


East Lake Tarpon Special Fire Control District		
	<i>SOP 607 Community Emergency Response Team Activation</i>	
	Implementation Date: 07/22/2014	Revision Date(s): 07/22/2014
		Reviewed Date(s):
	Forms or Attachments: None	

PURPOSE:

To establish a consistent policy and procedure for activation of the East Lake Community Emergency Response Team (East Lake CERT) by the Department.

SCOPE:

East Lake Tarpon Special Fire Control District is the sponsoring organization for East Lake CERT, a non-profit volunteer organization that was formed in 2005 to assist the East Lake community during times of emergencies or disasters as requested by the East Lake Tarpon Special Fire Control District and in accordance with the most current CERT Manual as developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Each active East Lake CERT member has earned a certificate of completion for the 20 hour CERT Basic Training course, has equipped themselves with designated supplies, attends monthly training meetings and completes at least 10 hours of on-going training annually.

Although individual East Lake CERT members may inadvertently find themselves to be first at the scene of an emergency, or the East Lake CERT may self-activate during an extreme or catastrophic event, neither of these situations are within the scope of this SOP. The intention of this SOP is to enable the Incident Command (IC) to request the assistance of East Lake CERT to perform secondary functions allowing first responders to be utilized in critical areas, most typically during select multi-alarm incidents. Utilizing trained CERT volunteers can supplement staffing and increase overall scene effectiveness. While incorporation of East Lake CERT into a specific emergency incident operation will be at the discretion of the IC, it must also be understood that the IC cannot mandate nor order citizens to duty. East Lake CERT may also be activated to support non-emergency situations, such as logistics and administrative support.

PROCEDURE:

1. The Department will provide and maintain one pager to be used by East Lake CERT to receive notification from Pinellas County Central Dispatch. Pinellas County Central Dispatch will be provided with the contact (pager) number of the East Lake CERT.
2. During any incident, but most typically during a multi-alarm incident, IC may consider the benefit of utilizing East Lake CERT. If IC chooses to alert, mobilize, or deploy East Lake CERT, IC will contact Pinellas County Central Dispatch to notify East Lake CERT of a change in the East Lake CERT Activation Level (specified below). Pinellas County Central Dispatch will inform East Lake CERT of the type and location of the incident.

Alert – to inform the East Lake CERT of the potential for or the occurrence of an event.

Mobilize – to mobilize East Lake CERT with the intent that team members report to a staging area to wait for additional instructions.

Deploy – to deploy East Lake CERT to assist with basic scene or support functions, under the direction of an East Lake CERT Team Leader who shall report to IC.

Basic scene and support functions that East Lake CERT may perform include basic first-aid, triage, extinguishment of small incipient phase fires, light search and rescue including cribbing/leveraging and removal of victims from danger, setting up treatment, rehab, crowd control, emergency shelter operations or similar sectors.

While deployed, East Lake CERT will maintain CERT member accountability and supervise CERT areas/groups. East Lake CERT members must be medically cleared before they are allowed to leave the scene. IC may remove from the scene an East Lake CERT member(s) for not having proper identification, apparel/ personal protective equipment, self-deployment/freelancing or any other practical reason.

Cancel – to cancel EL CERT when CERT assistance is not required or no longer needed.

References

Burritt, P., Sacramento Fire Department CERT. “*Standard Operating Procedures.*” Sacramento, CA. 2006

Campo Fire and Rescue, Mountain Empire CERT Team. “*Mountain Empire Community Emergency Response Team Standard Operating Procedure.*” 2008.

Gerrish Township CERT Team. “*Standard Operation Guidelines and Concept of Operation Plan.*” nd

James City County Community Emergency Response Team. “*Standard Operation Guidelines CERT Volunteer Handbook.*” James City Fire Department, Division of Emergency Management. 2008.

Orange County Texas Community Emergency Response Team. “*Standard Operating Guidelines & Concept of Operations Plan.*” Orange County, TX – Office of Emergency Management. 2009.

Rockwall Community Emergency Response Team. “*Standard Operating Guidelines & Concept of Operations Plan.*” Rockwall, TX. 2006

Sioux Falls Fire Rescue. “*Standard Operating Procedures, CERT.*” 2004.