



2018

# CERT Program Year End Report



## **Clallam County Fire District 3's Eastern Clallam County CERT Program.**

Including the communities of Joyce, City of Sequim  
Jefferson County's Gardiner, West Discovery Bay, and the  
Tribes of Lower Elwha and Jamestown S'Klallam.

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**Clallam County Fire District 3 and 4 (CCFD3/CCFD4)**  
Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)  
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## **Annual Report Introduction**

Beginning in the autumn of 2016, concerned First Responders associated with Clallam Fire District's 3 (CCFD 3) and 4 began developing an expanded training program for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers on the Olympic Peninsula. Drawing from earthquake response efforts already present in California, and other parts of the world, CCFD3 soon created a unique composite of best-practices drawn from FEMA training manuals and other First-Responder resources. The CCFD3 CERT program is uniquely innovative in its ongoing efforts to sustain continuous readiness among its trained cadre of volunteers by setting up defined team organizations, command structures, regional assignments, and monthly training meetings. This high degree of preparation is driven by the uncertain timing of a geologically imminent Cascadia Subduction earthquake event that threatens to collapse public infrastructures and deliver major disruptions all along the West Coast.

This is the annual report of the Eastern Clallam County CCFD3/CCFD4 CERT Program for 2018. It will contain the following Chapter Headings:

1. Executive Summary
2. Program Purpose
3. Program Vision
4. Program Goals
5. Metrics and Returns on Investment (ROI)
6. Program Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Risks
7. Program Innovations, Results and Accolades
8. Need for Public Awareness and Buy-In
9. Next Steps



**Several Hundred CERT members assembled for the 2018 Irrigation Festival Parade.**



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## 1. Executive Summary

The important points that one should derive from this annual report are as follows:

- There is a severe need for increased emergency preparedness on the Olympic Peninsula because the life-threatening effects of a major Cascadia Subduction event will certainly be severe.
- The CERT Program offers our emergency managers a viable means to materially reduce or mitigate the effects of such a major disaster on the Peninsula.
- The CERT Program relies on the willingness of citizen volunteers to step forward and serve their fellow neighbors in need, without any pay or compensation, which results in a highly cost-effective means to augment the limited resources of our professional responders.
- In 2018, the CCFD3 CERT Program has grown by 56% percent over 2017, which has resulted in the welcome addition of increased capability; this growth has imposed a cost increase for program support along with increasing workload on CERT Program managers and trainers.
- The CERT Program is seeking to sustain this higher degree of readiness, first by making the public more aware of its mission objectives, and secondly by recruiting additional volunteers and leaders to carry out this important mission into the foreseeable future.



**Field Exercise at Sequim Community School**



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## 2. Program Purpose

Clallam County needs to develop the means to respond to a violent Cascadia earthquake event in which the bulk of our public support infrastructure elements (power, roadways, bridges, communications systems) are credibly predicted to suffer such extensive damage that our entire Peninsula will be completely isolated and cut off from outside agency deliveries of food, medical support, and sheltering facilities for an extended period of time. Such a wide-spread event would also completely overwhelm our very limited numbers of locally available First-Responders. The seriousness of this anticipated disaster scenario has motivated CCFD3 emergency planners to develop an expanded CERT program that incorporates emergency capabilities that significantly exceed the modest scope of the standard FEMA-based CERT programs used elsewhere. The purpose of Eastern Clallam County's CERT Program is to develop and deploy a cadre of trained citizen volunteers who would be able to safely augment our local First-Responders and help them to mitigate the initial effects of such a broad ranging disaster on our affected population. At its heart, this CERT program represents a community service initiative that's primarily focused on preserving human lives and promoting public safety during times of disaster.



