



# Chatham CERT

General Meeting  
August 26, 2020

# Agenda

- Introductions
- Chatham CERT Mission
- Gear
- Upcoming meetings & classes
- Tonight's meeting

# History of CERT

- **Mexico City earthquake** of 1985 claimed over 10,000 lives
  - Over 100 untrained volunteers perished also
- **Los Angeles Fire Department** started offering volunteer training in 1986
- **FEMA** expanded CERT training in 1994
- CERT teams now located nationwide
  - Organized and trained with SOPs from the sponsoring agency
  - **‘Don’t be a victim’**. Help your household, immediate neighborhood
  - When officially requested assist in other actions
    - Basic medical treatment
    - Light search and rescue
    - Extinguish small fires
    - Shelter support
    - EOC support
    - Help train the Community in resilience and disaster response
    - Other support to the extent of CERT basic or other training

# Chatham CERT Mission

The Chatham Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) delivers education and training for Chatham County residents on **emergency and disaster preparedness**, and when activated, supports, to the extent of their training, Chatham County emergency response under the direction of Chatham County Emergency Management officials and local incident commanders.

## Name and contact information

## Background and any past training

## Photo release

## Background check release

5



## CERT Startup - Gear

- Standard vest for CERT participants: everyone buys their own '**Deluxe CERT vest – fitted with pockets and reflective stripes**' for \$13.88 from [www.sosproducts.com](http://www.sosproducts.com)
- Optional shirt and cap (can order)
  - Not required but nice items when dealing with the community



# CERT Alerting

First notifications to CERT through Chatham Co CodeRED system, then

- Text or email messages to individuals
- Check CERT website at <http://www.chathamcert.org>
- Local amateur radio repeater  
Chatham Repeater: Rx 443.475 Offset 0.6 Tone on, tone freq 131.8 Plus shift at the top of each hour
- Route Alerting (driving around with a PA system)
- Local radio and TV
- EAS\*, IPAWS-WEA
- Local fire station

CERT requests for volunteers and additional information will be on the CERT website **and** sent out via groups.io messages

\*Emergency Alert System

\*Integrated Public Alert and Warning System

# Amateur Radio class

Interested in getting started with 'ham' radio?

Online Technician-class licensing classes on Zoom

- Thursday, September 10 for 7 weeks.
- Sessions start at 6:30pm and run for 3 hours.

**To sign up:** email [roland.anders@comcast.net](mailto:roland.anders@comcast.net)



# Hurricane season

June 1 starts hurricane season in North Carolina. Every household should be prepared to withstand the wind, rain, power outages, and transportation interruptions these storms cause. Use our [CERT 2020 Hurricane and Power Outage Checklist](#) to get ready!

### Hurricane and Power Outage Checklist

#### 7 DAYS OUT

##### Water

- Store non-potable and non-potable water storage (rain barrels, not only, outdoor pools etc.)
- Water requirements: adults drinking water requirements are a minimum of 1 gallon a person a day for 3 days. Children, elderly, and the ill may need more. Don't forget pets!
- Clear non-potable water can be boiled for at least 10 minutes before drinking.

| Amount of Water | Amount of Emergency Water | Amount of Concentration Regular Bottles |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---|
| 1 person        | 2.4 days                  | 2.4 days                                |
| 1 gallon        | 2.4 days                  | 2.4 days                                |
| 2 gallons       | 4.8 days                  | 4.8 days                                |
| 4 gallons       | 9.6 days                  | 9.6 days                                |

- If you have a water filter, check to make sure you have a filter in place.
- Clear non-potable water can be treated with chlorine bleach:
  - 1. Use 1/8 tsp regular bleach per gallon of water. Do not use iodized bleach. Do not use bleach that is older than 6 months, or any other brand than regular bleach.
  - 2. Use 1/8 tsp regular bleach per gallon of water. Do not use iodized bleach.
  - 3. Allow the treated water to stand for 30 minutes for 1 hour. Properly treated water should have a slight chlorine odor.
  - 4. If there is no chlorine odor, repeat the treatment. Add the same amount of bleach and wait for 1 hour more. Check again for the chlorine odor before drinking the water.
  - 5. If the bleach taste is too strong, you can use water from a clean container.
- If you have a water filter, check to make sure you have a filter in place.
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##### Supplies

