

October 2004



COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

# The Responder



## All Member Meeting

Monday, October 25, 2004

T-Rex Auditorium

(5000 T-Rex Avenue)

7:00 PM

### Agenda

**5:45 pm** - Dinner and Registration

Enjoy Roast Turkey and Gravy, Cornbread Stuffing, Garden Vegetables

**7:00 pm** - Opening Remarks

Frank Correggio and Cindy Metcalf

**7:15 pm** - Team Leaders

will discuss their role and what each team contributed during Hurricane Frances. Discussion will include radio communication, area surveys, meeting points, hazards found.

**8:00 pm** - Audience participation

What did you do prior, during, and post storm. CERT members who did not activate can share their experience. What would you do different next time?

**8:30 pm** - Team Up !

Get together with your team mates and discuss what you would have or could have done if it were Hurricane Ivan that was going to hit our area.

**9:00 pm** - Closing Remarks

**Please RSVP to your Team Leaders by Sunday, October 17th.**  
The final count is due to the caterer by Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 am. Please be mindful that we have to pay for each person. When you RSVP, please indicate if you will be having dinner, or just attending the meeting.

### **“Auntie Em, Auntie Em...**

### **Its not a twister, it's a hurricane...”**

By Frank Correggio



Photo by Deputy Chief Tom Wood

The month of September was busy. Along with the normal routine of getting back to school, vacations being wrapped up and the everyday of work, work, work, we experienced Hurricane's. Not just one, mind you but there was a whole family out there. First there was Charley. He

decided to be a football player and go wide around the left side and hit us there. Then there was Frances. She decided that after a long journey from Africa she would visit the Bahamas for a while and really wasn't sure how soon she would leave to see Florida. When she finally made up her mind, “should I go to Ft. Lauderdale or, should I see the Palm Beaches, she decided to go a little further at see what was up in the central part of the state around Jupiter. Ivan on the other hand was pretty sure of him self and went straight for the pan handle. Since he has never seen Florida, I think he wasted no time traveling across or up through our state. He took the short route and then headed for areas north and beyond.



Photo by Deputy Chief Tom Wood

*Continued on page 2*

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## **Its not a twister, it's a hurricane** *continued from page 1*

Looking back at all that has happened we saw CERT was ready. Some of us had to evacuate, others just moved locations and went further inland. Wherever CERT was, CERT was ready. We had teams in neighborhoods. We had teams in shelters. We had teams put together with other teams. Even with all that was happening around us, with families, friends and neighbors, CERT was ready. Some Team Leaders met a few days before to secure their plans. Others used email or telephones to communicate. "This is what we are doing", explained one team leader. "We are ready". And ready you were. We had people in shelters, and on the streets.

Communications were set up at the EOC with Ron Diego and Joyce and Sue Brennan at the controls. Arriving on Friday they manned the ship taking information from CERT members, shelters and other Hams who would report in. Radio checks and neighborhood walk-about's were established. Reporting wires and trees down. Streets that were impassable or possible dangers that were found in each zone. YOU WERE READY. The information that each team relayed was passed along and placed in our mapping system at the EOC. There was some duplication of information, but for the most part the information proved valuable and timely. We were able to get crew out to areas and begin opening up roadways and secure possible hazards. We passed along downed power lines to FPL crews to try to help them do their job more efficiently. As far as I know Boca CERT was the only team activated during the storm in South Florida.

One thing that is on the horizon is a repeater for CERT. The Chief is looking into having additional radios with this system so that we can communicate better. In Amy's report to the state it will show we activated 77 members (We have over 350), and we had a total of 1,888 man-hours prior, during and post storm.

YOU WERE READY. Thank you for all the good work and effort you have given to our program. Thank you to our Team Leaders for and for all the members who helped during the storm. Your efforts have not gone un-noticed. As we look to the future, as of this writing, we see 3 other storms out in the Atlantic, Jean, Karl and Lisa. Keep your eyes and ears open, and your equipment checked. Stay safe and thanks again. It is my honor to be part of the team.

