

CERT NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

2024 Quarterly Newsletter

September-December

What's New in City CERT...

Welcome to the City of Miami
Beach CERT newsletter!

Here you will find:

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Memorial Day Weekend CERT Rehab Fort.

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.

how far do you want to be involved?

There are now three (3) levels of CERT Volunteer involvement in the City of Miami Beach. You were contacted by CERT leadership unless you did not respond to them or have not updated your contact information with us. They were asking for any updated contact information and how involved did you want to be with the City. After requests from the State's CERT Program Management and the City, the Division has created three levels of involvement.



Level 1

Your plan is to assist yourself and your family as well as your nearby neighbors to prepare for any disaster.



Level 2

In addition to Level 1, you choose to assist/represent the City, when requested, **during disasters and "Blue Sky" events**. At this level, YOU MUST contact Irene Valines at cert@miamibeachfl.gov or 786.441.7422 to set up a BACKGROUND LEVEL 2 check with the City. This must be done prior to assisting with disasters and will also apply to deployment in the County.



Level 3

In addition to Level 1 and 2, you would like to be part of the Leadership group. You would be assigned Team Lead to your neighborhood as well as nearby neighborhoods to direct during disasters. **During "Blue Sky" events, you would also be assigned as Team Lead.**

Send an email to CERT@miamibeachfl.gov and let us know
WHERE YOU WANT TO BE!

CERT Master Trainer **Matthew Roach**



Engage Matthew Roach in a conversation about his work for the City of Miami Beach, or his CERT volunteer work, and certain themes become evident immediately. He has an **unwavering trust in the power of the community. Matthew's career has been committed to service and safety**, as evidenced by his impressive, lengthy resume. Also, and this is impossible to miss, Matthew loves his job and loves sharing his knowledge and skills. Lucky for us, it was precisely love that brought Missouri-raised, Matthew south when Sandra, his Florida-born wife, realized she had had enough of cold after one Missouri winter. Let's agree at this point that becoming a Miami Beach resident should always be what inevitably follows such a situation.

Since 2017, Matthew has functioned as Coordinator for the Miami Beach Fire Rescue Department, Division of Emergency Management, and as Lead Trainer for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM). He maintains his CERT volunteer membership which began back in 1998, and which has evolved to his present role as a CERT Instructor.

As part of his Emergency Management work at the EOC (Emergency Operations Center), he is active in the preparation and response to consequential events and incidents that affect our community. Responding to Hurricane Irma, the community COVID response, and even the fun crowd-attracting stuff like the NFL Experience, are among his past undertakings. In addition to the development and implementation of plans and procedures related to how the City responds to hazards and emergencies, Matthew reviews and updates emergency preparedness manuals and standing operating guidelines, all geared to maintain the readiness of the EOC.

Notably and in keeping with his ever-present theme of community, Matthew assists in the development and coordination of training programs and presentation materials that make their way to the public, to local businesses, to civic organizations and not-for-profits and to City staff through innumerable educational seminars and expos.

As a result of his incessant curiosity and continuing education requirements during the various stages of his professional career, Matthew holds nationally recognized certifications from various governmental agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. This abundant training factors in

his understanding of emergency management and recovery, hazard vulnerability assessment, and prevention and remediation efforts.

It is not hard to see how all his accumulated knowledge and years of experience come together in what is, certainly, **one of Matthew's most exciting endeavors: being a Community Emergency Response Team Instructor.**

"I believe that neighbors help neighbors. When you know your neighbor, you can help your neighbor. If you train and prepare together, you get to know the different skill sets among those around you and you use that knowledge and resources to solve problems. Being prepared through CERT training empowers you to deal with emergencies as well as with everyday smaller incidents."

Enumerating Matthew's accomplishments and service requires a lot of energy and pages:

Yes, he served in the US Army as a Military Police in Maryland and Germany and, after his Honorable Discharge, joined the Army Reserve, and Non-commissioned Officer.

Yes, Matthew spent over a **decade straddling Florida's Pasco and Hernando Counties**, as he puts it, but in fact he was **working as a Detective for the Pasco County Sheriff's Office.** He served in Special Operations for events and incidents, was a Field Training Officer readying and mentoring new deputies and was involved with multi-agency operations and planning teams that included the FBI, Secret Service and FDLE. He participated in and evaluated drills and full-scale exercises working with local, county, state, and federal agencies. Matthew also contributed during the aftermath responses to numerous emergencies. Those experiences are very relevant to our South Florida community and furthered his capability to assess situations and assist in their remediation.

Yes, Matthew trained and developed exercises all over the country while working as a Preparedness and Response Branch Manager, Lead Instructor, Project Lead and Program Manager for O'Gara Training and Services, a company that provides safety, security, and survivability training to individuals and organizations worldwide.

And yes, we're happy to note, Matthew is on Miami Beach, his wife is happy that she doesn't have to deal with harsh winters, and he is happily pursuing his passion of expanding his own and his community's knowledge regarding preparedness and incident solving skills because, as he puts it, "when you quit getting better you quit being good."

We had other questions:

1. How did you first become aware of CERT?

I was introduced to CERT when asked to assist in teaching a new course in Pasco County.

2. For anyone curious about CERT, what would you tell them about getting trained and certified as a CERT volunteer? Are there special requirements? Can anyone do it?

CERT is about Community, all different types of people with different backgrounds. That's what makes the strength of the team that people can come together and have different skills and work as a community to help their neighbors.

