



Dinky, Ranch Squirrel division for CERT.
 (Critter Emergency Response Team.
 I'm a fearless first responder, and also a journalist.
 I publish my very own *Dinky News in a Nutshell.*
 Please note: "I'm a squirrel. Always double-check for
 accuracy—after all, *you're* the human here!"



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

Critter Emergency Response Team



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We hope the stories are fun to read, but also a learning experience. The information is from social media, websites and friends. Whatever country you're in always check the information with your country agencies.



NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

I'm a squirrel!

Always check information for accuracy.



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



NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

By Dinky the ranch squirrel
I'm a squirrel! Always check
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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!

Found on Social Media, "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 the LPFD 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!





NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

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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! 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

I'm a squirrel! Always check information for accuracy.



We asked the neighboring town for advice on our 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!

The LFPD 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 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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March



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. I was reminded 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 on social media had, "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."



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March

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.

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.



Fuffy has a small kit. **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 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.



NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

By Dinky the ranch squirrel

I'm a squirrel!

Always check the information.

What did Kade find in the alley?



May



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, plays a vital role in ensuring the safety of both human and animal residents.

At the forefront of the alley incident, we find Sheriff Kade and his trusty drone, Nina. Kade is the town brave and dedicated Sheriff Raccoon. He works with The CERT trainer from the neighboring town of Livermore and with the FEANTM Police Volunteer Group.

The Town Secretary sent out a frantic text message insisting that someone was sneaking in an alley, and she was sure it was a perpetrator who would steal and cause a major disaster. She then called Sheriff Kade

Kade is known for his quick thinking and reliance on technology to aid his law enforcement duties. His newest tool in the fight against crime was a state-of-the-art drone he named Nina. It is equipped with advanced cameras and sensors, perfect for search and rescue missions and assessing situations prior to engaging.



The Town Secretary was adamant that she had seen someone moving in the alley who didn't belong, insisting it was some type of out-of-town perpetrator going to cause a major town disaster. Sheriff Kade sprang into action without hesitation, racing to the scene with Nina in tow. She had no business staying at the scene, but we all know she's a nosey person!

Arriving swiftly, Kade parked his patrol car discreetly and retrieved Nina from the backseat. With practiced ease, he launched Nina the drone into the air, directing it to hover over the reported location and transmit live video feedback to his handheld device. As Kade observed the footage, his sharp eyes caught movement near a dumpster, confirming The Town Secretary's suspicions. The Secretary yelled a suggestion that Kade should be prepared and draw his weapon, but Kade remained composed, trusting Nina's capabilities.

With precision, Nina maneuvered closer, revealing the source of the movement - a mother cat and her litter of kittens. Kade couldn't help but smile at the harmless sight. There seemed no disaster danger lurking in the shadows this time, only a family of felines seeking shelter.

Returning his attention to the task at hand, Kade emerged from the alley, gently cradling the mother cat and her kittens in his arms. The Town Secretary watched in disbelief as the supposed threat transformed into a heartwarming rescue. Of course, she yelled, "It could have been a perpetrator and emergency disaster!"

As Kade returned to his patrol car, he decided that these adorable kittens deserved a chance at a better life. With that in mind, he brought them home, and his family eagerly welcomed the new additions. Kade also lived on a cattle ranch, and his place was overrun with mice - that may also have played into his decision to keep Mom and kittens—but everyone was happy!

Ultimately, what started as a perpetrator and disaster call became a reminder of the compassion and humanity that Kade embodied in his FEANTM town role. As for Nina, his trusty drone proved invaluable in keeping the town safe, one rescue mission and surveillance at a time.

Search and rescue remain a core mission for modern police drones. Armed with cameras, thermal sensors and GPS, drones are able to arrive on-scene quickly, hover over a search location and provide high-quality photographs, video and coordinate information. Support law enforcement in your country.



NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

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June



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, plays a vital role in ensuring the safety of both human and animal residents by working closely the neighboring town of Livermore and local Police, Sheriffs, and Firefighters.

