



by Scott Obel

# CERT Meeting Day Changes to Accommodate More Attendance

## *Spring 2023 Training Events Coming Up*

Lido's CERT group met on Saturday, November 12th at the clubhouse. The primary objective has been to secure block captains for the island and the group discussed progress and tactics to generate more participation and enlist block captains. The group recognized that Saturday meetings are inconvenient for many due to competing events such as family sports, sailing or other events that occur on Saturday, significantly restricting attendance. The group also recognized that the clubhouse is also often unavailable on Saturdays and will remain so as it books up for the holidays, weddings and other events. As a result, the group decided to change the meeting dates and times to make them more convenient.

Effective with December, the meetings will now take place at 6pm on alternating Tuesdays and Wednesdays as scheduled below:

### **CERT 2023 Meeting Dates**

Tuesday, December 13th, 2022	Wednesday, January 11th, 2023
Tuesday, February 14th, 2023	Wednesday, March 8th, 2023
Tuesday, April 11th, 2023	Wednesday, May 10th, 2023
Tuesday, June 13th, 2023	Wednesday, July 12th, 2023
Tuesday, August 8th, 2023	Wednesday, September 13th, 2023
Tuesday, October 10th, 2023	Wednesday, November 8th, 2023
Tuesday, December 13th, 2023	

The group discussed plans for coming training events including First Aid, and Stop The Bleed. Additional instruction on locating and turning off your gas meter in the event of an earthquake is also in the works.

While dates are not yet established, spring, 2023 CERT training classes are typically scheduled for mid-February to mid-March with both

weekend and weeknight classes. FEMA sponsors the training which is free for residents and employees in the city.

The CERT Program is designed to prepare you to help yourself, your family, and your neighbors in the event of a catastrophic disaster. Because emergency services personnel will not be able to help everyone immediately, you can make a difference by using CERT training to save lives and protect property.

Following a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services will not be able to meet the demand for these services. Factors such as number of victims, communication failures, and road blockages will prevent people from accessing emergency services they have come to expect at a moment's notice through 911. People will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate life-saving and life sustaining needs.

CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens will be initially on their own and their actions can make a difference. Through training, citizens can manage utilities and put out small fires; treat the three killers by opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock; provide basic medical aid; search for and rescue victims safely; and organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective.

Newport Beach CERT was awarded with the 2012 FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness award for Outstanding CERT program initiatives and Lido very recently received its own award for excellence in its program.