



NEWS IN A NUTSHELL
 By Dinky the ranch squirrel
 I'm a squirrel!
 Always check information for accuracy.
www.feantm.com is where I live



The CERT TEAM – Coummunity Emergency Response and Critter Emergency Response Teams

CERT

Critter Emergency Response Team



**Alan from
 Livermore,
 Our CERT
 Trainer**



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Our volunteer team to date – we are always recruiting new members and happy when one of ours gets promoted to a global job helping with disasters in other countries!

We try to make the stories fun to read, but also a learning experience from information we have gathered. Whatever country you're in always check information how to be prepared with your country agencies.

We found, on Facebook, information by Alan of Livermore, CA who has a Public Group on Facebook – “CERT Volunteers in Your Own Neighborhood.” We paraphrased a few notations to incorporate it for any country, town, community, village.

- **Find and draw or print maps for roads and locations where you live. Mark your map with potential escape routes.**
- **Your pets are part of the emergency preparedness plan, and like any family member, animals can experience significant stress, fear of separation, and threats to their survival when disaster strikes. Check locally for your areas evacuation and safety planning.**
- **Essential Workers Don't Always Wear Badges. Locate information from your country or local emergency response teams - be prepared to help your neighbors when the next event instantly happens. All countries need to be ready – you can be part of the solution.**



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Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.



ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS USA

related to the immediate response and the medium to long-term reconstruction needs of the population. For natural disasters, they design and construct buildings meant to protect people during a disaster. For example, they design buildings that can withstand an earthquake.

Engineers Without Borders' Disaster Response Program

responds to recovery and reconstruction needs of communities affected by disasters. At the request of our in-country clients, our volunteers conduct engineering assessments and provide technical advisory services



Francisco and Anna meeting with military representatives

ARUP UK - Lessons learned in an earthquake's aftermath, Kelsey Eichhorn: Disasters are never entirely natural; the risks inherent in our environment can be amplified or diminished by any number of factors, from culture to politics and economics. Similarly, building back effectively after events like hurricanes and earthquakes is never a simple construction exercise. ... Two Arup staff members traveled to Ecuador in the wake of April's 7.8-magnitude earthquake.

National disaster management system - Italy - Italy is one of the most exposed countries to natural risks in the world (seismic, volcanic, tsunami, hydrogeological, hydraulic, and forest fires are the most relevant). Specific emergency plans are necessary to prepare the civil protection structures to face and manage an emergency...



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Town Supervisor - The steps to boop Dinky on the nose. Dinky finally let me boop his nose, or her nose. Either way it's a squirrel nose. Yep, you can tell someone is retired and living to many years out in the county when they feel accomplishment because they can boop a squirrel on its nose.

First, I fed Dinky sunflower seeds. He now has something he can research and concentrate on. He thinks, "hmmmm, sunflower seeds!"

Slowly you add more food so your hand is moving and since he is an engineer squirrel he is thinking about optimization of his food, "HMMMMM, MOM has more food!"



NOW, here is where it gets tricky – You don't want Dinky to think you are getting close to steal his food. You don't want him to think, "hmmm Mom is going to take my sunflower seeds?"

I just keep speaking to him while he thinks, "Hmmm, I wish Mom would stop speaking so I can concentrate on eating. She's always speaking!" AND, we go in for the nose boop!!!!



WARNING! DO not try this at home – you need to be a highly skilled Squirrel Nose Booper!

Yes, I have just proved that I need a new hobby



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I'm getting ready for the winter – I've been storing sunflower seeds. Mom puts sunflower seeds on the ground and I stuff them in my mouth and store them. Then she yells about a budget and is not putting more sunflower seeds down. Then she says terrible words, but she gets me more sunflower seeds.

Taylor is helping exercise Quincy & Dusty. Mom is putting the miniature horses on a low-starch diet! I hope my sunflower seeds are low in starch - I'm not giving them up! I wonder if Mom is going to give up her cookies!



Alan advised, "When Your New Rescue Dog is Former Infantry...He loves digging holes. And then sitting in them staring at everybody," I wanted to hire the dog to dig a hole. Mom said that we do enough damage. Wrong – he dug a lookout! I wanted a lookout.



Mom screamed, "SNAKE!" The Squirrel CERT team raced to assist. I yelled, "DON'T kill it, it has little legs!" Mom was looking at it's tail then thought the body rings were a snake! Our job isn't easy – time for sunflower seeds! Another disaster averted!



Mom said, "Look at the next pasture & strive to be different like the one cow." I didn't want to hurt her feelings and explain that the squirrels on the ranch are one color! Moooooo Moooooo – We squirrels have no idea what that means – I looked on my google translator and told Mom it means give the squirrels more sunflower seeds!