On this ranch there lived a peculiar animal named Harvey. Unlike his fellow woodland creatures who spent their days scurrying for Sunflower Seeds or other food Harvey had a different passion—he was deeply engrossed in civil engineering. (Yes, I did say Civil Engineering – read his helmet)

With a degree in Civil Engineering tucked under his tiny arm, Harvey possessed a keen eye for structure, design, and problem-solving. His mind buzzed with structural blueprints and calculations, and he often found himself pondering over how to make their habitat safer from disasters.

One day Harvey was reading publications by Arup Civil Engineering Department and contemplating the stability of a nearby oak tree. Looking toward the road he noticed the LPD and the Livermore Fire Department talking about the area. They were discussing the importance of disaster preparedness, highlighting the need for a comprehensive plan to safeguard the ranch, and have evacuation plans in place.

Eager to contribute his expertise, Harvey approached the group, offering his assistance. The officials were initially taken aback by the sight of a him wearing his civil engineering helmet proposing to help with such serious matters, but Harvey quickly won them over with his civil engineering expertise.

With their help Harvey conducted workshops on disaster preparedness, teaching the critters and humans how to minimize risks and stay safe in the face of natural or man-made disasters. He explained the importance of identifying hazards, fortifying shelters, and developing evacuation plans.

- **Think about emergencies that may require your family to shelter in place (such as a storm), vs. emergencies that may require evacuation (such as a fire.)**
- **Plan what to do in case you are separated during an emergency**
- **Choose two places to meet up:**
 - **Right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, such as a fire.**
 - **Outside your neighborhood, in case you cannot return home or are asked to evacuate**
- **Carry emergency contact information in writing and saved on your cell phones.**
- **If using special medication, have it in writing and saved on your cell phones**
- **If you have a medical condition, have it in writing and saved on your cell phone**

Soon enough, Harvey found himself appointed as the official ranch consultant outlining steps for future workshops for fire, earthquake and man-made disasters. Some of the ranch animals particularly the Ravens laughed, called him a Nerd, and said they would just fly away. Undeterred by their skepticism, he explained that if they were in heavy smoke that they may not be able to take to the sky and they needed to be prepared.

With his guidance, the future workshops would be assigned to a CERT volunteer teaching one part each month. **From that day onward they refrained from calling him a nerd. You never know when that nerd could be the one who rescues you by using their wealth of knowledge.**

Harvey bought a second helmet that read, “Nerds Rule”



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July

Once upon a time, in the quiet and picturesque town of FEANTM, nestled between rolling hills and surrounded by vast open fields, there existed a unique team known as CERT, the Critter Emergency Response Team. This dedicated group played a vital role in ensuring the safety of both human and animal residents by working closely with the neighboring town of Livermore and the local police, sheriffs, and firefighters.



Clayton, a squirrel firefighter with a keen intellect and a heart brimming with courage, lived on a serene ranch within this idyllic setting. Clayton's reputation for quick thinking and decisive action in emergencies made him a valued member of CERT. His small stature belied his formidable knowledge and skills, especially regarding fire safety. One sunny afternoon, as Clayton reviewed emergency procedures with the local critters, his sharp ears picked up the distant sound of crackling flames. Alarmed, he scampered to the highest branch of the nearest oak tree and saw smoke billowing from the neighbor's pasture. A fire had broken out, threatening the ranch's and its inhabitants' safety. He quickly dialed 911

Clayton quickly descended and sounded the alarm, alerting CERT and the local emergency services. The team sprang into action, coordinating efforts to contain the blaze. A friend, who had been working on fire prevention strategies with Clayton, quickly mobilized resources from Livermore while the police, sheriffs, and firefighters converged on the scene.



Among the ranch residents was Fluffy, a curious and adventurous bunny who loved documenting events with her camera.

When Fluffy saw the fire, her first instinct was to hop out and take pictures, hoping to monitor the fire's direction. However, Clayton had repeatedly emphasized the importance of following safety protocols during emergencies.