# Thank You!

**Special thanks to ALL VOLUNTEERS, known and unknown. With your knowledge, commitment and caring, the City of Boca Raton was able mobilize and respond to its neighborhoods in an organized manner.**

**George Maxwell** - Volunteers unknown.

**Gail Sharker** - Volunteers unknown.

**Jay Bell** - Leonard Wolfer, Sue Bell

**Gilles Lucas** - Fred and Lisa Kleber, Pat Devlin and wife, Paula Kerns and daughter

**Mike Teller** - Tom Kelly, Carolina Vargas, Wes Adams, Hank VanSant, Pat and Lisa Mansell, Dave Freudenberg, Susan Schulz, Charles Cerny, Susan Latuszynski

**Dave Rosenthal** - Volunteers unknown.

**Barbara and Bill Kasser** - Tim and Cynthia Haggstrom

**Ross Evans/Pam Imbimbo** - Charna Lazar, Sheree Thomas and husband, James, Dolly O'Shea, James

**Joyce and Susan Brennan** - Bob Chiarenzelli, Mike Tomasso, John Melcher, Antonio Quesada

**Clem Storch** - Jim Owirka, Don Bagley, Debra Cholak-White

**Suresh Dias/Victoria Kneider** - Ken Hughes, Jeanette Ortega, Neil Slofkis, Cara Estrin June Levine Connors, William Johnson and wife, Willem Van Dam, James Eaton, Brunella and George Vindigni, David Wagaman, Bruce Kovack, Susan Goldberg, Sheldon Davidson, Brenda Pryor, Wally Goldman, Bonnie Wangner, Maybelline and Vincent Lezama, Cesar Costa, Enrique Zuanetto, Matt and Rick Puchferran, Marissa Ciaravino, Fiorella Perdomo, Carmen Pina.

**Joe Hancock/Charlotte Lewis**

**Karen Truhon** - Gary Farrar, Dave Neuweiler

**Debbie Grioli/Cheryl Freeman**

**Ron and Karen Diego** - Barry & Elisa Goldman

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# HURRICANE FRANCES ACTIVITY REPORT

**FILED BY : Suresh Dias, Team Leader**



Photo by Suresh Dias

It was a difficult task to convene over 50 members; I had never met in my life, and to lead the team into action. Nevertheless it was a challenge and tasting success in the end was sweet.

## **24 HOURS PRIOR TO FRANCES**

1. Called and emailed all members and indicated that the team is going to get activated, and we need their support, I left all my numbers and email addresses with them. As an afterthought I informed everyone that should there be no further communication from me (with possible tele-com breakdown).
2. Since we are the county group I prioritized to everyone that the primary task would be to assess and secure their own communities.

## **12 HOURS PRIOR TO FRANCES**

1. I had a 22 member team in place, within 24 hours to get a over 50% response was great, considering the fact I didn't know these members personally and they in turn had no idea who I was, trying to mobilize them into action.
2. I broke the active members into smaller groups to work within the communities they belonged to, where I had only a single member in the community (such as myself); I instructed them to go get volunteers to stand by.
3. I defined a mode of communication, any member that had an FRS radio was to work on channel 7, which was in fact the original zone code assigned to me, the smaller team leaders were to file reports direct to me by mobile phone, land line, fax . If they failed. I gave them the numbers at Boca EOC and Palm Beach EOC, and instructed them to request that they pass down the reports to me by radio. Failing which reports had to carried into the nearest station with a radio by hand.
4. I also asked members to contact the community manager / maintenance manager, and obtain a resident list with contacts. Also obtain water, gas, power, cable outlay information if possible. To inform them that in an emergency to contact the CERT member who in turn can pass up the information, they were also requested to hand down the Boca EOC and Palm Beach EOC contact details.
5. Informed that members should work in uniform and with ID, requested that everyone read the CERT manuals during the storm, check their kits and be as ready as can be.
6. Once I had communicated everything, I went and helped the Boca Raton FD, evacuate the elderly t the shelters from their homes.