- Inventory any stored food supplies (canned, frozen, hardwired, etc.). Fill any empty authorized containers. Fill up vehicles. Put 24 24 24 or similar product in stored gasoline if it is not already filled.
- Batteries (check working condition):
  - 1. Inventory battery storage. Maintain battery at least 100% for 1 year.
  - 2. If you have a battery, check to make sure you have a battery in place.
- Check and fill up propane tanks.
- Fill 24 24 24 or similar product in stored gasoline if it is not already filled.

Chatham County Emergency Response Team  
Hurricane and Power Outage Checklist  
October 2019

- The Climate Prediction Center updated their Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook. The updated forecast indicates an 85% chance of an above-normal Atlantic Hurricane Season which has been increased from 30% that was released in May. They noted that June and July were more active than an average beginning to hurricane season and expectations for La Nina has increased, which increases the chances for an active Atlantic hurricane season. See attached document for additional details.
  - Now predicting 10-16 additional named storms (Previous total was 13-19)
  - Now predicting as many as 9 additional hurricanes (Previous total was 6-10)
  - Predicting 3-6 major hurricanes (Remains unchanged)

# Personal Awareness Color Codes

Don't be a victim!

Being aware of your surroundings and avoiding areas where incidents may occur helps us stay out of condition Red.

**White:** relaxed and unaware of what is going on around you. This is sitting at home, doors locked, and quietly watching TV. Think 'preoccupied' or 'daydreaming'.

**Yellow:** relaxed, but aware of who and what is around you. *If you are outside your home, you should start in condition Yellow.* Pay attention to sights and sounds wherever you are at - in your home, or out in society. Be aware of what is happening. Make eye contact with strangers. Know the nearest exits. Run through 'what-if' scenarios' in your mind. Think 'alert but not paranoid'.

**Orange:** you have noticed something that may or may not prove to be a threat. Remain very alert and be aware of your entire surroundings. Think 'something is not right'. In this state you are anticipating a bad situation, and you should be planning to respond.

**Red:** you have identified a real threat. Be ready to 'Run-Hide-Fight' and take decisive action.

# Chatham CERT

Home Security  
August 26, 2020



# Disclaimer

- **Products mentioned only for information. No endorsement implied.**
- **Your mileage may vary. This brief is illustrative only.**
- **Individuals need to apply any information to their own personal situation, taking into account their personal safety and applicable laws and regulations.**

# Personal Awareness Color Codes

Don't be a victim!

Being aware of your surroundings and avoiding areas where incidents may occur helps us stay out of condition Red.

