



**Clatsop County Citizen  
Corps Council (C5)  
Annual Report  
January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022  
Clatsop County, Oregon**

**OVERVIEW**

This annual report represents the five (5) active Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Chapters in Clatsop County. Each CERT Chapter has provided a summary of their activities for the reporting time and accumulative review of the C5 activities and goals for the 2023 calendar year.

Continuing from 2020 into 2021, volunteer groups across the Nation, continued to work under limited personal interaction due to COVID conditions. However, coming into 2022, most organizations, including our own CERT Chapters, were well-versed in hosting virtual meetings to connect with their team members.

In 2022, a few local Chapters that were eager to get back into in-person events supported the Clatsop County Get Ready Event hosted at Camp Rilea. The event was planned on a compressed timeline, however, was well-attended and will become an annual tradition. The 2023 Get Ready readiness fair is already scheduled, and already a number of CERT members have expressed increased interest in event participation.



Many CERT Chapters are looking forward to regaining momentum as they finish transitioning back to in-person trainings, hosting basic CERT courses to recruit new members, and provide training to the public. In 2023, there will be a focus on refreshing Team Members and participating in the regional level exercise, Cascadia Rising in June 2024.

The CERT Chapters of Clatsop County extend their appreciation to the local government and public safety agencies who continue to support their efforts to serve their communities in their mission in community preparedness and response.

**CLATSOP COUNTY CERT HISTORY**

Clatsop County has had multiple CERT Chapters in place since 2007. Over the past 14 years, the CERT Chapters have flexed in size based on current volunteer leadership and active members.

As of January 2023, there are 5 active CERT Chapters in place. Homeland Security Grant funding was available early on (2007-2009) for the formation of the CERT Chapters and the US Department of Education provided funding to initiate the Teen CERT program. These funds were utilized to purchase team member kits, training supplies and activation resources; however, these funding sources became scarce when priorities at the Federal level were refocused to other projects.

CERT volunteers work tirelessly to help ensure trained resources are available to augment traditional public safety agencies during an emergency, but their priority is to the neighborhoods in which CERT members reside during an emergency. They also serve as a significant force in helping to ensure the success of numerous emergency preparedness fairs, and they are very active in serving the community at public events, for instance, providing crowd management during parades.



Chapter	Year Formed	Service Area	Sponsoring Agency
Astoria	2008	Astoria	Astoria Police Department
Warrenton	2014	Warrenton	Warrenton Police Department
Gearhart	2013	Gearhart	Gearhart Fire Department
Seaside	2020	Seaside	City of Seaside
Cannon Beach	2013	Cannon Beach   Arch Cape	City of Cannon Beach

**CERT CHAPTER CHALLENGES**

While individual CERT Chapters may face independent structural or organizational challenges, they each mutually face the following adversities:

- Access to stable funding to purchase needed basic CERT kits for new members, supplemental items for team response and training props.
- Access to liability insurance for authorized team member training sessions and exercises

- Recruitment and retention of volunteers.
- Lack a formalized process to collaborate with CERT leaders across the state; limited recognition at the state level of CERT Chapter Leaders for their continued and consistent efforts to maintain programs.

*The following outlines the available funding and insurance access to the CERT Chapters.*

CERT Chapter	Liability Insurance	W/C Insurance	Clatsop County Insured	Sponsoring Agency/Funding Support	501c3
Astoria	X	X	Provided for County Wide Activations Only	Astoria Police Department	No
Warrenton	X	X		City of Warrenton & Donations	No
Gearhart		X		City of Gearhart	No
Seaside				City of Seaside Annual Budget	No
Cannon Beach	X	X		City of Cannon Beach/Grants	No

**C5 STRENGTHS & ACTIVITIES**

Collaboration between the CERT Chapters in Clatsop County is ongoing. Individual Chapter activity has fluctuated over the past decade, and there is periodic interest to establish a CERT Chapter in the eastern portion of the County. Each Chapter also differs in terms of team development, yet community members from any jurisdictions within the County continue to be able to participate in any of the hosted basic CERT training courses.

