

# KENAI PENINSULA



## CITIZEN CORPS



Resources for building stronger, safer communities on the Kenai Peninsula

Summer 2011

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### Citizen Corps Council

Mary Jane Hanley, RN, Retired Public Health

Varvara Larson, MDiv, Public

Paula Martin, PhD, Asst. Dir. Academic Affairs, Kenai Peninsula College

William R. Nelson, Civil Air Patrol & Amateur Radio Operator

Jane Schultz, Kenai Peninsula EMS Coordinator

Jackie Stringham, Retired Teacher, Public

Rick Warren, Preparedness and Response Coordinator, Agrium Nitrogen Operations

Glenda Landua, Program Coordinator KPBO/OEM

## Kodiak Tsunami Exercise



The Kodiak exercise was a great experience of learning, adapting, teamwork and camaraderie. As with anything else with CERT, always expect



a surprise! In this case the biggest surprise was the lack of rain in Kodiak. SWEET!

By Gordon Merrill

I would like to thank The National Guard for their hospitality that went above and beyond. We came prepared to sleep on the floor and be self sufficient. They provided cots and breakfast! They really made us feel welcome and we were treated like we were an important part of the exercise.

From my point of view, the exercise went smoothly. I adapted my way of thinking to what The Guard needed from us. It took very little time to make the transition and I'm sure my day was a lot less stressful.

The Kodiak Search and Rescue teams were a great resource and accompanied our teams. It was good experience for both and another way of approaching a situation. I saw how well our teams worked together and it showed that our training is a positive influence. I am sure that if we have a real life situation we can pull together and make a positive difference.



We also got to know each other better and had a great social time in Kodiak as well as the Armory. The young guardsmen made us feel appreciated and wonderful. Just ask "CAMERA CHICK" (aka Susan Jones).

I was privileged to participate in this experience and look forward to future training opportunities.



*Editor's Note: At the invitation of the National Guard, a Kenai Peninsula CERT team was transported to Kodiak on a C-130 to participate in an Earthquake/Tsunami Exercise on June 4th. Our thanks to Captain David Kang, Captain Sam Scott and SFC Jeff Alberts for arranging this wonderful opportunity!*

## Recent Training and Events

### April 16: Coordinating with the National Guard for Helicopter Landing Operations

Once again, CERT teamed up with the National Guard to learn more about how we can coordinate our efforts in a disaster. This class taught CERT volunteers about the types of helicopters operated by the Alaska National Guard and how to select and mark landing zones. Participants also learned how to set up casualty collection points and to translate GPS coordinates between civilian and military systems. Thanks to **Sgt. Jeff Alberts** for creating and teaching this class, and to participants: **Linda & Gary Hindman, Steven Friend, Susan Jones, Tommy Thompson, Clif Caffall, Victor Hett, Lindsay Sagami, Tom Burg, Dave Merrill, Carla & Gordon Merrill** and **Kathy Heindl**.

**April 26: GPS Refresher Session:** Thanks to **Clif Caffall** for providing the GPS practice session and **Bill Nelson, Steve Stringham, Tommy Thompson, Tom Burg** and **Kathy Heindl** for participating!

### April 30: Seward Area Fire/EMS/CERT Chili Cook-Off

Local emergency response teams gathered together to interact with the public, recruit new members and see who makes the best chili! Participating were Bear Creek Fire, Lowell Point Fire, Moose Pass Fire, Seward Fire, Seward Volunteer Ambulance Corps and Seward CERT. Thanks to **Carla & Gordon Merrill, Peggy Ventura, Sue Lang** and **Curt Jacobson** who represented CERT! Congratulations to Sue Lang for taking home the Chili Cook-off Championship helmet for Lowell Point!



### April 30 and May 1: Soldotna Home Show

We had a great turnout at the Soldotna Home Show! Thanks to volunteers **Frank Keener, Tommy Thompson, Uta Thomas, Linda & Gary Hindman, Jackie Stringham, Griselda Mustard, Tom Burg, Lyn Brooks, Kathy Heindl, Heather Silas, Katja Wolfe** and **Dave Merrill** who staffed the CERT booth. **Home Depot** donated materials for our display, and **DHS&EM** loaned us a model of a wall retrofitted for earthquake resistance.