Clayton had taught Fluffy that the first priority was always to ensure one's own safety and then help others if possible. Remembering Clayton's teachings, Fluffy hesitated, clutching her camera tightly in her paws, but she couldn't resist taking pictures. **She was proud of the personnel who flew the helicopters, dropping fire retardant to save the pasture from burning toward her.** Just then, Clayton appeared at her side, stern but caring. "Fluffy, remember the lessons I've taught you," Clayton's voice was firm but gentle. "Your





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July



Fluffy nodded, her ears twitching with a mix of fear and determination. She carefully stowed her camera and joined the other critters in following Clayton's precise instructions. They swiftly evacuated the vulnerable areas, ensuring no one was left behind, and then turned their attention to guiding the human residents to safety.

The fire department acted swiftly, deploying ground crews to battle the raging flames. Helicopters roared overhead, dropping flame retardant in a desperate attempt to contain the fire's relentless spread. The coordinated efforts of the firefighters, police, sheriffs, and CERT members were crucial in this intense situation.

As the flames began to subside and the smoke cleared, it became evident that the worst had been averted. **The firefighters had saved the day, their bravery and expertise shining through.** Clayton gathered the critters and residents to ensure everyone was accounted for and safe.

After the immediate danger had passed, Clayton approached Fluffy **"You did the right thing today, Fluffy, you followed safety protocols and helping others are the most important actions in an emergency."**

Fluffy looked up at Clayton, gratitude and respect in her eyes. "Thank you, Clayton, I understand now. I'll always remember what you taught me. I promise not to take pictures, until we have done all the protocols."

Among the things to remember:

- Make sure your evacuation kits are ready to go – for yourself, your family and your pets – in case you need to leave. Medications, phone numbers, extra cash, medical
- You may be the first one to spot a fire or a "hot spot," so call 911 immediately if you see a fire, even if it's a small one.
- If your home is gated, leave the gate propped open to allow fire fighters easy access to your property. Connect garden hoses to outside taps.

In the months that followed, the town of FEANTM rallied together to repair the damage and restore their beloved ranch pasture. The incident had strengthened the bonds among the residents and underscored the importance of working together in times of crisis following fire department and CERT guidelines.

And so, under the watchful eyes of CERT and the guidance of heroes like Clayton, FEANTM and its inhabitants continued to thrive, knowing they could face any challenge that came their way. The picturesque town remained a beacon of safety and unity, a testament to the power of teamwork and the bravery of its smallest hero.

Stay Safe – Be Prepared – Know the emergency protocols for where you live.



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August

We thank Charlotte of Wyoming for sharing her squirrel, Kindy. We also thank Keith for the pictures and graphics. First, this has a happy ending—happy pictures are at the end.



The story of Kindy the Squirrel teaches us a valuable lesson: never give up and be brave in the face of adversity. This lesson applies to Kindy's story and our lives, especially regarding emergency preparedness. Even in the darkest of times, there is always a glimmer of hope and a chance for a happily ever after.

Remember - Dinky was taught that when you need help, dial 911. They will evaluate your emergency and dispatch the necessary aid such as the Police, Firefighters, and EMTs. Your CERT leader will call in his team. You are not alone—you have help in your community. Keep your emergency phone numbers with you.

Kindy was peacefully munching on her favorite sunflower seeds under the shade

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



This is about Dinky's cousin Kindy, who lives in Wyoming. Wyoming has CERT in all communities.

Out of the clear blue sky swooped a pair of hawks, their sharp talons aimed at Kindy. With lightning-fast reflexes, Kindy dodged the initial attack, but not without sustaining serious injuries to her pretty face.

Gathering her wits amidst the chaos, she curled up, and called for help - what any clever squirrel would do.

She called out, "Siri, I need help!" on her tiny acorn-shaped phone.

Siri answered, "Calling 911 & your cousin DINKY in California!" (Siri is a digital assistant - part of Apple Inc.)