## **AFTER FRANCES PASSED THROUGH**

1. Called up all members and checked their status as a family and the status of their own homes.
2. Asked them to go out and report to me every 30 min, all needs and observations to be recorded on paper. Reports to be passed up as soon as they can.
3. Members were asked door to door and to check off each home, once it had been cleared.
4. The criteria to check were.
  - On a Property basis.
    - A. Gas , Water, Power Cable Leaks, Damages
    - B. Drainage, Sewage, Flooding.
    - C. Roadway blocks.
  - On a house to house basis.
    - A. Status of neighbors, if the need medical attention, medicine, travel to hospital / shelter
    - B. Any damage that needs immediate attention within the house.
    - C. Power / Phone / Water status.
    - D. To request that they listen to Radio / TV for information from EOC.
    - E. Give contact number to call if problems crop up later.

## **ONCE ASSESSMENT REPORTS ARRIVED TO ME**

1. I assessed in the request could be A. Be handled by the CERT Team, B. Needed to be forwarded to EOC for action, C. Be left to be handled by Property Management.
2. The Teams handled minor matters such as moving small obstacles, clearing leaves in drainage, etc.
3. What matters that needed outside help was communicated to the EOC.
4. Other issues that were not considered essential were left to be handled by the property management. (Eg. Once a passage was secured around a fallen tree, leave the removal to the property management.)

*Continued on page 4*

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## HURRICANE FRANCES ACTIVITY REPORT - *Continued from page 3*

### FURTHER ACTION

1. The CERT teams together with neighbors attended to minor matters once the major issues have been reported to the relevant authorities.
2. I received notification of the activities completed, and the status of members,
3. Where I did not receive reports as per the plan, I contacted the team to ensure they are safe.

### FINAL

1. Informed all members that we have covered our responsibilities, and that we were standing down.
2. Thanks to everyone.
3. Requested members to check with Red Cross and other agencies if they needed assistance in the shelters or in post storm work.

All in all this was a rewarding experience and everything went smoothly, my thanks to Chief Bruce, Cindy, Frank, Amy and Barbara, you guys had a lot to do in getting everything to go the way it did.

The idea to give out those radios was ingenious, without them, there would have been chaos and insecurity, the knowledge you had communication and access to help, was everything.

### IN SUMMARY

A secondary benefit was that a lot of exposure was received to CERT, many didn't know who the lone rider in uniform was, who was walking around their communities and asking if everything was ok, explaining to them what was happening, and most of all being there with them, and giving them the security that someone was there.

I had scores of neighbors who called over to thank me personally yesterday, for being there for them, for looking over them. Some even gave me coffee and food while I was walking around in pouring rain. Now, there are many who want to be part of CERT, but having people call over and thank you for being there for them, makes everything worth it in the end. And makes me proud to walk away knowing that I am part of CERT. I am sure I made a lot of mistakes, there were things I possibly missed, but writing this now, before I forget will let us all analyze what I did, and make adjustments, so that we make our CERT team even better. Learning to be the best.

Once again my thanks to all fellow team leaders, I am sure there were many others who also played big roles in this, like the gentleman who taught me to use the radio, the strange voices on the radio that kept us together during the storm, a lot I don't even know who you were. But thank you everyone, together, as a team, I think we did a really great job.

**Suresh Dias**  
**CERT Team Leader**  
**Team Kneider/Dias**

## **HURRICANE FRANCES ACTIVITY REPORT** **FILED BY : Gilles Lucas, Team Leader**

Sounds like one of those royal weddings but actually its a marriage made in hell (for us anyway). It looks like we are in for more action. Unfortunately with the phone failures during Frances, we were not able to contact several of you who were only available by phone. For the information of the team, we did activate on Sunday morning during the squalls that were coming through. 6 of us responded and I would like to thank those persons for their activity during the storm Fred and Lisa Kleber, Pat Devlin and Paula Kerns. I would also like to thank Pat Devlin and his wife for the use of his house as a base of operation it was much better than standing in the wind and rain and there was hot coffee to boot. For the rest of you who said you were available, unfortunately all phone service was out at that time and we could not reach you to advise of the activation. Several lessons were learned and once everything calms down we will have to try to come up with some solutions. This message is once again polling the team to see who will be around this weekend as Ivan is now tracking dead on for South Florida approaching through the Keys. I would also like to know if anyone is available to call those persons on our list who only have a phone contact. I am still moving from house to house as we still do not have any electricity in my community. Look forward to hearing from you. Don't take those shutters down just yet.