### May 7: Orienteering Workshop & Picnic

**Sam Satathite** led a great hands-on learning session on using maps, compasses and GPS units. The turnout was terrific and so was the food. Newly "oriented" volunteers include **Ladana Turner, Susan Jones, Griselda Mustard, Lyn Brooks, Tom Burg, Clif Caffall, Kathy Heindl, Dave Merrill, Gordon Merrill, Carla Merrill, Tommy Thompson, Bud Sexton, Melanie Sexton, Julie Niederhauser, Ivan Karic, Kim Rudge-Karic** and **Bob Grenier**.

### May 21: Soldotna Safety Days

Once again, the summer kicked off with Soldotna Safety Days, a great way to remind people that the glorious Alaska summers are best enjoyed when a few simple steps are taken to stay safe. CERT folks spread the word about emergency preparedness and offered tours of the OEM emergency van. Thanks to **Lyn Brooks, Bunny & Al Chong, Mike Huckabay** and **Jackie Stringham** for helping out!

### May 9 - May 26: Central Peninsula CERT Class



What better way to kick off Memorial Day Weekend than by becoming a newly-minted CERT Volunteer? Thanks to intrepid instructor **Mike Huckabay**

who led the class, and to guest instructors **Jane Schultz, Sgt. Dean Hall** and **CES Chaplain Keith Randall**. Thanks also to **Jane Schultz** and **Faby Peck** for their fabulous make-up artistry (those cuts, bruises and impalements were very realistic!), to **Dave & Gordon Merrill** and **Jane Schultz** for their capable safety oversight and to **Amanda & Morgan Chesley, Kathy Heindl, Bob & Sue Jones, Bill Switzer, Kim Rudge-Karic, Jan Yaeger, Liz Dalton** and **Linda Hindman** for being the best victims! And last but not least, **CONGRATULATIONS** to our newest CERT volunteers: **Elaine & William Howell, Don Armstrong, Sheree Efta, Holly Flynn, Mary Gaiser, Dot Hagen, Karen Hakala, Ludy Link** and **Mickey Sopkowiak**!

## Upcoming Opportunities

### July 4: Mt. Marathon Race - Seward

CERT will help with traffic and crowd control at **First & Jefferson** in **Seward** for the **Mount Marathon Race** on the **Fourth of July**. Thanks in advance to CERT Volunteers **Carol Griswold, Peggy Ventura, Sue Lang, Scott Bartlett, Mariah Johnson, Robert Walton, Cheryl Seese, Ludy Link** and **Karen Hakala** for volunteering to take shifts throughout the day!

### June 11: Orienteering and Search & Rescue Training

 Soldotna (ERC and Tsalteshi Trails) See page 3.

### CERT Saturday

The second Saturday of each month is now "**CERT Saturday**" and will feature some type of team-based or all-CERT training event. July 9th will feature "**Radiation and You**" led by **Bill Howell** from **10:00 am - noon** at the **ERC** in **Soldotna**. Call or email Glenda to sign up. The August training is being determined; watch your e-mail!

## CERT Team-Building Expands to CES Service Area



Our Community Emergency Response Team program continues to grow and mature, and the roster now includes over 200 volunteers! In the spring newsletter, an article described the pilot program beginning in Kenai to organize volunteers into teams. The goal is to streamline communication and function, so that CERT volunteers can more readily mobilize in the event of an emergency, and also to better communicate training needs.

This program is now being extended to CERT volunteers in the Central Emergency Services response area. CERT volunteers live in every CES response district: Soldotna (Station One), Sterling (Station Three), Kalifornsky Beach (Station Four), Funny River (Station Five) and Kasilof (Station Six). (No, we didn't forget one; Station Two is a unmanned training facility located in the Mackey Lake area and thus not a separate response district.) Volunteers uncertain of their district can refer to the maps with volunteer locations and contact information sent out this past winter for inclusion in CERT response kits.

Team leaders have been selected and will soon begin the process of contacting their team members. Teams should plan to have a training day the second Saturday of each month. Sometimes this training will be for individual teams; other times it will be an opportunity that all CERT volunteers can participate in. The Orienteering / Search & Rescue training on June 11 is the first "CERT Saturday" event.

As CERT teams get to know each better, train together, and learn each member's strengths and skills, they increase the effectiveness they will have when the time comes to respond to a real disaster. We're excited to take this next step in making our communities disaster-ready!