Dinky quickly relayed the message to the town over the emergency loudspeaker. "Hello, this is Dinky," he squeaked urgently. "My cousin lives in Wyoming. Kindy has been attacked by out-of-town rogue hawks while she was just minding her own business!"

Wyoming 911 quickly dispatched the local Police and fire department. Additionally, they notified the Wyoming CERT leader, who quickly pulled together his team to aid Kindy, and they all arrived swiftly.

They spotted the hawks circling menacingly above, and with great skill and determination, they managed to apprehend the aggressors. The hawks were taken away to be relocated, squawking threats of revenge at Kindy. The hawks were lucky that the Police apprehended them before the FEANTM Secretary and RheKen arrived in Wyoming to apprehend them. They were not local hawks. These two hawks were known in Wyoming as gangster hawks that terrorized locally for their own entertainment. (The rogue hawks were really lucky that our Town Supervisor hadn't arrived yet).



NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

By Dinky the ranch squirrel

I'm a squirrel!

Always check the information.



August



Kindy was shaking & crying. Dinky was advised by Charlotte's neighbor, Ms. Thorn, that the humane thing would be for Kindy to be euthanized or left to complete the circle of life. That advice didn't go over very well.

Dinky heard Kindy shout, "Dinky, please help me!" Firefighters told Kindy, "Don't worry Kindy, we're transporting you for medical treatment." They carefully placed Kindy into a carrier

Everyone screamed and chanted into the phone at Ms. Thorn: "NO WAY – GO AWAY – NEVER Come Another Day!" (we like rhymes)

Dinky loudly screeched, "Kindy is not being left for the circle of life! Talk to our Town Supervisor and Charlotte!"

Everyone urgently yelled, "NO, save yourself and don't talk to them – they're the ones who arranged and paid for transport. Stay far away from both those women, especially the town supervisor!"



Arriving on the scene came a handsome FBI agent named Agent Ryan. He calmly said in a voice full of confidence and authority, "I've got this. I'm the FBI. After Kindy recovers, she'll come with me for her protection."

"The hawks have threatened revenge, and I'm pulling Kindy into the Wyoming Squirrel Witness Protection Program (WSWPP). It's a secret network. Whisper if you mention it."

They all agreed, recognizing the danger Kindy was now in due to her remarkable bravery in reporting the attack.

Chapter 2 - KINDY In REHAB



Her caretaker said it was touch and go for a while with special medicine, care, bottle feeding, antibiotics, and anti-inflammatories. Then Kindy started to hold food on her own, using her little paws. She enjoyed being brushed with a tiny soft toothbrush (done so Kindy could feel the comfort of touch.) Also, she discovered apple slices, but she's limited due to the sugar!

Kindy, now blind from the hawk attack, never lost her courage. She adapted to her new surroundings in the safe house provided by WSWPP.

She is warm and secure. Only the Police, firefighters, and FBI Agent Ryan know the location. When asked where Kindy is, he calmly replies, "Only the Shadow knows." It's only known as The Safe Place. Kindy uses an acorn-shaped burner phone to call Dinky. Kindy continues in her new home, surrounded by plenty of squirrel-stimulating toys and food.

Note: NEVER, EVER try to handle any type of injured or frightened animal without the appropriate gloves, training, equipment, etc. Your safety comes first – Call for help.

NOW ON TO THE NEXT PAGE AND HAPPY ENDING!



NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

By Dinky the ranch squirrel

I'm a squirrel!

Always check the information.



August

TA DA DA DAAAAA! (happy bugle sound)
Now, Kindy sleeps soundly.



Additionally, Kindy now has a habitat in which to live.

She is phasing into more adaptive learning as a blind, happy squirrel who loves her new toys, food, climbing, and burrowing in her yellow blanket.

FBI Agent Ryan has advised us that we can only post limited updates on Kindy. Know that she is happy and safe.

Donated by NASA, and The US Military, Kindy now has special equipment that turns the daily California ranch camera visuals into audio squirrel speech, She can keep track of her cousin Dinky, the ranch, and give her opinion on safety to the town of FEANTM.