**Gilles Lucas**  
**Manager Passenger Sales Administration**  
**Martinair - [Glucas@martinairusa.com](mailto:Glucas@martinairusa.com)**



Photo by Jay Bell

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## HURRICANE FRANCES ACTIVITY REPORT

### FILED BY : Ross Evans, Team Leader

Please relay my thanks to everyone at the Boca Raton Fire Rescue Service (BRFRS) for their efforts in equipping and training the CERT members and leaders with effective communication capabilities used during the Hurricane Frances emergency. Due to these efforts and CERT net control (Ron Diego), I am sure response time to Boca Raton emergencies was decreased. Prioritizing the dangerous conditions identified by the individual CERT members and volunteers must have allowed a more effective emergency response. I can also personally attest to the commendable work of the BRFRS paramedics at the Boca Raton Community High School (BRCHS) as well, because I was there as shelter communicator.

My CERT team consisted of Pam Imbimbo, Charna Lazar, Sherry Thomas, Muriel "Dolly" O'Shea, and 2 volunteers, Sherry's husband and a person named James (from NW 3rd Court,). The rest of my team was not available due to family and other circumstances. We met at our muster location after the storm and mapped out the neighborhood territory that each person would survey. James dropped by to assist because the news media (TV) had asked for volunteers to report to Red Cross shelters and meet with the shelter manager for assignment. Our muster station just happened to be listed as one of the shelters the news media had provided but that the Red Cross had closed (Bibletown).

Each person on my team did a great job in identifying and reporting the dangerous conditions and likely impediments to emergency crew response teams. The Boca Square team alone, lead by Pam Imbimbo, reported over 3 pages of dangerous items. I am sure this information was used for more effective emergency and utility response.

Our team did not find areas that required the imminent rescue of life this time. However, because of the widespread area affected, we very well could have, and we were ready. My team showed that, due to the BRFRS and CERT training, we were prepared in case an emergency of this type ever strike again.

As I write this I see the forecasted track of Category 5 Hurricane Ivan running right up the state of Florida with a landfall time of Monday morning (I hope they're wrong this time). A much more powerful hurricane such as this is not to be taken lightly. This is not a drill.

#### **Ross Evans**

**Boca Raton BRFRS Community Emergency Response Team leader.**

**Boca Raton shelter communicator (Bibletown/BRCHS)**

**Certified FEMA Community Relations, Division of Emergency Management**

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## *New Team Leaders Announced*

Submitted by: Barbara Kasser, Team Leader Coordinator

Boca Raton CERT recently added two new team leaders:

**David Rosenthal** is taking over for Phala Harper, who has moved to Georgia, in a zone in eastern Boca Raton. David has been a resident of Boca Raton since 1987 and marvels at the growth of the community. Since his graduation from the CERT program, David has been in active participant in team meetings, classes and other activities.

**Suresh Dias** is sharing leadership responsibilities with Victoria Kneider. Suresh lives in Boca del Mar. Suresh has firsthand experience dealing with disasters in India and is using that knowledge to help his team members. He is an active CERT member, and is currently trying to find some great deals for his fellow team members.

Boca Raton CERT is proud to welcome to 2 new team leaders into our family. Both leaders bring experience, enthusiasm and expertise to their teams.

# Amateur Radio Class Offered

Submitted by: Hank Vasant

Technician level Amateur Radio Classes will be held in Jupiter on the following dates October 26th, 28th, November 2nd, 4th, 9th and 11th. Classes will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays and begin at 7:00 pm. The Amateur Radio Exam will be held on November 16th at 6:30 pm.

All classes and the exam will be held at 16133 Jupiter Farms Road at the old Burt Reynolds Ranch, now currently the North County Satellite Sheriffs Substation.

The classes are free and the instructors are Licensed Amateur Radio Operators who are experienced in Radio Communications. Study books will be available at the class and are called "Now Your Talking" which has all of the questions and answers needed to pass the Technician Class No-C.

Anyone interested in registering can email Albert Moreschi at [aug77@netzero.net](mailto:aug77@netzero.net) or call at (561)746-7421.