**Treatment of Injured (training exercise)**



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### 3. Program Vision

CCFD 3 and 4 (Joyce) will train, organize, equip and sustain twenty continuously operational CERT Tier 2 teams capable of participating in:

- --Type IV (urban) search and rescue operations involving non-structural entrapment.
- --Moderate fire suppression.
- --Disaster medical assistance operations involving victim triage, treatment and transport that are safely conducted within pre-authorized operational areas, using tools and procedures that are consistent with and do not exceed CERT Tier 2 training and certification levels.



**Extraction of Victims (training exercise)**

### 4. Program Goals

**GOAL 1:** Train advanced skills that meet Urban Search and Rescue Type IV standards. Incorporate applicable training materials within the Academy syllabus.

**GOAL 2:** Develop policies for shared interagency resources during disaster recovery periods; formalizing a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Sequim.

**GOAL 3:** Develop a strategy for applying for grants; with a goal to apply for three grants this coming year.

**GOAL 4:** Secure access to appropriately sized meeting spaces to accommodate CERT trainings.



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**Training Academy for New CERTs**

## **5. Metrics and Returns on Investment (ROI)**

**SCOPE:** To date the Academy has trained:

- 488 individuals that have completed academy.
- 67 of those individuals left for various reasons.
- 412 individuals are assigned to 13 operational teams.
- 3 individuals are waiting to be assigned to a team.

**FUNDING:** As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018, the CCFD 3 CERT program has received grant funds and local contributions in the amount of \$34,151 from the following sources:

- \$3,000 from the Federal Government.
- \$10,000 from Local Government (Pending).
- **\$21,151** from private community donations.

All contributions were spent on safety equipment, equipment storage, and medical supplies. Our volunteer CERT members, instructors and trainers all donate their time and dedicate their personal resources on a purely pro-bono basis. Because of the enormity of the structural challenges facing the CERT effort, this important program must continuously look for additional funding sources. Consequently, grant applications are being prepared for FY2019 Homeland Security Funds, Service Club grants, and private foundation grants.



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**RETURNS ON INVESTMENT:**

**--COMMUNITY BENEFITS:** The CERT Tier 2 program, as currently constructed, serves the citizens of the Olympic Peninsula by providing a viable means to reduce or mitigate loss of life in the aftermath of a major disaster in our community. Trained CERT volunteers, deployed to specific neighborhoods, will likely serve as the principal means by which our citizens can remain informed about disaster assistance plans and security issues. As residents of the specific communities in which they are deployed, CERT members can serve as an authoritative and calming presence during such emergencies. CERT volunteers can also perform secondary missions of food, water, and supply distribution, traffic control, basic first aid, etc. Finally CERT teams are prepared to deal with a major disasters as well as being equally prepared to deal with lesser emergencies.



**Stabilizing a Victim with Head Injury(training exercise)**

**--BENEFITS FOR FIRE DISTRICTS:** The CERT Tier 2 program serves to augment and enhance the ability of the Fire District(s) to perform their missions during a major emergency. During times of overwhelming demand for limited First Responder resources, the addition of CERT trained volunteers offers fire commanders a force multiplier that can be deployed and directed to great effect. The CERT volunteers offer their services freely, and such help, when properly trained and organized, is extremely cost-effective. The CERT Program, as it develops over time, will also serve to bridge civilian relationships with professional responders and strengthen mutual trust and reliance on the contributions each team can make in times of emergency.

**--BENEFITS FOR EMERGENCY MANAGERS:** Elected leaders and agency managers who must respond quickly to a wide-spread disaster event will appreciate the contributions of CERT trained volunteers who can be deployed in numbers to mitigate the effects of the disaster on human lives and property. Moreover, CERT volunteers who are present on- scene can provide real time ground truth reports and damage assessments to higher authorities as the full extent of the disaster unfolds. The benefits of CERT Program assets are important and should thus feature prominently in the Comprehensive Emergency Response Plans that are written to guide governing body responses to disaster events.