Kindy became a symbol of resilience and bravery. Despite her blindness, she could still hear the rustling of leaves and feel the warmth of the sun on her fur. She is safe, she is loved and Charlotte and Keith visit Kindy daily. Kindy is full of confidence, strength, and determination.



The old Rancher and Town Secretary drive Dinky to Wyoming monthly to visit Kindy at the local coffee shop.

Agent Ryan makes them wear disguises for secrecy.

EPILOGUE – Yes, Agent Ryan fell in love with Kindy and proposed marriage. Kindy accepted!!

I told you it would be a happy ending!



Last, we are very proud of FEANTM neighboring town of Livermore-Pleasanton fire department! They assist all distress calls!

Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department's Engine 92. (Photo from The Patch – July 2024)

Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department firefighters rescued a kitten from Inside a Car Engine Compartment

Support your local police, firefighters, CERT & EMT's – They are there to help you!



Dinky News in a Nutshell©
By Dinky the ranch squirrel



September

I'm a squirrel!
Always check the information

Once upon a time, in the quiet and picturesque town of FEANTM, nestled between rolling hills and surrounded by vast open fields, there existed a tiny firefighter named Guido. Guido was part of the town Fire Department and CERT, the Critter Emergency Response Team. This dedicated group played a vital role in ensuring the safety of both human and animal residents by working closely with a neighboring town. Additionally, with Global CERT teams, the local police, sheriffs, and firefighters.

Despite Guido's small stature, his heart and courage were enormous. Guido had undergone extensive firefighter training from the Livermore Pleasanton Fire Department and was well-known in FEANTM for his bravery and kindness, especially towards animals.

Firefighters answer more than fires. They answer distress calls (even for the smallest of kittens to horses that fall in a ditch, respond to emergency and non-emergency incidents; provide appropriate services as required, including emergency rescue and fire suppression; perform search and rescue for trapped or injured persons; perform emergency medical and first aid services as needed. Now, on to the story about Guido!



One sunny afternoon, Guido was enjoying a peaceful walk through the town square when a faint, distressed meowing reached his ears. **Guido's sharp eyes scanned the area and soon spotted a tiny white kitten, its vulnerability evident as it was perched precariously on a high branch of a tree.** The kitten was scared to look down and stared straight ahead, not moving.



Calmly, Guido spoke to the kitten, "Look at me, little kitten. I'll help you." **The kitten looked over at Guido and stood up, quivering as it cried out for help, its tiny claws gripping the branch tightly.** "Guido, I'm scared to climb down." Without a moment's hesitation, Guido sprang into action. He dashed to the fire station, where the bright red fire truck stood ready. He grabbed his rescue gear that he would need for the rescue and dashed back to the tree.



He extended the ladder but realized the kitten climbed higher! Guido repositioned the ladder to go higher. He wasn't fond of climbing such a high tree when he started as a firefighter. Still, in his firefighter training, he overcame all his doubts by continuing to repeat staged real-life situations. He was now confident enough to climb the ladder. Up and higher, he climbed!



The town residents were on edge, holding their breath as they watched. Unable to bear the suspense, the secretary hid behind the rancher, urging him to tell her what was happening. The tension in the air was thick, adding to the situation's urgency.





By Dinky the ranch squirrel
I'm a squirrel!
Always check the information



Guido ascended the ladder with the precision and confidence of a seasoned firefighter, climbing higher and higher until he reached the branch that the frightened kitten was holding onto.

Speaking softly and reassuringly, Guido climbed onto the tree and extended a gentle hand toward the kitten.

"Hey there, little one. It's okay, I'm here to help you," Guido said, his voice a soothing balm in the tense situation.

The kitten, sensing Guido's kind intentions, cautiously stepped onto his hand, a silent but powerful gesture of trust. Guido carefully cradled the kitten close to his chest and began the descent down the ladder. The crowd below, again, held their breath, watching in awe as Guido and the kitten safely reached the ground. The secretary finally peeked over the old rancher's shoulder when he said they were safe.



