

# CERT NEWSLETTER

## COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

2024 Quarterly Newsletter

May - August

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

Welcome to the City of Miami Beach CERT newsletter!

Here you will find:

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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.

## CERT Volunteer of the Quarter Alan Stang



As we just wrapped the National Volunteer Week, it is a good time to introduce one of the most active Miami Beach CERT Members, Alan Stang. In the past year Alan has done over 300 volunteer service hours with the City of Miami Beach and is nominated to receive the Silver Level of the Presidents' Volunteer Service Award during the May 22nd Commission Meeting.

Alan is also one of the first members of the Miami Beach CERT program. Although originally from Hartford, CT, he considers himself a 'Native Floridian' and a 'Miami Beacher.' He moved to Miami Beach with his family when he was only 6 years old, went to Miami Beach Senior High, then on to Miami-Dade Junior College, where he obtained an Associate degree in Science, followed by graduating with a Bachelors in Math from Florida Atlantic University and a Masters in Management from Florida International University. Alan met his wife 20 years ago and they have 4 children, 12 grandchildren and even a great grandchild.

Alan is an expert system architect and programmer, who started his career with Pratt & Whitney and then worked for Miami Dade, designing and developing computer systems, mostly for the courts (Records management for the clerks and state attorneys) and for the police department, interfacing with NCIC (National Crime Information Center) & FCIC (Florida Crime Information Center).

After a while, he decided to retire early, as he had made some good real estate investments and he liked his independence. His hobby and passion are 'volunteering'. He says he never gets bored as he volunteers almost daily for various organizations. He also works for fun part time (approximately 100 days a year) with the Marlins & the Dolphins, which allows him to see the games while getting paid to do what he loves to do.

After he stopped working, he volunteered with the police for years, mostly for events. He heard about CERT and joined the program at Metro Dade before it was established in Miami Beach. He has deployed to help for several hurricanes in North Florida through the Florida Department of Emergency Management. Alan is also part of the CVP (Civilian Volunteer Patrol) with MBPD and many nonprofit foundations.

At first, Alan appears quiet, somewhat reserved, but he is easy to speak to, very intelligent, with a free spirit, directness, and a sense of humor. He is also very humble. When asked about the award he has been nominated for, he said that although he appreciates the recognition, the main thing he cares about is that other people may get to know about Miami Beach CERT and join. We also learned that the President's Volunteer Service Award, which has been just introduced for Miami Beach, is not his first one. Alan has been receiving awards almost every year for different volunteering activities in the County.

He is of the opinion that the Cities should involve volunteers more often. As an example, with the Surfside condo collapse, he showed up on his own and volunteered unofficially for 30 straight days. He believes that it would have been a good opportunity for CERT volunteers to help.

We also asked Alan:

### Vision & Recommendations for CERT Miami Beach:

#### Awareness:

- To be represented at more city events, similar to the recent 'Turtle Fest', or beach cleanups will provide more exposure of the program and awareness to the residents.

#### Member Commitment:

- He would like to see more involvement and participation of the existing CERT Members. He has noted that once certified, only a handful of people are active.
- He believes that there must be a commitment, where one puts in some time.
- Consider 2 different programs 'Learn' vs 'Member':
  - one about 'Awareness' and,
  - another about being a 'Trained & Certified' Member, with a mandatory annual training and minimum volunteer hours contribution.

**Learning/ 'Mandatory annual training:** Although there are various trainings offered throughout the year, it will be good to have more required trainings, hands on practice, and simulations for the certified members.

### Why one should consider joining CERT & why put in the time:

- "To learn how to help people in an emergency, including their own family. It is always worthwhile when you know you are helping somebody."

Thank you, Alan, for all the time you put in volunteering and for your active participation with CERT Miami Beach and helping our community!

Reporting,

Denitza Petrova

*Quote*

“Volunteers don’t get paid, not because they’re worthless, but because they’re **priceless.**”  
— Sherry Anderson

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 Petrov

If you are interested in forming a team in your neighborhood, building or business, please email [CERT@miamibeachfl.gov](mailto: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 second 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 "Decline" 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.

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| May 1 –<br>October 31 | <a href="#">Heat Season</a>  |
| May 4                 | Advanced CERT: <a href="#">Sky Spotter</a> Training & Tour of National Weather Service-Miami/National Hurricane Center |
| May 5 – 11            | <a href="#">National Hurricane Preparedness Week</a>   |
| May 15<br>May 20 – 21 | Preparedness Table at Commission Meeting<br>Basic Hybrid CERT Training (9AM – 5PM)                                     |
| May 22                | CERT Appreciation and The President's Volunteer Service Silver Level Award at City Commission Meeting                  |
| May 24                | <a href="#">Don't Fry Day</a>  |
| May 24 – 26           | CERT at Memorial Day Rehab Fort  |
| June 1                | First Day of Hurricane Season  |
| June 1 - 2            | Basic Hybrid CERT Training (9AM – 5PM, Tentative)  |
| June 1 – 14           | <a href="#">Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday</a>  |
| June 1 – 30           | <a href="#">Pet Preparedness Month</a>   |
| June 7                | City CERT Check-In Call  |

- June 23 – 29      [National Lightning Safety Awareness Week](#)
- June 24 – 27      Hybrid CERT Training (5PM – 9PM, daily)
- June 26            Preparedness Table at Commission Meeting
- July 4              Fire on the Fourth
- July 8              Jackson Health Multi-Casualty Incident Surge Exercise
- July 22 – 25      [NATIONAL HOMELAND SECURITY CONFERENCE](#)
- July 23 – 26      [National CERT Conference](#)
- August 1           National Night Out
- August 2           City CERT Check-in Call
- August 12 – 17    [Florida State CERT Conference](#)
- August 24 –      [Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday](#)

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 sign up for the late shift, please stay until the site is completely broken down and stored in the CERT trailer/truck.