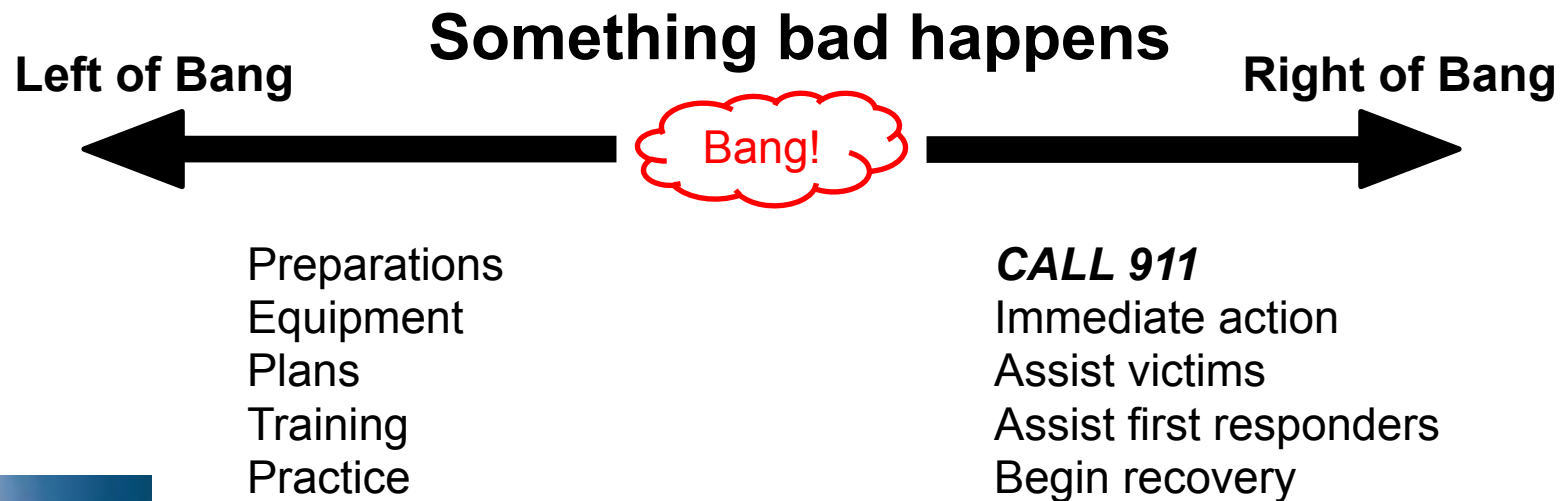
**White:** relaxed and unaware of what is going on around you. This is sitting at home, doors locked, and quietly watching TV. Think 'preoccupied' or 'daydreaming'.

**Yellow:** relaxed, but aware of who and what is around you. *If you are outside your home, you should start in condition Yellow.* Pay attention to sights and sounds wherever you are at - in your home, or out in society. Be aware of what is happening. Make eye contact with strangers. Know the nearest exits. Run through 'what-if' scenarios' in your mind. Think 'alert but not paranoid'.

**Orange:** you have noticed something that may or may not prove to be a threat. Remain very alert and be aware of your entire surroundings. Think 'something is not right'. In this state you are anticipating a bad situation, and you should be planning to respond.

**Red:** you have identified a real threat. Be ready to 'Run-Hide-Fight' and take decisive action.

# Concept: Left or Right of Bang



# True Story of a Break-in

(Right of Bang)

- Get home from work; open garage door **CONDITION WHITE**
- Notice that the recycling container is on the floor **CONDITION WHITE**
- Assume that wind from an open screened-in window blew it down
  - Pick up the container. *STILL* **CONDITION WHITE**
- Then, notice the garage door to house is kicked in and off the hinges  
**CONDITION RED** Call 911
  - Fairfax VA police arrive 15 minutes later (note: 2 miles from police substation) **CONDITION YELLOW**
    - Responding officer aware but not extremely interested until he sees the door **CONDITION ORANGE**
    - Immediately calls for backup, then the two officers search the house. No one found. Not a lot missing or disturbed.
- Detective arrives later **CONDITION YELLOW**
  - Interviews victims, makes suggestions on home security
  - Dusts for fingerprints (a very messy process). No fingerprints found ... .

# Door off hinges





# What happened after the Police left

- **Locksmith called**
  - ✓ Fixed door frame and installed temporary lock
  - ✓ Suggested better locks
  - ✓ Suggested door armor
  - ✓ Suggested bars on garage window (in a hidden fenced-in area)
  - ✓ Suggested alarms
  - ✓ Suggested video cameras
- **Notified neighbors**
- **Notified employer security**