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**VOLUNTEER HOURS AND VALUATION: \*\***

<u>Area /Task</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Value \$</u>
<b>Administrative</b>	<b><u>2,113</u></b>	<b><u>51,010</u></b>
Coordinate Class/Calendar/Mtg.	600	14,484
ID/Background Check	540	13,036
Questions from Public/Misc.	460	11,104
Program Manager	260	6,276
Class Preparation	90	2,172
Year End Report	87	2,100
Public Information Preparation	20	489
After Action Report	32	773
Training Development	24	579
<b>Programs</b>	<b><u>16,426</u></b>	<b><u>396,524</u></b>
Public Education	480	11,587*
Camping in Your House	56	675*
Cascadia Presentations	102	2,462*
Public Agencies Presentations	44	1,062*
CERT Class	5130	123,838***
Map Your Neighborhood	982	23,705***
Monthly Training	6637	160,217
Quarterly Reviews	322	7,773
Drills/Exercises	1997	48,207
Parades/Festivals/Booth	676	16,318
<b>Total 2018</b>	<b><u>18,539</u></b>	<b><u>447,537**</u></b>
<b>Total Sept. 2016-2017</b>	<b>19,254</b>	<b>464,802</b>

Note: **2017 Report was for 16 months September 2016 to December 2017. 2018 report is 12 months**  
 Value of volunteers driving 37,469 miles to attend class or activities is not included in the above report.  
 \*Speaker Presentation hours only  
 \*\* The estimated value of volunteer time for 2018 is \$24.14 per hour.  
 \*\*\* Speakers and class attendee hours



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## 6. Program Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Risks

Our review of our CERT program's "Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, and Risks" indicates the following:

### STRENGTHS:

- A lot of technical expertise is resident within our existing population
- Communications facilities can support emergency operations
- CERT has local government & tribal support



**Field Exercise Clallam County Fairgrounds**

### WEAKNESSES:

- No succession planning; too few leaders to sustain long term program success
- Limited classroom, storage, meeting spaces
- Not enough volunteers to serve a 142 square mile area containing 36,000+ persons.
- Lack of HAM operators
- Aging CERT volunteer population
- Medical centers and schools have no integrated disaster plans
- CERT program funding is insufficient to the scope of the task
- Governments' disaster preparedness priorities are not high
- No formal Concept of Operations agreement currently exists between City of Sequim and CCFD 3
- No disaster transportation plan exists to reestablish supply corridors
- No sheltering and "spontaneous volunteer" procedures are in place
- No mass casualty disaster morgue services plan exists



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**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Strong City of Sequim support, even beyond city boundaries.
- Leverage relationships with media.
- Link up with the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network (PNSN), Legislators, National Guard, and State Emergency Management Department (EMD)
- Leverage community members' skills.
- Obtain Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO) support.
- Integrate, collaborate with Disaster Air Response Team (DART) resources.
- Enlist support and collaboration with surrounding counties.
- Combine resources to establish a Regional CERT Academy.
- Leverage relationship with the Ruckelshaus Institute of Government Relations.

**RISKS:**

- National Guard medical units unavailable to Area Command 5 (half of Clallam County).
- Low sense of urgency among State policymakers, disaster processes, and functions.
- Fire District(s) lack high priority for DRMO support.



**Packaging a victim on a backboard.**

(Training Exercise)



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## 7. Program Innovations, Results and Accolades

### INNOVATIONS:

**RESPONSE PRIORITIES:** In the first week after an event, the five highest CCFD3 response priorities are:

1. Restoring Communications, Command and Control.
2. Rapid attention to Life Safety issues (Medical Care, Search and Rescue).
3. Comprehensive Damage Assessment.
4. Restoring supply lifelines (Reopen Roadways and transportation corridors).
5. Organizing Mass Care and Sheltering facilities.

Consistent with these response priorities, CCFD3 CERT teams are organized and deployed specifically to support connectivity, Life Safety, and Damage Assessments. Our CCFD3 CERT Program represents an innovative and largely unique response to the special conditions and potential disaster risks that exist on the Olympic Peninsula.

