

The Seaboard

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Training Makes it Easy

We just finished our 5th CERT class at the Ocean Pines Fire Department. I was asked if there are any professional certifications available to CERT personnel. Yes, there are, and they are all available through online classes. These certificates can carry over to any resume and they will look good. Here's what you can do:

1. Go to the Emergency Management Institute's website at <https://training.fema.gov/is/crslist.aspx>.
2. Click on "Curriculum" in the menu on the left of the page.
3. In the center, click on "Professional Development."
4. There in front of you are the 7 Independent Study/on-line classes to take for the Professional Development Certificate.

There is no timeline to complete these courses once you start. After all 7 courses have been completed, FEMA will send you a

very nice Professional Development Certificate.

Two other IS courses, IS-315 and IS-317, are CERT specific and should be used as a supplement along with the CERT class.

Before you start, you need to acquire a FEMA SID number. There is a link at the top of each page under "Apply," or you can go directly to the Student Identification System page at <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid>.

I came across a magazine last month, Tree Care Industry, and there was an article inside called, "The Movie 'Sully' Is A Testament to the Value of Training". I'm sure we remember the Miracle on the Hudson when Sully landed that airplane. It was his extra training that made that daring event seem easy and effortless. Tree climbers train that extra yard to be safe, but they shouldn't be the only ones. Make sure you are ready to put your skills to use when the time comes!!

Weather Wives Tales & Superstitions: Fact or Fiction

Do you think that some of the stories about weather that our parents or grand parents told us are true? Some I think had merit. Here's some, what do you think?

1. A red sky at night, sailor's delight. A red sky in the morning, sailor's warning.
2. A halo around the moon means there will be snow soon.
3. The wider the middle brown section on a woolly worm, the milder the next winter will be.
4. If you here thunder or see lightning in the winter, this means snow will fall in a week.
5. You can find out the temperature, by listening to how many times a cricket chirps.
6. Rain before 7, clear by 11
7. Fish bite best before it rains.
8. If the smoke from the chimney goes to the ground, instead of up in the air, the weather is going to turn nasty.
9. If yellow jackets are building their nests above ground, it will be a wet winter.
10. People who have chronic ailments such as arthritis, gout, or rheumatism can predict change in weather by the increase of their aches and pains.
11. If cows in a pasture are lying down, it's going to rain.
12. When leaves show their undersides, be very sure that rain betides.
13. Groundhog sees his shadow on Feb. 2nd six more weeks of winter will follow.

Long ago weather lore was very important even as part of ones religion. Congregations decided what dates to plant, sow, or harvest. Weather lore ranges from common sense to superstitions based upon observations and more often wishful thinking.



CERT ID Cards

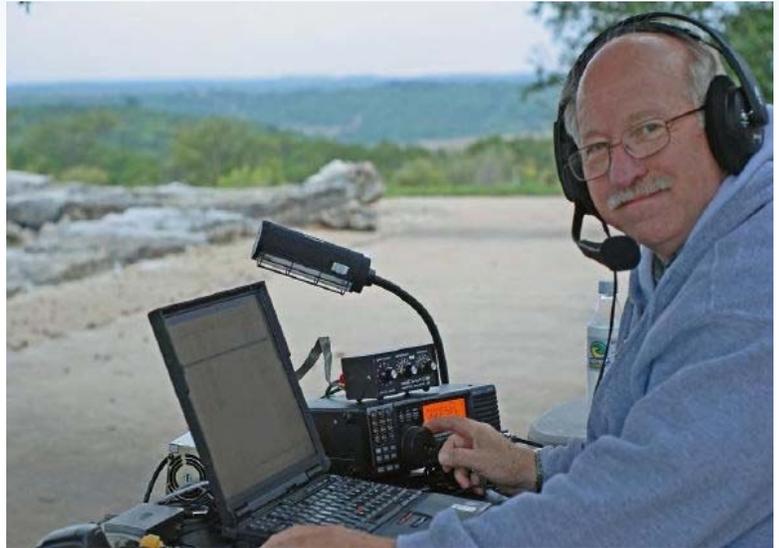
If any current or past CERT personnel would like an ID card with your picture on it, make an appointment with me. The card has to be made here in Snow Hill in our Emergency Operating Center because that is where the photo machine is located, plus, if you are interested, this will provide an ideal opportunity to tour our facility including the 911 center.

Having the ID card could prove useful in identifying yourself should you roll up on an accident scene or be asked to help out with an event.

RACES

The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) is a standby radio service provided for in FCC regulations to be used when all other modes of communication are compromised, or in times of emergency. When activated, the only allowed users will be amateur radio operators who are registered with state and local governments.

If anybody is interested in RACES participation, shoot me an email or call and I'll steer you in the right direction. Presently the local RACES meet once each month either in the Ocean City Public Safety Building or the Fire Training Center in Newark.



Volunteering

If anyone wants to volunteer with a specific organization such as CERT Ocean City or Worcester County, Red Cross, Mission Continues, Habitat for Humanity, Team Rubicon, etc., it can be arranged. I know that our time management is critical sometimes and volunteering may not be our priority due to work and family. If it is something in the back of your mind, perhaps we can do some training in preparation for our volunteering journey when it comes. Remember, we can usually offer any training that you are interested in as long as we have several interested in that topic. Examples of what we have offered in the past are, sheltering, K-9 safety, incident command, land navigation, and traffic incident management safety.

We, Worcester County, are fortunate that we have a Volunteer Services Coordinator who can arrange the meeting with your group of interest. Although our events in Worcester County are not as numerous as Ocean City, we do have a seamless working relationship and try to help each other out when assistance is needed. Contact information for Volunteer Services Coordinator is on the county

website and she is located within Human Resources Department.

On the horizon, we will be offering a Communications class to assist the 911 dispatchers when our EOC is activated. These individuals will be seated in our EOC and will answer the non-emergency telephones and direct the caller to the proper agency to assist them with concerns such as downed trees, flooding, lost animals, sheltering, and other concerns. This class will be offered in June and I will send out an email when the date has been set.

Ocean City is scheduling a CERT class starting September 28th. We may offer one in October if the interest is there.

As always, thanks for taking care of yourself and your family. If you have any questions, my contact information is below.

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