The only special requirement is that you want to be better prepared and willing to help your neighbors.

Anyone can do it.

3. Personally, was there any topic in your CERT training that changed your attitude about emergency preparedness?

Being better prepared and having my family prepared takes the stress out of the disaster to know I can help my community.

4. How do CERT volunteers contribute to the Miami Beach community, both throughout the year and during emergencies?

CERT is not just for disasters but volunteers for our community helps with special events like Spring Break, Memorial Day weekend, heat relief, and many other events we have in Miami Beach.

5. What is your personal experience with emergency situations? Since hurricanes are one of the threats South Floridians faces, what is your personal experience preparing and dealing with hurricanes or other such emergencies?

Having a plan, building supply kits, and knowing how to stay informed has helped my family through many hurricanes in Florida and also power outages and other smaller incidents.

6. How do you envision the evolution of CERT within the Miami Beach community.

Miami Beach Community is diverse people from different walks of life that others can learn from and learn skills that can help the team be more reliant. We can then build our community throughout Miami-Dade County and be able to help others beyond our borders.

7. Matthew, do you have time for any hobbies?

I make time to go see the sunrise every morning when I am able. I enjoy doing some small crafts that I share.

Matthew will always be a great resource for the City of Miami Beach Community.

Reporting,

Rosie Betancourt

Quote

“Don’t ever question the value of volunteers. Noah’s Ark was built by volunteers, the Titanic was built by professionals.”
— Dave Glynn

Your Leadership Team

Your CERT Team Leads are organized as follows:

Mark Wohl

33139



Ron Andruff



Ombretta Argo



Amani Ayers



Charlie Rabins



Maryanne Patlak



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

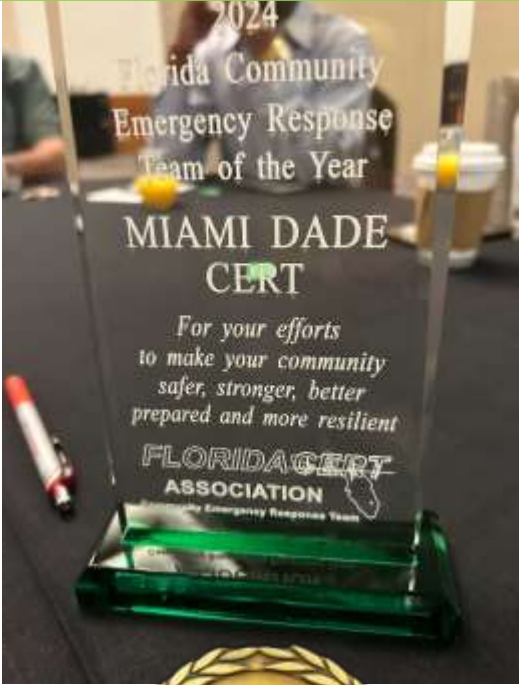
Rosa Betancourt



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.

Florida State CERT Conference

Speaking of Team, Miami Dade County won the Florida CERT Team of the Year at the recent Florida State CERT Conference in Cape Coral. You a part of the honor. Thank you for a job well done in Miami Beach.



Event Calendar

Listed on this page are the trainings and events which will occur during the third 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 – October 31	Heat Season
September 24, 25, 26 October 1-3	Basic Cert Training
September 29	Volunteer Opportunity: Hispanic Heritage Festival
October 4	City CERT Virtual Check-in (See Calendar Invite for Link)
October 25, 26	Advanced CERT Training: FEMA-When Disaster Strikes: Prepare, Act, Survive
October 27, November 2 – 3	Basic CERT Training
October 30	Advanced CERT Training: Hands-only CPR, AED, Choking Rescue, Recovery Position, and PulsePoint
November 9	Veterans Day (Need Booth and Rehab Tent Volunteers)
November 16, 17, 23	Basic CERT Training (SPANISH ONLY)
November 17	Miami Beach Police North Beach Block Party ((Need Booth and Rehab Tent Volunteers)

We need your help. For each activity, a calendar invite will be emailed to you. For volunteering/attendance, you would select either **"Accept"**, **"Tentative"** or **"Decline"**. **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 * *

Elroy Crocker
Katie Adams
Kristina Nunez
Joseph Simmons
Alyssa Marsh
Charlie Rabins
Michael Andrus
Sofia Garcia
Dalia Moss
Denitza Petrova
Vince Corbett
Penha Azoubel-Mitchell
Nick Mitchell
Marc Gellman
Marc Chevalier
Arriana Nanni
Alan Stang
Jill Turner
Pablo Arus



Commission
Presentation
to Alan Stang

Melanie Garcia
Daniela Garcia
Jose Polo
Keith Clougherty
Ray Breslin
Yovani Vidal
Regine Rey

Jo Vella
Marcella Paz Cohen
Griselda Contreras
Ebani Thomas
Judy Provitch
Gary Martinez
Laura Dominguez



Thank you and a job well done!

Welcome New CERT Members

Adam Walker
Nichole Doty
Bria Gibson
Rodney Madison

John Adams
Christi LeMahieu
Ricardo Aberg Cobo
Laura Ronquillo



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

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

CERT IN ACTION



Advanced CERT: Extreme Heat



April 20-21 CERT Class 1



June 1-2 CERT Class 1



City Employee Health Fair 1



SkyWarn Training/Tour of NHC-NWS 1



David's Special CERT Training Talent 1



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