

# CERT NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

2023 Quarterly Newsletter  
January-April



## What's New in City CERT...

Welcome to the City of Miami Beach CERT newsletter! Here you will find:

- What is CERT?
- Miami Beach CERT Video
- "If interested" form submission
- CERT Training and Event Calendar
- Quarterly Newsletter with archived section

Our CERT Newsletter will be published three times per year: in January, May, and August. Please peruse the sections and let us know if there is any content you would like to see added. We hope this electronic newsletter cuts down on the number of emails you receive from us. Please check our website often for new content. We will add new information when it becomes available and necessary for CERT activity.

# CERT Volunteer of the Quarter

## Jeff Gordon



Our first Volunteer of the Quarter (VOQ) is Jeff Gordon. You may not know it when you first meet him, but he is one of the “founding fathers” of CERT in Miami

Beach. It is appropriate that we introduce Jeff in our first VOQ column. Jeff hails from New York but moved to Miami when he was young. One of his earliest experiences with natural disasters came when his family lost their pharmacy business located on Biscayne Boulevard to the “Fort Lauderdale Hurricane” of 1947. They officially moved to Miami Beach in 1971. Jeff attended Miami Dade College and Barry University, graduating with a degree in Business and Money Management. In 2008, he opened a real estate company -- 613 Homes LLC -- which he still manages today. He and his wife Randi were married in 1987, and they have three children. In January of 2003, Jeff attended his first CERT class. He heard about CERT through events

occurring in California and through a flyer in the water bills that were sent to his home from the city. There were seven or eight individuals who came to the class. Firefighter David Mogen, who has since retired, was the trainer at that time. After Jeff completed the training, he wanted to give back to the City of Miami Beach and work behind the scenes. At that time, Miami Beach had not yet developed a CERT volunteer program, so Jeff and two other class members met and decided to create one. He contacted someone in San Diego and a CERT program in Texas who provided him with their guides and related materials. From that, the three newly trained CERT volunteers put together the CERT program structure that provided the foundation for the Miami Beach CERT Program we have today. Jeff continues to provide support to the program and is a valued leader in the CERT program.

*We are grateful to Jeff for his continued enthusiasm and support.*

# Meet Your Leadership Team

2022 was a busy year. It was the year that your leadership team was established. These individuals planned the recent CERT full scale exercise: "Operation Grey Sky." They are the front lines of communication to CERT membership and have been contacting everyone on the City's list of trained volunteers to update contact information and assess involvement level. Hopefully you have received one of those calls. If not, please contact our office to provide the information at 305.673.7736. Your CERT Team Leads are organized as follows:

## Your CERT Team Leads are organized as follows:

### 33139



Ron Andruff



Ombretta Argo



Amani Ayers



Charlie Rabins



Maryanne Patlak



Mark Wohl

### 33140



Chaya Dachoh



Brian Gillis



Jeff Gordon

### 33141



Glenn Costales



Joann Kersey



Alan Stang

### Condominiums



Felix Montes  
(Green Diamond)

### Hotels



Lucas Guzman  
(Confidante)

### Businesses



Wanda Currea  
(Starwood  
Properties)

### Newsletter Reporter



Denitza Petrova

If you are interested in forming a team in your neighborhood, building or business, please email [CERT@miamibeacfl.gov](mailto:CERT@miamibeacfl.gov) with the subject line "CERT" and team leadership will respond to you based on your location or type of team.

### **Event Calendar**

Listed on this page are the trainings and events which will occur during the first quarter of 2023. You will find additional opportunities to attend on the CERT page of the [city's website](#). To volunteer for any of the events or to register for the Advanced CERT trainings please contact Irene Valines at the Miami Beach Fire Department's Division of Emergency Management. There are other Advanced trainings coming in the first quarter, so continue checking the CERT online calendar or sign up to the calendar online for updates.

### **Upcoming Events:**

February 6-10	Florida Severe Weather Awareness Week
March 1-3	National Disasters Expo CERT Table (Miami Beach Convention Ctr)
April 6	<a href="#">National Safe Place Selfie Day</a>
April 16	City of Miami Beach CERT Volunteer Recognition Event
April 16-22 Trainings:	<a href="#">National Volunteer Week</a>

### **Trainings:**

February 8, 14, 22, March 1	Advanced CERT	Refresher Training/Volunteer as Victims
March 19	Advanced CERT Back to Basics (B2B)	Personal & Community Preparedness
March 21	Advanced CERT (B2B)	"I use this CERT Form for what?"
April 22	Advanced CERT	Skywarn Training/Tour of National Weather Service

## **Merit**

Do not forget to sign into [Merit](#), our accountability and tracking app. Please make sure you have accepted those Merit messages that are still pending. As you come to events and trainings, you will continue to sign into Merit. We are documenting hours to see who gives the most hours of volunteerism for a special recognition at the end of the year. If you have questions regarding [Merit](#), please contact Irene Valines at the Division of Emergency Management at 305.673.7736.

# MERIT

“We cannot stop natural disasters but we can arm ourselves with knowledge...” – Petra Nemcova

## **Important Resources**

The [Ready Campaign](#) has resources that you can share to promote preparedness in your home and community.

[Resolve To Be Ready](#)

[Winter Safety](#)

[National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month](#)

[National Canned Food Month](#)

[“It’s Not Luck” Campaign](#)

[Spring and Flood Safety](#)

[National Tsunami Awareness Week](#)

[National Financial Capability Month](#)

[Severe Weather Safety](#)

[#SafePlaceSelfie Day](#)

City CERT Volunteers doing Triage



City Fire Rescue Personnel checking in with CERT Team Lead



CERT Exercise Evaluation "Hotwash"



CERT Exercise Participants



Thank you for helping to make Miami Beach a more resilient City.

**Irene Valines**, CERT Program Manager

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

2310 Pine Tree Drive, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Miami Beach, FL 33140

Tel: 305.673.7000 ext. 22793 | Cell: 786.441.7422 | DEM: 305.673.7736

[CERT@miamibeachfl.gov](mailto:CERT@miamibeachfl.gov) | [www.miamibeachfl.gov](http://www.miamibeachfl.gov)

*We are committed to providing excellent public service and safety to all who live, work and play in our vibrant, tropical, historic community.*



CERT Program  
Manager