Once on solid ground, Guido gently set the kitten down and knelt beside it. "You're safe now," Guido whispered, stroking the kitten's soft fur.

The kitten looked up at Guido with wide, grateful eyes and let out a tiny, contented purr. The townsfolk erupted into cheers and applause, celebrating the successful rescue. Guido smiled and lifted the kitten into his arms, feeling a special bond forming between them. "I think you need a home," Guido said softly. "How about staying with me?" The kitten meowed in agreement. From that day forward, the kitten would accompany Guido to the fire station, lounging in a cozy bed while he did his duties. The kitten quickly became the beloved mascot of the fire station.

And so, in the picturesque town of FEANTM, nestled between rolling hills and surrounded by vast open fields, Guido the tiny firefighter and the rescued kitten lived happily ever after. WAIT – that wasn't the end of the story!



The following week, FEANTM firefighter Tommy rescued two more kittens.

(Yes, we did locate Mom Cat, have her spayed, and adopt her into a happy home—okay, Tommy adopted the two kittens and Mom Cat!)

SUPPORT YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT – THEY SAVE LIVES – All lives!



Los Angeles County firefighters rescued a horse



*A dog was rescued by firefighters in Orange County
PHOTO: Orange County Fire Authority*



Dinky News in a Nutshell©
By Dinky the ranch squirrel



October

I'm a squirrel!
Always check the information

Once upon a time, in the quiet and picturesque town of FEANTM, nestled between rolling hills and surrounded by vast open fields, there existed a Police Officer named Harry. Harry was part of the town Police Department Animal Services and CERT, the Critter Emergency Response Team. This dedicated group played a vital role in ensuring the safety of both human and animal residents by working closely with a neighboring town and, additionally, with Global CERT teams, the local police, Sheriffs, and firefighters.

The town was sweltering under a relentless sun, the thermometer climbing well past 100 degrees. The air shimmered with heat waves, making the asphalt seem like a mirage. Harry, a seasoned Police Animal Services Officer with a calm demeanor and a sharp focus, was on duty that afternoon. Harry followed his usual routine, responding to calls regarding the oppressive heat.

As he finished paperwork at the station, a call crackled over the radio: "Possible heatstroke puppy in a vehicle. Location: FEANTM Central Plaza." Harry's heart sank. Parked cars and shoppers filled the plaza, seeking refuge from the sun, but he knew the risk of heatstroke in this weather was high, especially for an animal left in a car unattended.



Without hesitation, Harry grabbed his emergency bag and raced towards the scene. When he arrived, a small crowd gathered around a parked sedan; the vehicle's owner had only slightly cracked but was still insufficient for ventilation.

Harry looked in the window. He could hear the desperate whimpers of a puppy, but he couldn't see the puppy. The puppy was lying on its side, panting from the heat, and its tiny form was barely visible against the seat.



Finally, after the puppy kept whimpering more and more, it managed to crawl over and up to the window. The puppy's eyes met Harry's through the glass, a desperate plea for help that Harry couldn't ignore.

The car was in the shade, but even so, the internal temperature was unbearable for a pet.

Inside outside Car Temp	Outside	10	30
	Degrees	min	min
	70	89	104
	75	94	109
	80	99	114
	85	104	119
	90	109	124
	95	114	129





Dinky News in a Nutshell©
By Dinky the ranch squirrel



October

I'm a squirrel!
Always check the information



"Clear the area," Harry instructed. He assessed the situation swiftly.

Harry swiftly reached for his gear with the puppy's life in balance. He retrieved a small yet sturdy emergency toolkit. Harry was acutely aware that every second counted. He didn't hesitate as he shattered the passenger-side window.

The safety glass shattered into a glittering cascade. Harry's voice was soothing, "Come here, little one, let's get you cooled off." With practiced precision, he reached in and gently but swiftly rescued the distressed puppy from the sweltering car.

