

## Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

What is CERT and what do we do?



CERT teams are community-initiated volunteers that partner with local emergency response units such as the City of North Port and Sarasota County Emergency Management. Currently, there are 32 volunteers (not all pictured) on our team and we're still looking to grow. Our role within our community is to assist first responders pre/post disasters that impact Bobcat Trail. Our community was lucky after Ian's destruction whereas we didn't need first responders but our neighbors who volunteered to help after the hurricane had a positive impact on Bobcat's recovery.

We take an active role in working with Sarasota County and the City of North Port's Emergency Management units, as well as the City of North Port Fire and Police Departments. Jeff Brall recently attended Sarasota's CERT consortium, Larry Santucci and Dave Filler are attending a grant writing course at the North Port Library this week, as we have initiated our fundraising efforts to purchase supplies such as vests, backpacks, survey tape, and walkie talkies, just to name a few. If you are interested in donating to our community's CERT team, our master HOA now has a specific line item for us. Kindly reach out to Mike San Antonio for more information on how you can make your donation.

Our volunteers do not necessarily need to have physical strength or endurance. There are several roles and responsibilities that make up a CERT team. Our leadership team and those

volunteers who are interested in becoming CERT certified are pursuing the required courses. The CERT certification option is available but NOT mandated for all members.

Our Community Emergency Response Team is planning to do a Bobcat Trail door-door meet and greet in two-person teams sometime in March. The purpose is to further enhance our community's knowledge and awareness of our team and to understand how we can assist our neighbors before and after a disaster hits our community.

Our Community Emergency Response Team's monthly meeting at the Community Center has moved to the second Saturday of each month starting at 9 a.m. with our next meeting scheduled for March 9th. All are welcome to attend, no need to RSVP.

We are looking for any of our neighbors that might own a drone as we've learned this can be a very useful tool when dealing with a disaster. If you have a drone that you'd be willing to pilot within Bobcat Trail, kindly email us at [Bobcatcert1@outlook.com](mailto:Bobcatcert1@outlook.com).