Currently, all Chapters have a core group of volunteers that regularly attend meetings and participate in events. The area also continues to experience an influx of volunteers who received training elsewhere (in U.S.) and have relocated to Clatsop County, which provides new faces and fresh energy to local CERT Chapters.

**COUNTY SUPPORT**

Clatsop County Emergency Management has historically provided direct support to the CERT Chapters via the Clatsop County Citizen Corps Council (C5). The County facilitates bimonthly leader meetings, coordinates training/events for all members, and provides support for teams choosing to apply for and coordinate State Homeland Security Grant applications.



**CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

CERT Chapters participate in many trainings, exercises, and community events each year. Although CERT Teams are rarely activated for a true emergency, their greatest impact on communities of Clatsop County is in their community service events which ultimately prepare them to work together for actual activations.

January 2022 – December 2022	Astoria	Warrenton	Gearhart	Cannon Beach	Seaside
<b>Membership</b>					
# active members	20	6	12	46	10
# registered in Volgistics	0	0	2	16	0
<b>Activations</b>					
Unplanned sponsoring agency activation	4	1	0	5	1
<b>Training</b>					
Total # new students trained (Basic Course)	1	1	0	19	6
Total # training sessions		8	1	30	10
Total # volunteer hours 2022	80	52	40	1400	20
Total # volunteer hours 2021	160	37	50	2,500	8
<b>Exercises</b>					
# of exercises (general)	0	0	0	9	1
# of exercises (communications)	8	3	1	5	1
<b>Events</b>					
Parades, Races & Community Events	X	X	X	X	X
Readiness Fairs & Booths		X	X	X	X
Preparedness Outreach & Presentations			X		
County Events (COVID-19, Exercises, Get Ready, etc.)	X	X		X	X

## **CERT CHAPTER FUNCTIONS**

The following describes the annual functions of our active CERT Chapters. All the Chapters share their training and exercise sessions and time and time again we see that they assist each other with the community service events to ensure adequate manpower is available for such events.

### **Member Training**

New CERT members must complete a 17-hour course of training over a period of several weeks. CERT Basic Training classes provide skills in basic disaster preparedness, including operating a fire extinguisher, fire safety and utility controls, disaster medical training (both quick rescue treatment for the three main killers: opening the airway, controlling bleeding, and treating shock; and setting up for basic First Aid for multiple casualties), performing light search and rescue operations, understanding disaster psychology, and terrorism. This Basic Training includes a final disaster simulation exercise where CERT trainees work together to demonstrate the skills that they have learned.



Once individuals have completed Basic Training, completed the application and background check process they may join the CERT group of their choice and participate in ongoing training events.

Beyond the basics, some CERT groups offer trainings monthly. Examples of the ongoing training events include the use of radios, advanced technical training related to existing skill sets, and other additional training that will augment the members capabilities but may not be directly related to their CERT duties, such as NOAA SkyWarn Spotter and Red Cross shelter operations training.

### **Emergency Activations**

The ultimate test of a CERT member is during an actual emergency. When a sponsoring agency needs to utilize CERT volunteers during a disaster or other event, the agency will activate their CERT Chapter or in the case of a catastrophic event CERT members can self-activate to assist within their immediate neighborhoods or communities as outlined in their activation protocols.

### Emergency Exercises & Drills

To prepare for the day a team is activated, CERT teams participate in or organize emergency exercises and drills. Examples of these exercises include tsunami evacuations, communication drills, and specific technical drills.

### Community Service Events

CERT Chapters serve in many capacities, such as providing communications or crowd management services for parades and festivals, sharing emergency preparedness information readiness fairs and door-to-door outreach. By nature, CERT volunteers are community spirited people, and agency sponsors and communities are encouraged to take advantage of their skills, dedication, and enthusiasm. Community events often serve as a dual purpose by providing a training platform and opportunity to practice learned skills.



### **Annual Report Distribution**

- CERT Chapter Leaders
- CERT Chapter Sponsoring Agency Leadership
- County Board of Commissioners
- Office of Oregon Emergency Management – Citizen Corp Liaison
- County CERT Chapter Website (posted 12/08/2023)