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Mom yelled at me that she already put out a 2-quart scoop of sunflower seeds. I'm a squirrel - I don't measure quarts - I do squirrel measuring - fill your cheeks measuring. When I can't fit any more sunflower seeds in my mouth then I know it's enough. Easier than trying to measure it like Mom does!

Chester decided to stay very still and keep eating. He was pretending he didn't hear Mom tell us what we call, "WHAT is Mom trying to give advice about?" Mom is babbling something about you don't have to follow the line just because they're in front of you. I tried to explain to her that we're squirrels, we don't walk in a line - those are cattle that is what cows and cattle do! Mom was then going to go talk to them about walking in a line! It's not an easy job for the CERT Squirrel team keeping Mom safe from disasters.



WHAT is with humans and nose booping! Our CERT Squirrel team teaches that noses are for breathing and not nose booping! We need Alan to teach a nose boop disaster course: "Don't Boop, Save A Finger." Geordan nose booped Quincy and last month Mom nose booped me. Do. Not. Nose. BOOP!





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Alan from the neighboring town taught us to always be prepared (CERT training) for a potential disaster. We had to run and save Quincy. First mistake - Mom walked Quincy right past an open road gate. Did Mom stop and shut the gate? NO, she kept walking! That's a disaster waiting to happen!

Luckily the Squirrel CERT Team was on watch! Mom was walking Quincy to the arena. Quincy is a miniature horse built like a small tank! We heard Mom yell, "OH NO, BOBCAT!" Bob was racing home to our ranch from across the road, to avoid a car. He ran by Mom and Quincy and screamed, "OH NO HORSE!" Quincy panicked, reared up, and started bucking and kicking at anything. Mom had to jump out of the way and drop the lead line. Quincy went running. ENTER the Squirrel CERT Team – we raced toward the gate and waved at Quincy while yelling, "Quincy, run this way to the barn – follow us!" He raced right past that gate and followed us to the barn! We gave Mom a safety lecture, a citation and a fine of a pound of sunflower seeds!



Do NOT BOOP NOSES! Alan taught us that last month! What does Taylor do? She tried to nose boop a baby duck. How do you even find its little nose to boop? She first gave Ducky a treat so it was already thinking – Taylor gives treats. I call below a Nose Boop Fail. Score: Taylor boop 0 – Ducky bite 1





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My Aunt Sabyl is a Veterinarian Tech and FEANTM Editor. Aunt Sabyl rescues animals. I'm the head of the CERT Squirrel team. I explained not to nose boop! Aunt Sabyl then showed me her nose boop pictures. I had to issue her a Dinky Citation! Why do humans Nose Boop? Did you ever boop a nose?





CERT - Community Emergency Response Team
 Dinky the ranch lead CERT Squirrel
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We asked Alan from the neighboring town to continue our town training for our CERT. Every country needs a plan. We should all do our part – civilians, trained professionals, volunteers, and even engineers! **Did you know that among the first engineers to respond to a disaster are civil engineers? They assist by identifying safe zones for rescue operations, assessing buildings' structural integrity, and determining transportation network usability.**

This month, the Squirrel team realized from a class how important it is to learn self-sufficiency during a disaster. We learned skills so we can provide emergency assistance to our human neighbors. Mom, in particular, has to learn to keep calm and think of her plan. Mom tends to run around and needs to remember the plan. Not what you are supposed to do in a disaster – that's why it's called a plan!

Alan is helping us put a new program in place! It's an online information course. We are putting a copy of Alameda County's new Hybrid basic CERT training program in place. Does your country have one?

Our town training will be a copy of theirs - they introduce you to [the Alameda CERT program, local hazards, and city preparedness, all from the comfort of your home via a Zoom meeting.](#)

The entire squirrel team will take it, and they say once we complete the online curriculum, we will be invited to participate in a whole weekend of in-person, hands-on skills training and a final exercise.

The Alameda Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program is the organizational umbrella for neighborhood teams of trained volunteers who live and/or work in the City of Alameda.

Our Town Fire Department will follow their procedures. We have FEANTM Supervisor permissions to put in place what they have – “Under the guidance of the Alameda Fire Department, with oversight from the Alameda CERT Executive Committee (ACEC), volunteers receive basic emergency response training, practice skills during neighborhood drills, and advocate neighborhood preparedness. Following a disaster, CERT volunteers provide aid and assistance to the limit of their training within coordinated relief operations to reduce the impact on their community. Alameda CERT responds to community needs with urgency, care, impartiality, and humane treatment for all inhabitants.”