## Active CERT Volunteers this Past Quarter

Jo Vella  
Charlie Rabins  
Katie Adams  
Sofia Garcia  
Rosie Betancourt  
Vanessa Abad  
Julio Garcia  
Vince Corbett  
Penha Azoubel-Mitchell  
Nick Mitchell  
Susanna Purucker  
Andrew Lundsten  
Marc Chevalier

Lexi Freylersythe  
Arriana Nanni  
Alan Stang  
Yvans Morisseau  
Keris Martinez  
Sergio Martinez  
Michael Schumacher  
Tamara Sanchez  
Jemme Aldridge  
Alejandro Mourin  
Bob Robbi  
Denitza Petrova

Sue Breslin  
Humberto Martinez  
Regine Rey  
Alison Thompson  
Brian Gillis  
Carmen Aceves Gordon  
Lisa Jay  
Marcella Paz Cohen  
Victor Di Persia  
Ron Andruff  
Ombretta Argo Andruff



Thank you and a job well done!



## Welcome New CERT Volunteers

Alberto Pisani	Kimberly Smith	Karla Morales
Sue Breslin	Aron Soriano	Hubert Santos
Quincy Cotton	Arianna Nanni	Jenel Fraser
Yovani Vidal	Vanessa Abad	Moises Chevez
Ronald Davis	Derek Fernandez	Tamara Sanchez
Keris Martinez	Jennie Sanchez	Tracy Cadet
Ashley Michel	Adan Zambrano	Keith Baptiste
Naomi Francis-	Jorge Incera	Allan West
Roberts	Omar Mendoza	Mercedes Campos
Andrea	Lilet Loperfido	Griselda Contreras
Cunningham	Mishar Campbell	Pedro Ripoll
Ervin Mells	Dalia Moss	Andrea Stringer
Ramon Quezada	David Hundley	Mike Andrus
Gregory Del	Rami Abbadi	Melanie Garcia
Favero	Cindy Lavin	Ken Lavin
Sergio Martinez	Rigoberto	Armando Macet
	Rodriguez	



MERIT



[Merit](#) has recently updated its app. I am in the midst of training to catch up with what they have changed. Please be patient as I have to re-enter information. If you are missing any Merits, please send me an email listing what is missing. Make sure you have deleted the Merit that is yellow and upload the new one which is what.



## Important Resources

[National Hurricane Preparedness Week](#) (HPW) is May 5-11 (beginning Sunday). Please join us in spreading the word about hurricane safety and preparedness. Each day has a theme to help everyone prepare and stay safe during hurricane season:

- [May 5, 2024](#) — [Know Your Risk: Wind & Water](#)
- [May 6, 2024](#) — [Prepare Before Hurricane Season](#)
- [May 7, 2024](#) — [Understand Forecast Information](#)
- [May 8, 2024](#) — [Get Moving When a Storm Threatens](#)
- [May 9, 2024](#) — [Stay Protected During Storms](#)
- [May 10, 2024](#) — [Use Caution After Storms](#)
- [May 11, 2024](#) — [Take Action Today](#)

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

Miami Beach CERT once again set up a Preparedness Tent at the 2024 Disaster Expo in the Miami Beach Convention Center. This time, however, we were invited to set up live demonstrations of our skills in a large space provided to us. We were able to show conference attendees basic first aid, cribbing, hands on CPR, canine search and rescue, DigitalTwin and a comfort support canine.

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE LIVE**  
WITH MIAMI BEACH CERT & DISASTER RECOVERY RESOURCES

VISIT THEM AT BOOTH 1274

TO SEE LIVE DEMONSTRATIONS OF REALISTIC SCENARIOS, PROVIDING YOU WITH THE ULTIMATE HANDS-ON COURSE TO EQUIP YOU WITH EXPERT EMERGENCY RESPONSE SKILLS.

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup>**

11:00 AM TO 11:15 AM  
Samantha Cespedes, with the Miami Beach Police Criminal Investigative Division, will provide tips on how to find, train and utilize a Crisis response dog, like her companion Liberty.

12:00 AM TO 12:30 AM  
Anthony Prol is a dedicated Miami Beach Firefighter and founder of FireTactic, LLC. He utilizes aerial drones, comprehensive fire safety profiles and immersive 3D experiences (DigitalTwin). He understands the critical role of CERT in disaster preparedness and response. DigitalTwin is a highly accurate virtual representation of a physical environment, created using advanced DigitalTwin hardware and software. It offers a real-time, interactive 3D model that users can navigate virtually.

2:00 PM TO 2:30 PM  
A trained emergency management and medical professional will show the skills it takes to help apply immediate CPR on a scene. There will be mannequins available for attendees to practice on. This is not a certification course but a demonstration.

**THURSDAY MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup>**

11:00 AM TO 11:15 AM  
CERT Instructors and CERT trained volunteers will demonstrate the following skills:  
Triage (10 minutes)  
Wound Care (10 minutes)  
Tourniquets (10 minutes)

2:00 PM TO 2:30 PM  
CERT Instructors and CERT trained volunteers will demonstrate the following skills:  
Leveraging and Cribbing (10 minutes) Leveraging and Cribbing is used to move and stabilize debris to free survivors.  
Head to Toe Assessment (10 minutes) Head to Toe Assessments go beyond the immediate life-threatening injuries to try to determine the nature of the patient's injury.  
Extrication Methods (10 minutes) Survivors may need to be extracted from their current location.

SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION







# CERT IN ACTION

Crowd De-Escalation



February Goodwill Ambassador CERT Class



2024 Spring Break Rehab Fort



2024 Spring Break Rehab Fort



January 2024 CERT Class



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](#)