**DURING DISASTERS, AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS ARE THE MOST RELIABLE SOURCE OF COMMUNICATIONS!**

## Happy Birthday

Len Bennett  
Virginia Brown  
Yesenia Castaneda  
Robert W. Coveney  
Reynea Y. Davis  
Catherine Doldan  
Dinah Gabany  
Richard Haradon  
Teresa Harrington  
Jenny A. Hernandez  
James Jennings  
William Kasser  
Gerald W. Lanham  
Charna Lazar  
Elyssa MacCann  
Fred Mackaman



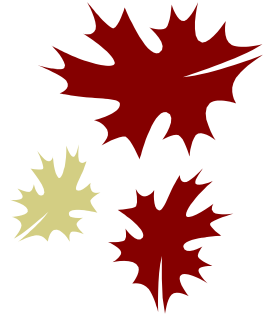
John Melcher  
Roy Metcalf  
Kirk E. Millner  
Ronald Moscovitch  
Carol PARRALES  
Liana Puchferran  
Antonio P. Quesada  
Christine Quinn  
Greg T. Rando  
David Rosenthal  
Nicole M. Senkowicz  
June Speisman  
Clem Storch  
David Wagaman  
Andrew W. Zerbock

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# CERT Events

## October 23

The Fire Department Open House will be held on Saturday, October 23 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Fire Station #5 located at 2333 W. Glades Road. Assistance from CERT members is requested. Volunteers will assist with set-up/clean-up, communications booth, refreshments and the C.E.R.T. bake sale. If you are interested in participating, please contact Frank Correggio at 561-367-6764.



## October 25

All member meeting will be held on Monday evening October 25, 2004 at T-Rex Auditorium, 5000 T-Rex Avenue. This is the same place we held it the past. Dinner will begin at 5:45 and end at 7pm. The meeting will begin at 7pm and end at 9pm. This time around we will ask that you RSVP to your Team Leaders to let them know who is coming. We need to have a final count by Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, at 8am. Please be mindful that we have to pay for each person. When you RSVP please indicate if you will be having dinner, or just attend the meeting.

## December 2

Put on your fancy clothes, we're havin' a party! The holiday party is set for Thursday, December 2, 2004 at the Boca Raton Executive Country Club. Once again you will RSVP to your Team Leader for the party. Final count is due by Monday, November 22, 2004. The party will be from 7pm – 11pm. Music provided by "Rumor Has It". Please plan to arrive by 6:30 to check in. More details to follow.



## December 8

The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Street Parade will be held on Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004. We will be utilizing HAM operators as we have in the past. If you would like to help out please RSVP to Frank Correggio. If you are not a radio operator, and you would like to help out we can still use you. More details to follow.



# Continuing Education

**Tuesday, November 16 - Fire Equipment Class** - Learn how to operate and use some of the equipment carried on our Advanced Life Support Units and Engines. In this class you will learn how to operate the stretcher, the stair chair stretcher, vacuum splints and more. Learn where the equipment is kept and what it is used for. 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm @ Fire station #5.

**To Register, please contact Frank Correggio**

**561-367-6764**

**Fcorreggio@ci.boca-raton.fl.us**

# Spread the Cheer... Volunteer!!

## COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

### Community Emergency Response Team

Amy Ross  
Phone: 561-367-6768  
Fax: 561-367-6750  
Email: ARoss@ci.Boca-Raton.fl.us

Frank Correggio  
Phone: 561-367-6764  
Fax: 561-995-2103  
Email: FCorreggio@ci.boca-raton.fl.us



### Fire Department Open House

Saturday, October 23, 2004

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Fire Station #5

located at 2333 W. Glades Road.

If you would like to participate, please contact

Frank Correggio,

367-6764/fcorreggio@ci.boca-raton.fl.us

### All Member Meeting

Monday, October 25, 2004

T-Rex Auditorium

(5000 T-Rex Avenue)

7:00 PM

**Please RSVP to your TEAM Leader by**

**Sunday, October 17, 2004**

City of Boca Raton  
Fire-Rescue Services Department  
2333 West Glades Road  
Boca Raton, Florida 33431-7311

