

## **Waterlefe CERT Exercise June 25, 2007**

The scenario:

Waterlefe CERT is activated in response to a hurricane passing over Tampa Bay. The category 3 hurricane moving northeast made landfall just north of Tampa Bay at midnight last night. Stephanie activated CERT at first light this morning. She has been informed by the Manatee County EOC that it will be four to eight hours before any First Responders will get to Waterlefe. The winds have died down and the rain has stopped. There is significant wind damage throughout Waterlefe and the surrounding area.

CERT Team members convene at the River Club and the IC dispatched 4 teams to search all routes throughout Waterlefe. 15 CERT Team members participated, with 3 CERT participants from Univ Park and Lakewood Ranch.

IC – Paul Lang

Team Leaders for search routes: Tony Maddaloni, Jack Ritchie, Marty Schuler, Harvey Minkoff

At each site, an observer and 4 victim volunteers set up a scene with a damaged home (including gas leak), victim with broken leg at entrance to garage, victim with glass in face/head & bleeding, delirious/disruptive bystander, and unplanned volunteer.

Learning Objectives:

- \*Effective phone tree team initiation
- \*At incident command: getting organized, listening to instructions, getting supplies from lockers, planning routes.
- \*Using radios to communicate to IC; conserving battery power.
- \*Locating site, but searching entire route.
- \*Keeping safety paramount, for victims and team members.
- \*Always using 2 team members to search a site.
- \*Locating and shutting off gas line.
- \*Assessing full situation before taking action; setting priorities.
- \*Leaning to use unexpected volunteer helper(s).
- \*Correctly identifying victims and status (red/yellow/green).
- \*Creativity in using materials in a garage for moving victim.
- \*Rescuing/lifting hurt individual.
- \*Communicating status to IC.
- \*Marking house on damage found and action taken.

Follow-up points & Action Items:

- Clarify instructions regarding radio contact to IC on status of streets, ie. Should search teams call in as each street is cleared, or only when problem found?

- The IC should announce clearly that the Team Lead is in charge. Team leads should not be reluctant to take charge; each member of team looks to the leader for direction.
- Team leader should assign someone who can focus on safety, particularly as it relates to the team. Make sure team members stay in pairs, and get relief when overworked.
- Reassess proper equipment to turn off gas valve – our current 4 in 1 tool may not work with valve too close to ground.
- Determine if backboards should be ordered; will also need to determine storage location.
- Completed forms on victims should stay with victims, and other forms turned into the IC.
- Add key checklist items to the reverse side of the search map that is kept in the S&R bag.
- According to the Red Cross Manual: **If the patient must be removed quickly, splint the broken leg to the good leg with ties.**
- Despite desire to leap to action, team must take time to assess situation and plan actions.