## Finding Your Way to Finding Others

### Orienteering / Search & Rescue Training in Soldotna

On June 11, Captain Mike McConahy from Central Emergency Services will lead a training session on the use of Global Positioning System (GPS) devices and map & compass at the Emergency Response Center. After a two-hour indoor learning session and a break for lunch, participants will have a chance to put skills into practice, heading out to the nearby woods of Tsalteshi Trails for a Search & Rescue drill.

Why learn to use a GPS? A GPS device can give accurate information about your location in the form of coordinates, which can be communicated to other rescuers who can use them to precisely pinpoint your whereabouts. Learning to set and use waypoints can also help you trace an exact route.

So then why bother with an 'old-fashioned' map and compass? Well, because a map and compass will continue to function after the batteries in your GPS unit have failed. They also work in heavy cover and other conditions where may not be possible to pull in the multiple satellite signals upon which GPS units depend. And maps will show you more about the terrain features you're traveling in than many GPS units can, helping you plan a safe route from where you are to where you want to go.

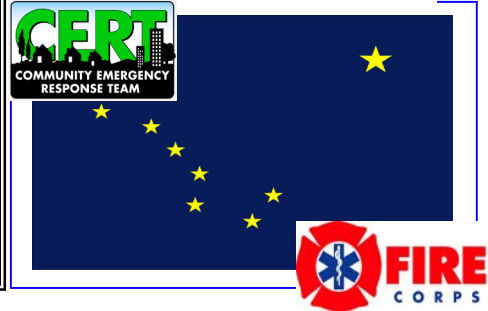
Tsalteshi Trails Association has agreed to host the search and rescue portion of the day so that CERT volunteers can practice SAR skills in an outdoor, semi-wilderness setting. Ares, a certified trailing dog, and his handler, Dale Lawyer, will also be participating in the search and rescue portion of the day.

The training is planned from 10:00 am - noon at the ERC (253 Wilson Lane, Soldotna) and from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm at Tsalteshi Trails near Skyview High School. Although the class is full at this writing, free to contact Glenda to be wait-listed or be first in line for the next training.



**Check it out!** The Kenai October 2010 Tsunami Exercise is featured in articles in both the Winter 2010 and Spring 2011 **Warriors** magazine! The winter article is on pages 26 & 27 at: [http://www.dmva.alaska.gov/content/publications/warriors/documents/AKWarriors\\_Winter10\\_5.pdf](http://www.dmva.alaska.gov/content/publications/warriors/documents/AKWarriors_Winter10_5.pdf). The Spring article is on pages 14 & 15 at: [http://dmva.alaska.gov/content/publications/warriors/documents/AKWarriorsSpring11\\_web.pdf](http://dmva.alaska.gov/content/publications/warriors/documents/AKWarriorsSpring11_web.pdf).

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**CERT Volunteers** — Please do your part and help us keep our training grants. IS 100 and 700 are required for everyone who may be called on to respond during a disaster.

**IS-100: Introduction to Incident Command System**  
**IS-700: An Introduction to the National Incident Management System**

**FEMA's Emergency Management Institute offers the classes free online:**

<http://www.training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.asp>

After you complete each class, please forward FEMA's confirmation certificate link to [glandua@borough.kenai.ak.us](mailto:glandua@borough.kenai.ak.us).



## *Volunteers Keep CERT Communicating!*

Communication is key in managing any emergency or disaster situation, but normal communications systems may be vulnerable in disasters such as earthquakes, fires or major power outages. Our thanks to CERT volunteers **Victor Hett**, who set up the OEM building and all three Kenai Peninsula Hospitals so people at the facilities can communicate over ham radio, and **Tom Burg**, who procured and donated eight hand-held radios for use by CERT volunteers. Thanks to them, we are better prepared to coordinate our response and maintain communications if disaster strikes!

 Ready America

Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed. 

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**Glenda Landua,**  
**Program Coordinator**  
[glandua@borough.kenai.ak.us](mailto:glandua@borough.kenai.ak.us)  
262-2098 or  
1-800-478-4441, x2098

**Address:**  
253 Wilson Lane  
Soldotna, AK 99669

**KENAI PENINSULA CITIZEN CORPS**  
**Emergency Management Office**  
**253 Wilson Lane**  
**Soldotna, AK 99669**