

RIDGEFIELD COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Summer Newsletter

August 2025

Welcome to our first Ridgefield CERT update! We plan to issue these updates quarterly and hope these provide you with information on the great work that Ridgefield's CERT members have been doing in our community. These updates will also highlight upcoming training and volunteer opportunities and we welcome your feedback on what you would like to see in future issues.

Upcoming CERT Volunteer Opportunities

HOLD THE DATE!

Sept. 21 – Safety Day at ERMS
from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Oct. 25 – Quarterly meeting at
8:30 am in the EOC

Nov. 28 – Main Street tree lighting

Additional details on each event
will be sent via Ridgefield Alerts
CERT notifications.

Updates from the CERT Leadership Team

The past quarter has been a busy one. In April we received a \$1,750 grant from the Ridgefield Thrift Shop. Sean McEvoy, Gerri Lewis and Carl Kristoffersen represented CERT at the grant awards ceremony. The funds from this grant will

be used to support training activities throughout the year



In May we welcomed a new group of interns from Ridgefield High School. In addition to taking the required training to be CERT members, as part of their internship they also completed:

- A revamp of the damage reporting system for OEM/RPD/RFD/Highway use. Improvements include real time mapping and auto updates. The resident reporting form now goes directly to a map that residents can see.
- Planning for all aspects of CERT participation in 4th of July fireworks to include CERT personnel locations and logistics for comms.
- Research on specialized first aid kits for CERTs out in the community during events
- A complete revamp of the standard operating procedures for CERT/OEM operations of the

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EOC, phone bank and PIO functions.



The CERT interns, along with the interns from Town Hall, were also provided with training in AED/CPR, Narcan administration and Stop the Bleed.

In July, Sean McEvoy, Matt Hicks and Gerri Lewis did a presentation at the Ridgefield Library on the role of CERT in our community, volunteer opportunities and the training required. The team went over how to prep for storm events, how to get information via Ridgefield Alerts and a demonstration of Ridgefield Reports (ridgefieldreports.com/) which enables residents to report storm damage in real-time, aiding in locating problems and damage during emergencies.



CERT Activities

While we haven't been deployed for any actual emergency events this year, CERT members have supported several activities over the past few months.

May – CERT members supported the American Legion Post 78 at the Memorial Day Parade. CERT members, along with several interns, helped at the parade (staging marchers/floats, providing communications and other logistical support). Based on feedback from team members at the post-parade debrief the consensus was that additional volunteers would be helpful for this scale of event.

June – support was provided to the Ridgefield Triathlon. CERT team members were deployed to support the half-mile swim in Great Pond. It was an early and chilly start for all! Not all the competitors completed the swim, but lifeguards pre-deployed in kayaks near the swim lanes ensured that those who couldn't were brought back to shore safely.

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July – the July 4th fireworks at Tiger Hollow drew a large crowd this year and CERT members were on hand to provide additional public safety support. The event went off without a hitch and was enjoyed by all!

July – Summerfest 2025 saw Main Street packed with vendors, sidewalk sales, entertainers and lots of people enjoying it all.



CERT members staffed a booth encouraging residents to sign up for Ridgefield Alerts, as well as educating members of the community on CERT activities and how they can get involved. Several people expressed interest in participating in the next CERT training class.

Training

Did you know that training is available from the Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security? Check out what's on offer at

www.CT.Train.Org. Upcoming webinars include:

Wednesday, Sep 17, 2025, at 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM EDT.

Focus on Cybersecurity – this session details digital security and cyberthreats. Trends, forecasts, and mitigation efforts will be discussed.

Tuesday, Nov 18, 2025, at 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM EST

Search & Rescue – this session covers essential strategies, practical tips, and best practices for effective search and rescue efforts

Registration is through CT.Train.org. To register, please:

1. Create a free account (or sign in if you have an account already)
2. Join the CT DEMHS group by entering "CTDEMHS" in your profile under "Manage Groups" in the "Join By Group Code" line
3. Follow the instructions for searching and registering for upcoming training sessions.