# Avoidance and Preparation

## Stay 'Left of Bang'

- **Make gaining access to your home difficult and frustrating.**
  - Think **layers** of security.
- **Study** your home like a burglar or violent criminal.
  - Look at your home from the street.
  - Open doors and windows?
  - Are upstairs windows reachable?
  - Where could a criminal ambush you?
- **What needs to be upgraded or fixed?**
  - Do this exercise during the **day and at night**.
- **Know your neighbors**
  - Prepare your neighborhood / call list or text list
    - Be **wary of visitors** - stay alert
- **Know your own personal situation**

**CERT Motto:  
Don't be a victim**

# Doors

- **Exterior doors: solid core in steel frame**
  - Can you see who is at the door without opening it? Install a door peep
  - Longer screws all the way into frame
  - Latch reinforcements



The red handle pull can make it easy for a burglar to open the door from outside.

Garage Door release handle



# Door Locks

- **Keyed, good quality dead bolts from case-hardened steel**
  - Medeco is a well-respected brand name (but expensive)
    - Pick and bump resistant
    - Key controlled
    - Drill resistant



Medeco high-security deadbolt

**Can you get out in a hurry? Can a child get out in a hurry?**

# Windows

- Use **Tempered glass**
- Use **window locks** (not just closing devices)
- **Reinforce** glass side windows
  - Professionally installed or DIY clear plastic layer on inside of glass
- **Window bars**
  - *must* have quick release



**Can you get out in a hurry? Can a child get out in a hurry?**

# Lighting

- Front door lighting shines down onto visitors and into their eyes
- Interior lights on timers
- Motion lights - make your home less of a target
- Is your house number clearly visible for first responders?



Solar-powered motion light

Cockroaches scatter in the light

# Alarm Systems and Cameras

- **Install alarm sirens and test regularly**
  - Monitored to call 911 (it is not instantaneous)
  - By itself is not a deterrent
- **Sensors:**
  - Door / window opening
  - Glass break detector
  - Motion detector
  - Smoke detectors
  - Panic alarm
  - Remote notification



SimpliSafe Kit



Dakota Alert

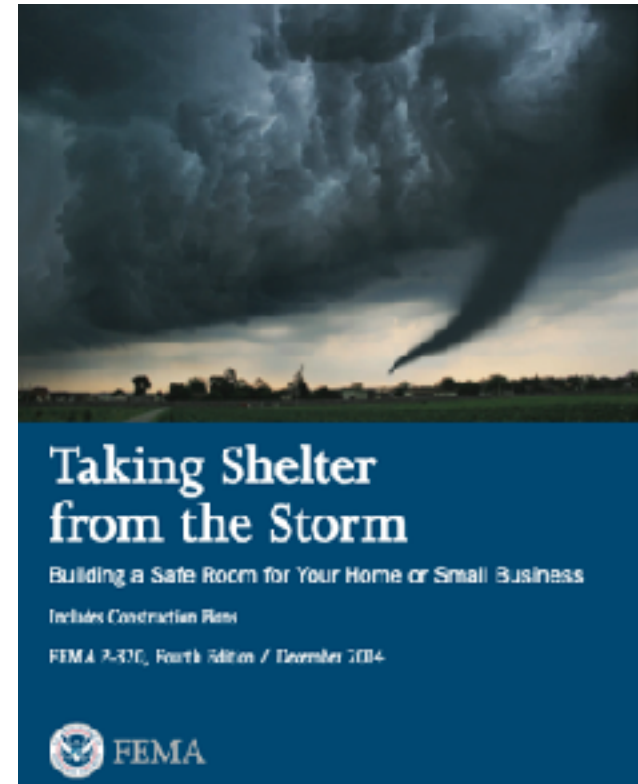
- **Long range motion detectors (Dakota Alert is a good brand)**
- **Cameras – day/night, recording stored offsite**
- **Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors**





# Safe Rooms

- **Where will you retreat from the bad guys? Safe room or get away?**
  - Stay safe
  - Call 911
  - Retreat if possible
  - Wait for help
- **Think 'tornado' safe room**
  - No windows or skylights
  - Solid core door; install securely
  - Deadbolt locks (two)
  - Electronic keypads
  - Alternate exit?
- <https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/building-safe-room-home-small-business.pdf>