We need to be ready to help the global community - Early last year, we went to Turkey! Okay, we didn't go to Turkey, but we did cheer on the USAID Urban Search and Rescue teams from Fairfax and Los Angeles County Fire Departments who went to Turkey.

These two teams were part of the USAID DART that helped Turkey. They traveled to Turkey from California, the US, to assess the situation, identify priority humanitarian needs, and work to provide search and rescue.

Global help is needed in disasters. As The Squirrel CERT Team, we are learning how to deal with it locally to help our neighbors.

We are the Squirrel CERT TEAM!



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February

Sam is my cousin and the proud leader of the ranch CERT, Critter Emergency Response Team

Sam educates the ranch critters about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. CERT members can assist other critters in their neighborhood following an event when professional human responders are not immediately available to help.

Sam is an extraordinary squirrel running the ranch for RheKen, the town AI reporter.



Not your average forager, Sam is the proud leader of the Critter Emergency Response Team (CERT), a squad dedicated to ensuring the safety and well-being of all farm inhabitants and training.

He also works closely with Alan, from the neighboring town, and the [Alameda County CERT](#) training us for disasters and planning strategies.

Sam takes his responsibilities seriously, with a sharp eye and an even sharper mind, patrolling the fields and documenting the seismic counters and river heights from dawn to dusk. Clipboard in paw, Sam meticulously checks off the safety protocols listed there. Sam enlisted his ranch friends to help keep the ranch animals and environment safe from disasters and emergencies.



They all voted in Fluffy the Bunny as the Second Commanding Critter. Fluffy has a degree in civil engineering and specializes in disaster relief. She helps on the ranch and other ranches needing help during a disaster. She hops right in to establish temporary shelters for the animals, develop alternative transportation routes to get the cattle and other farm animals to safety and facilitates the movement of emergency supplies.

The ranch is a tapestry of interdependent lives, and Sam is the thread that weaves them together. He dashes along fences, scampers up trees, and leaps across the barn roof, always looking for anything amiss. Sam's diligence is not just a job; it is his calling. Whether it is guiding ducklings across the pond, alerting the farmhands to a breach in the fence, or organizing a shelter-in-place drill for the field mice

during stormy flood weather, Sam does it with a commander's grace and a guardian's heart.

The ranch has yet to experience a single mishap since Sam took over the CERT squad with the assistance of Fluffy. The animals feel safer knowing Sam and Fluffy are around. Even the farmers have come to rely on his morning reports and her disaster planning strategies.

As the sun dips behind the distant hills, casting long shadows over the ranch, Sam always takes one final look around, ensuring all is calm. Then, with a nod of satisfaction beneath his cowboy hat, he tucks away his clipboard and pencil, signaling the end of another day safe and sound, thanks to the vigilant efforts of a tiny squirrel with a big mission and a fluffy hopping bunny. I'm proud of Sam and Fluffy.



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February

Coming soon I will introduce you to the rest of my team

Kai teaches first aid emergency preparedness.



Kai - a wise and resourceful coyote. Kai is not your ordinary coyote; he is an esteemed member of the (CERT) Critter Emergency Response Team, dedicated to ensuring the safety of his fellow creatures on the ranch and humans in town. This particular morning Kai gathered the inhabitants of the ranch for an important lesson. The animals, from horses to rabbits, gathered around as Kai cleared his throat and began to share information on emergency kits.

March you will meet Kai and his mate Yote

We have no budget - our critter emergency response team and had to borrow helmets and uniforms from the neighboring Fire Dept. Coming soon the Critter fire dept. and police department





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Kai - a wise and resourceful coyote. Kai is not your ordinary coyote; he is an esteemed member of the (CERT) Critter Emergency Response Team, dedicated to ensuring the safety of his fellow creatures on the ranch and humans in town.

This particular morning Kai gathered the inhabitants of the ranch for an important lesson. The animals, from horses to rabbits, gathered around as Kai cleared his throat and began to share information on emergency kits.

"Good morning Y'all. I'm the ranch coyote. My name is Kai, and my mate's name is Yote."

"First, it's important to be prepared for any kind of emergency that might come our way. I just returned from visiting The Alameda County Sheriff's Office and found out that they provide a checklist of supplies in a printer-friendly format. Yeehaw you need to print it out – **Here is the link: [pdf!](#)**"

"And a crucial part of being prepared is having a well-stocked first aid kit."

Kai then explained the contents of a proper first aid kit, his keen eyes scanning the attentive audience.

"First and foremost, we need bandages of different sizes. You never know when a scratch or a more significant injury might occur, and having bandages can make all the difference. Alan reminded me to add gauze on rolls and different sizes of gauze pads, paper tape since adhesive allergies are common, non-latex gloves due to latex allergies.

