

CERT NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

2024 Quarterly Newsletter

January - April



Moulage Class

Our CERT Newsletter will be published three times per year: in January, May, and September. Please peruse the sections and let us know if there is any content you would like to see added. Please check our website often for new content. We will add new information when it becomes available and necessary for CERT activity.

What's New in City CERT...

Welcome to the City of Miami Beach
CERT newsletter!

Here you will find:

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CERT Volunteer of the Quarter



Mark Wohl

Wishing Everyone a Healthy, Happy & Safe 2024!

We will start off the New Year by introducing another member from our Miami Beach CERT volunteers – Mark Wohl. Originally from New York, Mark moved to Miami Beach in 1993. Mark's wife is a schoolteacher and they have 2 kids, one college sophomore and the other a senior in high school.

Although his family has ties to NY, where he was born and grew up, he loves Miami Beach, which he calls "his paradise", and with so many New Yorkers around, feels like this is the 6th borough of New York. Mark has a business degree and extensive commercial sales and marketing experience. He is also a licensed and active Real Estate Broker.

A big influence for getting involved with CERT was Mark's mom Aida. She had lived in Miami Beach since the 80s and had been actively involved with the seniors and other residents around her area. With his mom having so much energy at her age, there was no excuse for Mark not to be involved. He joined her in signing up for various activities throughout the city, such as the City of Miami Beach Leadership Academy, the Citizens Police Academy, which in turn opened doors of meeting people in other departments, such as the Fire department and the CERT program. Both completed CERT pre-Covid, and later, followed with refresher courses. They also saw CERT as an opportunity to get the knowledge and skills to help themselves, their neighbors, and other people in time of need.

Unfortunately, Mark and our community lost his mom Aida less than 2 years ago at the age of 80 and soon after, his sister, both due to aortic arrhythmia. This has been a very difficult time for Mark and his family, and he can't help thinking that had it been a defibrillator (AED apparatus) nearby, there might have been a chance to save her. These unfortunate circumstances have inspired Mark to conduct research and become an advocate for expanding the availability of AEDs for larger buildings and possibly making it mandatory (just as smoke detectors and fire extinguishers), especially in most condos where many seniors, live.

Mark believes that the knowledge that CERT provides is important, as an emergency could happen anywhere. For example, on a cruise ship they must be always prepared to respond to any situation. Having worked in the cruise ship industry, in the early 90s, he always feels safe on a cruise ship as he knows that the cruise ships place importance on emergency preparedness for various situations/scenarios. He also thinks it is important to put others ahead of yourself and work as a team. One never knows when something could happen, even when you are on vacation, as simple as the fire alarm going off at your hotel, which had recently occurred while in NY with his

nephew and they helped someone in a wheelchair 6 flights of stairs. CERT focuses on teamwork and helps develop and or demonstrate leadership skills, applicable in many unexpected situations.

Mark is a founder of the City of Miami Beach (CMB) Family Service Day, where they organized, a day of community service with dozens of providers and projects for all to get involved (kids were able to obtain community service hours). CERT had been very involved, which offered the program a great exposure to the community and Mark would like for the City to consider bringing it back.

We also asked Mark:

Why CERT & why put in the time: Compared to NYC, Miami is more transient and fragmented. Residents do not interact much, as many people drive and/or Miami is where they have their 2nd home. CERT is a good platform for residents to connect where they are looking forward to a positive change and to be part of a good organization. It keeps people connected and those are people that will be there proactively, in good or bad times. In addition to staying connected with the community, it also helps one to be reliable for one's family. How much time one wants to put into it is up to them. During Covid many of us have realized that most important is one's health and there is a finite amount and sooner or later things will change. If one can find a moment to learn and be part of the solution and if they have a calling, they will be given the knowledge and opportunities and one day they could be relied upon and make a difference.

Have you been through any storms and any learning? I have been through all named storms in the past 30 years, and only evacuated once. Grateful that the condo building (post Andrew construction) has a backup generator and did not lose power for long. I would like to bring back the concept/practice of "floor captains", where each floor has someone that is involved, whether a board committee member, or someone that has attended a city program. They serve as a point person and a voice/liaison for those on the floor that need to be checked on etc.