The dog was panting heavily, its fur matted with sweat. Nearby, concerned onlookers murmured among themselves. The secretary quickly took pictures of the rescue. She'd already called the coffee shop that she had town news to tell them of the rescue.

Harry cradled the puppy carefully, moving his hands swiftly to stabilize its tiny body. He immediately placed it on a cool, damp cloth he'd kept in his rescue bag for emergencies. With a gentle touch, he began to cool the puppy down, placing a second wet cloth on its neck and legs while checking its pulse and breathing.

After stabilizing the puppy's condition, he addressed the crowd. "Everyone, please listen up," he said firmly, His voice carrying over the murmurs. "It's hazardous to leave any living being—whether a child or a pet—in a car, especially in this heat. The inside of a vehicle can quickly become an oven, even in the shade. Just a few minutes can be enough to cause serious harm or even death." It was a reminder of the importance of his role—not just in high-stakes disaster situations but in everyday acts of vigilance and education.

The crowd nodded, a mix of concern and understanding in their eyes. Harry emphasized, "We're trained to handle emergencies like these, but your role in preventing them is crucial. If you see a situation like this, don't hesitate—call for help immediately."

The puppy was gradually recovering, its breathing steadier and eyes more alert. Harry carefully placed it in a pet carrier, which he had on hand for such emergencies. He made a mental note to follow up with the town vet to ensure the puppy received a complete medical checkup.

It's NEVER safe to leave an unsupervised toddler, disabled person or pet locked in a car, during the summer or even in the winter.



Dinky News in a Nutshell©
By Dinky the ranch squirrel



October

I'm a squirrel!
Always check the information



With the puppy now safe and the emergency under control, Harry returned to his station, ready to continue his work. The day was still blistering hot. Finishing his work, he drove to the veterinarian's office. The Vet Tech allowed Harry to sit in his car holding the puppy while he told his fellow officer about the rescue. The officer commented that Harry shouldn't visit or continue to have the puppy. Harry answered that Sebastian was still upset and that he would hold him for a little while to calm Sebastian and make him feel safe. The officer replied – "And there goes another adoption! Last month, the fire department adopted kittens!"

Harry smiled, knowing his reward was making a difference, even in a small way, and it was worth every degree.

Harry also knew he was adopting the puppy. The owner said he didn't want the puppy and signed its release. The Veterinarian and Vet Tech were happy Sebastian had a new home. **HAPPY ENDING**

Police rescue people and animals – AND yes, sometimes, they fall in love with them.



NYC Rescue and Adoption!

The ASPCA confirmed that the NYC officer and her fiancé made the adoption official.

The spokesperson said that the officer was not looking to adopt a pet — but when she rescued Snow from the car, she instantly fell in love.

NYSDEC Rescue and relocation!



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, DEC Officer Jeff Hull poses with a Burmese python that was confiscated from a home in New Hartford, N.Y., on Aug. 28, 2024.

The snake weighed 80 pounds (36 kilos) and measured 13 feet 2 inches (4 meters) in length. and was relocated to the Fort Rickey Discovery Zoo (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation via AP) (ASSOCIATED PRESS)



Dinky News in a Nutshell©
By Dinky the ranch squirrel

I'm a squirrel!
Always check the information



November

EMT
Team Leader
Andy

In the peaceful town of FEANTM, nestled between rolling hills and open fields, the EMTs and Paramedics were gathered over coffee, reviewing their procedures for assessing patients and providing emergency care. They carefully discussed evaluating injuries, delivering first aid, and transporting patients to medical facilities. Everything was calm until a call came in—an urgent incident involving a mother, her sister, her daughter, and a group of kittens.



His cousin, Zach, grabbed his emergency kit (always hooked to his belt) and headed to the ambulance, prepared to assist.

Without hesitation, Andy, sprang into action. He assembled his crew, including the Critter team, human EMTs, paramedics, and the fire department raced to the scene.

The team knew their roles well: they responded to medical calls, assessed conditions, provided care, and safely transported patients while documenting everything for the hospital staff.