He continued, "Antiseptic wipes are a must. Keeping wounds clean is vital to prevent infections. And of course, we can't forget about tweezers and scissors – they come in handy for removing splinters or cutting bandages to the right size." Alan added, "Topical Ointments such as Aloe Vera for skin rashes for biological, chemical or radiation irritations (ABC) after you scrub down, Steri-Strip Stitches that are really small packing tape strips that the hospitals still use."

The animals nodded in agreement, realizing the importance of these items.

Kai's lessons continued as he pulled out a small flashlight and said, "In case of emergencies at night, a flashlight is essential. It helps us see and assess the situation more clearly."

He also emphasized the significance of including medications in the first aid kit, tailored to the specific needs of each creature. "Whether it's pain relievers or allergy medication, having the right medicine can be a lifesaver. And, although I don't approve of them at times a muzzle for those of you who like to bite the paw or hand that is helping you."

The sun dipped below the horizon, casting a warm glow over the town of FEANTM and on the ranch the gathered animals. It was time to end the information meeting and for the gathered animals to stop uploading what they saw and heard to YouTube, LinkedIn, their own blogs, and their rural road neighbors/animal group.



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March

Kai concluded, "Remember, friends, being part of the Critter and Community Emergency Response Team means looking out for each other. **A well-prepared first aid kit is a small but crucial step in ensuring the safety and well-being of our ranch family. Call your local CERT in your town for your location/country specific emergency kit suggestions.**"

From that day forward, the animals of the ranch took Kai's teachings to heart. They each assembled their first aid kits, knowing that being prepared for emergencies was not just a responsibility but a testament to the strength of their community. And so, under the watchful eyes of Kai the Ranch Coyote, the Ranch became a safer and more resilient place for all its inhabitants.



Fluffy has a small.
Bunny Kit

Alan has his "Pelican Kit" for Field Emergencies if he can't get to the Fire Station to set up a Minor Injury Treatment and Receiving Center in the Field. **Check with your local country team for what you need.**

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April



Once upon a time, in the quiet and picturesque town of FEANTM, nestled between rolling hills and surrounded by vast open fields, a unique team known as CERT, the Critter Emergency Response Team, played a vital role in ensuring the safety of both human and animal residents.

At the forefront of this team was Asher, a brave and dedicated firefighter mouse. Asher worked closely with Alan of the neighboring town, Livermore, on CERT and with the Livermore/Pleasanton Fire Department on new techniques, safety, and rescue.

Asher was an amazing little mouse, and Dinky was proud of Asher. Asher, known affectionately as "Firefighter Mouse," was not your average woodland creature. He had a passion for firefighting and had undergone special training to become an integral part of CERT. Recently, Asher received a state-of-the-art uniform that

could withstand intense heat, allowing him to enter burning buildings and rescue animals in need. The uniform and helmet were gifts from the Livermore/Pleasanton firefighters because Dinky has no uniform budget! They keep spending the budget on sunflower seeds!

One sunny afternoon, the CERT team received an urgent call about a house fire. Asher, donning his new flame-resistant uniform, wasted no time. With a determined look in his eyes, he jumped onto the fire truck and held onto the side, ready for action.

The firetruck screeched to a halt in front of a two-story house engulfed in flames. With his tiny firefighter helmet firmly in place, Asher leaped off the truck and scampered towards the entrance. The fire roared, and the heat was intense, but Asher's special uniform protected him from harm.

Inside the house, a distressed family had managed to escape, but their beloved cat, Whiskers, was still trapped. Despite the natural aversion mice typically have for cats, Asher focused on his duty as a firefighter. He knew that every life, regardless of species, was worth saving.

Bounding through the smoke-filled rooms with agility and determination, Asher reached the spot where Whiskers was hiding. The frightened cat, eyes wide with fear, crouched beneath a piece of furniture. Asher, unafraid, approached calmly and extended his tiny hand. With a gentle touch, he reassured Whiskers and guided the terrified feline toward the exit.

As they emerged from the burning building, Asher handed Whiskers to the grateful family. The cheers of the onlookers and the relieved expressions on the faces of the family members were all the reward Asher needed. Firefighter Mouse had once again proven that firefighters come in all shapes and sizes, and bravery knows no bounds.

The town of FEANTM celebrated Asher's heroic act, recognizing the importance of having a diverse and dedicated emergency response team. Asher, with his newfound fame, continued to inspire others. **He reminded the residents that in times of crisis, the courage and selflessness of individuals like him make a community stronger and safer for all its residents, big and small.**

Support your local Fire Department. Volunteer. Ask how you can help. Always remember they are the ones that in time of fire will do all they can to assist and save you and your pets.