Vision for CERT: CERT is a great program with great people managing it and should be spoken more about. Different events in the city should have CERT representatives. The more people that can add value the more it will be positive change and will be recognized.

Thank you, Mark, for taking an active interest and participation to make a difference and we wish our community and CERT members a safe and healthy 2024!

Reporting,

Denitza Petrova

Quote

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be?"

~ Mariane Williamson

Your Leadership Team

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@miamibeachfl.gov with the subject line "Forming CERT Team" 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 2024. 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. **You will also receive calendar invites. Answer "Accept", "Tentative", or "Declines" so we can know who will be participating.** There are other Advanced trainings coming, so continue checking the CERT online calendar or sign up to the calendar online for updates.

January	Resolve to be Ready Month
February 2	Miami Beach CERT Check-in
February 5-9	Florida Severe Weather Awareness Week
February 13/14 20/21 27/28	Basic Hybrid CERT In-Class Training
March	It's Not Luck! Spring and Flood Safety
March 6/7	Disaster Expo – Volunteer Booth/Skills Demos
March 1/2/3 8/9/10 15/16/17 22/23/24 29/30/31	SPRING BREAK - Volunteer Rehab Building Shifts
April	National Financial Capability Month Severe Weather Safety Month
April 5	Miami Beach CERT Check-in
April 6	#SafePlaceSelfie
May 4	Sky Spotter Training/Tour of National Weather Service and National Hurricane Center

We need your help. For each activity, a calendar invite will be emailed to you. For volunteering/attendance, you would select either decline, tentative or accept. **Please chose one.** You can come into the calendar invite and change your answer before the event/training. When creating the sign-in sheet, **we depend upon the responses. If you accept to participate, please come, and assist.** For some reason, this past quarter, some of the events had volunteers listed to assist and no one showed up.

Also, when you have the first shift, the beginning time listed is the setup time. The last hour listed is breakdown. If you signup for the late shift, please stay until the site is completely broken down and stored in the Division's trailer/truck.

Active CERT Volunteers this Past Quarter

Jo Vella
Denitza Petrova
Elisha Moultrie
Charlie Rabins
Katie Adams
Ron Andruff
Ray Breslin
Patrick Pecora
Joe Simmons
Yanet Benitz
Carmen Marin Fruit
Nick Mitchell
Pablo Arus
Maria da Penha Azoubel

Ibrahim Alvarez
Ebani Thomas
Vince Corbett
Alan Stang
Mitchell
Alysia Marsh
Lauren Firtel
Chaya Dachoh
Nedra Marcelus
Victor Persia
Alison Thompson
Daniela Garcia
Pauline Spiegel
Sylvia Latimer

Wanda Currea
Brian Gillis
Susanne Purucker
Daniela Garcia
Felix Montes
Ombretta Andruff
Maryanne Patlak
Rosie Betancourt
Gary Martinez
Tatiana Davis
Lexi Freylersthe
Gershon Fink



Thank you and a job well done!



Welcome New CERT Volunteers

Class

Alex Mourin
Kathryn Johnston
Victor Di Persia
Shirley Casas
Pauline Spiegel

Our TEEN CERT

Ayden Anderson
Tru Bowers
Chase Brown
Nicola Fabbri
Sofia Garcia
Christian Romero
John Sica
Kenneth Vallejos

MERIT

Do not forget to sign into [Merit](#), our accountability and tracking app. We have so many of you who have not accepted your Merits. Check your inbox and your junk mail. If you feel you have not received a Merit for volunteering or training please email Irene Valines to let her know. 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.

Important Resources

COVID-19/Flu/RSV

I recently went through, what I call my “always this time of year” illness. I was a respiratory mess. I want to provide you with some resources to share with those around you to help you and others protect or work through the illnesses.

- [CDC](#)
- [American Red Cross](#)
- [American Lung Association](#)
- [Florida Department of Health](#)

Additional resources are listed on your [CERT website](#).



CERT IN ACTION



Remember to always be a pebble in the water. Spread the good news of Preparedness.

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

Irene Valines, CERT Program Manager

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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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

SAVE THE DATE

2024 NHSC—Miami Beach, FL