This time, the emergency was a car accident. Carol, her sister Roberta, and her daughter Tina were in the vehicle, shaken but unharmed thanks to their seatbelts. When the team arrived, they immediately attended to the family. However, the kittens traveling with them had escaped and were now frightened, huddled near the highway's divider.



While the medical team ensured that Carol, Roberta, and Tina were okay, others on the team carefully gathered the scared kittens.

Tina was crying, terrified that her kittens would be hurt. Tina, still anxious, was loaded into the ambulance but couldn't relax, still worried about the kittens. To comfort her, one of the white kittens was brought into the ambulance for her to hold.



Though bringing animals into the ambulance wasn't standard procedure, Andy made an exception. He reassured Tina that he would personally take care of the kittens and meet them at the hospital, ensuring she wouldn't have to worry.

Her mother and aunt were also handed kittens to soothe their nerves.



By the end of the morning, the road was cleared, and both humans and kittens were safe.

Carol, Roberta, and Tina left with a newfound appreciation for the compassionate care provided by the EMTs, paramedics, and the entire emergency response team.

Support ETMs, Paramedics, F.D/P.D. CERT & all first responders.
Responders are always there for you, when you need them.



Dinky News in a Nutshell©
By Dinky the ranch squirrel

I'm a squirrel!
Always check the information



December

**Police
 Manuel**

In the scenic town of FEANTM, nestled between rolling hills and open fields, lived a helpful bear named Manuel. Manuel worked with the town's Police Department and CERT (Critter Emergency Response Team) to keep everyone safe. When he heard about a flash flood affecting his relatives in Valencia, Spain, he decided to give a class and tips to his fellow town critters about flash floods and how to stay safe. Manuel visited the FEANTM school and additionally held a session in the pasture.



Manuel stood before the town critters with a warm smile and began, "In any emergency, it's essential to remain calm and focus on safety. This is especially true during flash floods, which can be sudden, unpredictable, and very dangerous."

He explained that *a flash flood is a sudden, intense flood that can happen within minutes or hours.* Flash floods may occur after heavy rainfall, dam breaks, or quick snowmelt. They can happen even in areas that aren't prone to flooding and can catch people off guard. Flash floods can be powerful enough to carry away cars, trees, buildings, and people due to the speed and force of the water.

To help the critters prepare, Manuel listed essential safety tips:

A few things to know about protecting yourself during a Flash Flood

- **Move to Higher Ground:** If you're outdoors, head to higher ground immediately. Avoid valleys, low-lying areas, and riverbanks, which are more likely to flood.
- **Avoid Driving Through Floodwaters:** Just a foot or two of water can carry away most vehicles. If you see a flooded road, don't try to cross it—turn around instead.



- **Stay Indoors if Possible:** If you're at home or in a building, move to the highest floor, but avoid basements or lower levels. Only go outside if absolutely necessary.
- **Stay updated** by tuning into local radio, TV, or a weather app. These will provide real-time information on the flood's progress and any evacuation orders.

A few of the things you can do to be prepared for a Flash Flood

- ***Know Your Risk:** Learn if your area has a history of floods and identify nearby flood-prone areas.
- **Create an Emergency Kit:** Prepare a waterproof container with essentials like food, water, a flashlight, first-aid supplies, important documents, medications, and blankets.
- **Have an Evacuation Plan:** Know your routes to higher ground and plan with family or household members on how to evacuate quickly.
- **Sign Up for Alerts:** Many places have emergency alert systems that can notify you about flash floods.
- **Safeguard Your Home:** If you live in a flood-prone area, consider using barriers, elevating appliances, and sealing basements to protect your home.
- **Know Your Local Radio Station or Alert System:** Familiarize yourself with local emergency channels to get critical information quickly.

The critters listened attentively, grateful for Manuel's guidance. Thanks to his knowledge and concern, they felt more prepared and knew what steps to take to stay safe if a flash flood ever came their way.

*******Check your local agencies for specific safety and guidelines for where you live.*******