# Valuables

- **Get a safe and bolt it to the floor**
  - Obscure it however possible
  - Have an alarm sensor cover it
  - Consider the Fire Protection Rating
- **Avoid common hiding places for valuables (e.g., cash in freezer, under mattress, nightstand drawer)**
- **Keep medications out of sight**
- **Record serial numbers of high-value items**
- **You really MUST have safes for handguns**

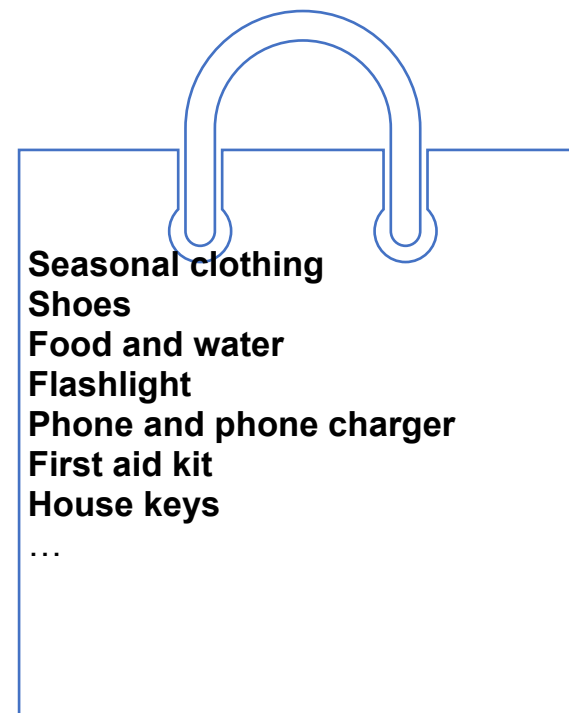


Handgun Safe

# Emergency escape from your home

Earthquake prone residents keep escape-clothes nearby: you should also

- Sturdy robe or suitable clothes for the outside weather
- Shoes
- House Keys readily available
- Small flashlight
- *Charged* cell phone



Emergency Escape Bag

# Plantings

## Anti-personnel plants:

- Barberry
- Holly
- Hawthorn
- Pyracantha
- Locust
- Quince
- Wild Rose
- Cholla
- Blackberry and raspberry bushes

- Plantings
  - Keep them trimmed to not hide people
  - Fire resistant
  - NO pine needle mulch near house (tinder waiting for a spark)



Locust Plant

# Loud annoying critters

- Bad guys don't like dogs at houses
- Hit-or-miss as an alarm
- Not necessary to be trained, just noisy
- Training can be very expensive



Always on the alert!

# Preparing to be away from home

## Make your own personal checklist

- ☒ Cut the lawn
- ☒ Stop mail or have someone pick it up
- ☒ Stop deliveries or have someone pick them up
- ☒ Set up lights on timers
- ☒ Lock outbuildings and crawlspaces
- ☒ Set your alarms
- ☒ Lock the garage doors
- ☒ Close windows and drapes
- ☒ Notify a trusted neighbor who has a key
- ☒ Notify credit card companies
- ☒ Can a neighbor turn off the generator if needed?
- ☒ Other ...
- ☒ Other ...
- ☒ Other ...



# Family drills

- **Family action code words**
  - Where to assemble
  - Who does what
  - Plan for the young children
  - Rally points
  - *Never joke* once the drill is established
- **Family vacation drill**
  - Keep your preparations to yourself
  - Don't share vacation planning - think twice (three times) about social media posts
  - Limit what you tell others
- **Family lock it up drill**
  - All doors at night (double check!) and every time you leave the house
  - When driving and whenever you park and leave your vehicle
- **Family every day carry drill**

# Stay Left of Bang!

**This is the time to prepare:  
Don't be a victim.**

**This is the time to react:  
Call 911 and STAY ON THE PHONE**

