sheltering, including setup, organization, and management. Registration is required. For more information:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pierce-county-cert-shelter-training-tickets-741087752417?aff=oddtcreator>

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There has been an issue with my emails sometimes not sending out to everyone. If you haven't been receiving any emails from me, please try looking in your spam or junk folder. Thank you and sorry for the inconvenience.



AmeriCorps— Aidan Rotondo serves a 2nd term!

Emergency Worker Card

"Emergency worker" means any person who is registered with a local emergency management organization and holds an identification card issued by the local emergency management for the purpose of engaging in authorized emergency management activities in the state of Washington or any political subdivision thereof who is called upon to perform emergency management activities. The Emergency Worker Program is a volunteer oriented program established by RCW 38.52.310. Emergency workers are provided liability, medical, and personal property coverage as well as reimbursement for some incidental expenses while deployed on state-approved incidents and training events.

Emergency Worker Card:

		STATE OF WASHINGTON EMERGENCY WORKER IDENTIFICATION CARD
Name:		
Is a registered Emergency Worker of:		
Department: Pierce County Emergency Management		
Authorizing Signature: 		
Date Issued:	Date Expired:	Card No.:
EMD-025 (7/00) (Front)		

The emergency worker card and the CERT ID are not the same. The emergency worker card is issued out by the State.

CERT ID:



Want an Emergency Worker Card

Please email me your ICS 100, 200, and 700 course certificates at

Aidan.Rotondo@westpierce.org

Want to renew your Emergency Worker Card

Please email me a copy of your expired Emergency Worker Card at

Aidan.Rotondo@westpierce.org

Emergency Alerts

EMERGENCY ALERTS

Sign up to receive emergency alerts if you live or work in Lakewood, University Place or Steilacoom. These alerts will help us reach you in the event of an emergency, natural disasters or a serious threat

www.westpierce.org/emergency-alerts



SIGN UP TODAY!



CodeRED is powered by OnSolve, which is an emergency alert software that includes text, phone, and email notifications for the mass dissemination of critical messages. Using the software, your local jurisdiction can send life safety information quickly and efficiently to residents via voice and text alerts.

CERT TEAM 49

Congratulations to CERT 49 for graduating on Saturday, September 23rd. Thank you CERT 49 for all of your hard work and dedication to keeping our community safe in case of an emergency. Welcome to the CERT community!



A big thank you to our moulage artists Kevin and Steph and also our drill victims for making the September 23rd drill day feel and look real allowing CERT 49 to effectively use the knowledge and skills they learned throughout the course.