**CERT MEMBERS:** Every CCFD3 CERT Tier 2 Team member must be a CERT Course graduate, certified, badged, and assigned to serve under the operational control of a responsible government agency.

**CERT ORGANIZATION:** CCFD3 CERT members must maintain continuous readiness for possible mobilization. Each CERT Tier 2 team must contain 10 members minimum, but ideally 20 to 25 members. The team must meet monthly to train and maintain individual and team skills, and new training topics will be presented from time to time. When deployed, the team will be assigned to a defined area of operation (micro-island/neighborhood).

### RESULTS:

**ANNUAL DRILL:** During its annual drill at the Clallam County Fairgrounds on September 22nd, 2018, the CERT Program assembled over 200 participants who successfully conducted Search & Rescue, Medical Triage, Cribbing and Fire Suppression exercises over the course of an 8-hour period. The drill was observed and facilitated by 25 professional fire-fighters and EMS members who later expressed their satisfaction with the demonstrated skill levels exhibited by the volunteer CERT members.



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## 8. Need for Public Awareness and Buy-In

### **PUBLIC AWARENESS:**

Emergency awareness in our community is advanced through a series of community outreach efforts to small groups of people in homes or hundreds of people in large meeting rooms. These outreach efforts take the following forms:



**Lining Up for the 2018 Irrigation Festival in Sequim**

### **Cascadia Subduction Threat Presentation (60-90 Minutes)**

This presentation describes in vivid detail the worst threat the Olympic Peninsula is now facing. It describes the impacts such a disaster would have on our homes, workplaces and schools, while discussing ongoing planning measures that plan to mitigate those impacts. Since outside help is unlikely to be immediately available, the community is encouraged to help by volunteering, training and preparing home resources for at least 30 days of personal sustainment. **[Delivered 19 times.]**

### **Camping in Your House (60 Minutes)**

This presentation describes how to shelter in your own home after a disaster. It suggests techniques to make your house weather tight again, accomplish clean-up and sanitation tasks, restore sleeping accommodations and warmth, lighting and power, and solve food and water challenges. **[Delivered 14 times.]**

### **Cascadia vs. Puerto Rico – Hurricane Maria (60 Minutes)**

This presentation describes the similarities of Hurricane Maria's impact on Puerto Rico and a Cascadia Zone Earthquake. Data forms the basis to validate our assumptions of what we can expect in a 9.0+ quake. **[Presented at 9 events.]**



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**--Map your Neighborhood  
(MYN – 2.0 Hours)**

This program explains how neighbors can plan and prepare for the first 90 minutes after a disaster.

It calls upon near neighbors to map and establish contacts with each other, identify special needs and resources, and build a cache of emergency supplies (for 30 days). **[Delivered 33 times to 425 individuals.]**

**Community Booth**

A CERT Information booth was set up at various community events to educate citizens on earthquake preparations.

Staffed by volunteers, the booth incorporates a video about earthquake preparedness; featuring CERT promotional information. **[Presented at 5 events.]**



**Extinguishing a Propane Fire with a Hose Line**

**Costco Health Fair**

The CERT and CCFD 3 presented an Information booth at Costco for employees regarding risks found in our community. Staffed by volunteers, the booth incorporated a video about earthquake preparedness featuring CERT promotional information. **[Presented at 1 event.]**

**Training at Sequim Health and Rehab (2 Hours per Session)**

The CERT training team and CCFD 3 began a series of training for Sequim Health and Rehab to better prepare their facility for a Cascadia event. In addition to the preparation for Cascadia, training was also provided to the staff to prepare them to open a first aid station for the community to treat injured. **[Presented in 4 sessions for 3 Shifts.]**

**--Other Outreach**

Over the past year, CERT Program managers have met dozens of times with County and State-level authorities and agencies regarding the issues of emergency preparedness on the Olympic Peninsula. In addition, CERT leaders have met regularly with gatherings of faith-based organizations and service clubs. They have also produced public service radio and television announcements and placed informational articles in local newspapers.

Despite these efforts, it is likely that only a small percentage (ten percent) of the total population is currently aware of the Cascadia threat and the need for personal preparations.



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### PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT:

**RECRUITMENT:** New CERTs are recruited by “word of mouth” from current CERT members and community awareness activities. Volunteers participate in a 25-hour basic academy held over three Saturdays. Candidates are then assigned to neighborhood-based teams tasked to provide search and rescue services.

**BACKGROUND CHECKS:** Each member must pass a background check and is then provided with a Washington State Emergency Service Worker identification, State disability insurance and liability protection.

**PROGRAM SUPPORT:** We form teams to cover the various neighborhoods, establish team leadership, and assign new members accordingly. Teams continue training monthly to maintain skills required for Type IV Urban Search and Rescue standards. CERT Tier 2 teams will have specific assigned missions, pre-established plans, assembly areas, equipment sets, search areas and leadership.

**PROGRAM STRUCTURE:** Our CERT Program management entails:

- Enhancements to the Basic CERT Course from FEMA.
- Team formation for continuous readiness.
- Structured program leadership, oversight processes and ongoing support.
- Regular exercises and drills to maintain skills and abilities.



**Sizing up how to extract a trapped victim (training exercise)**



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## 9. Next Steps

In 2019 we expect to expand the coverage area, increase the number of Cert members by at least 100, and further improve existing member skillsets. The program is expected to expand by 1 to 2 additional teams in 2019 providing further coverage of neighborhoods.

A goal for 2019 will be to begin integrating exercises with City of Sequim personnel, CCFD 3 and CERT. In 2018, the CERT program held several large-scale integrated exercises with CCFD 3 fire and EMS members for active shooter Rescue Task Force trainings, Criminal Mass Casualty exercises, and CERT Field day trainings. These exercises established strong bonds with CCFD 3 members and the CERT volunteers.

The program is also studying the concept of establishing gathering points for teams using high security ocean-going shipping containers as places to store their equipment. These containers would act as a base of operations for each team within their assigned neighborhood. As of now, the program has established 2 locations to test the container concept, one in Diamond Point and one in Gardiner. Each container location is being equipped with an amateur radio station, command desk, and radio antenna to facilitate emergency communications. Search & Rescue equipment and medical supplies would also be stored there.

Container locations must be carefully chosen; being easily accessible, and relatively permanent. Containers should be placed on public land when possible to avoid having to establish written agreements with private landowners. In addition, each container must have a reasonable amount of open flat land nearby to allow for expanded operations, tents or other shelters, parking and other needs during an emergency. Five additional potential sites have been identified and we will be exploring the possibility of a major foundation grant in 2019 to purchase containers and materials to outfit them for equipment storage and emergency use.



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**OUR THANKS:**

Finally, the CERT program would like to thank the following sponsors who have contributed either funds or facilities for meetings in 2018.

- Sequim School District – Greywolf Campus
- Port Angeles School District – Fairview Elementary
- Fifth Avenue Retirement Living – Community Room
- Gardiner Community Center Jefferson County
- Joyce Grange – Campus
- Sequim Grange – Campus
- Sequim Dungeness Community Church – Campus
- Sequim Community Church – Campus
- Sunland Homeowners Association – Campus
- Highlands Heights Homeowner’s Association – Office
- Dungeness Meadows Homeowner’s Association – Club House
- Dominion Terrace Homeowner’s Association – Club House
- Dungeness Valley Lutheran Church – Campus
- Clallam County Transit/City of Sequim – Transit Center
- Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe - Red Cedar Hall
- Agnew Community Center
- First Federal Savings - Funding
- Gardiner Salmon Derby Association – Funding
- Harbor Freight Foundation – Funding