

Block Captains are the BACKBONE of the CERT Program

Will you help fill in the gaps?



by Scott Obel

The LICA CERT has lost volunteers due to natural attrition and lack of activity during the pandemic. At one point the program was so strong that it received awards from the city. It now needs volunteers, especially block captains. Ideally each block would have a volunteer captain who would communicate with the residents of their block to understand injuries, damage and situations such as fire, gas leaks, etc. that could lead to loss of life or more injuries. Under the CERT program, organized and operated with assistance by the City of Newport Beach, the information from the block captains would be communicated to the Newport Beach Fire Department that would then make the decision on allocation of resources to save the most lives. With high density areas like apartments and high rise office buildings in the city, Lido may not see much assistance, so the island needs to be as independent as possible using organized, trained and educated teams of resident volunteers.

Block captains are the backbone of the CERT program as they work to provide the Fire department with the information they need to assist residents. Currently, Lido CERT is in need of more than 35 block captains to fill the voids in this table:

LIDO CERT - BLOCK CAPTAIN STREET ADDRESSES - FEBRUARY 2023					
Streets	Block Captains	Even = Water Side	Block Captains	Odd = Water Side	Block Captains
Via Antibes	200,	Via Lido Nord 100 to 126		Via Lido Soud 101 to 119	117
Via Barcelona		Via Lido Nord 200 to 216		Via Lido Soud 203 to 225	217
Via Cordova		Via Lido Nord 218 to 306		Via Lido Soud 229 to 309	
Via Dijon		Via Lido Nord 310 to 328		Via Lido Soud 313 to 329	
Via Eboli		Via Lido Nord 330 to 404		Via Lido Soud 331 to 343	343, 371
Via Firenze	<i>211</i>	Via Lido Nord 406 to 426		Via Lido Soud 351 to 371	
Via Fermo		Via Lido Nord 428 to 444		Via Lido Soud 401 to 425	
Via Florence	108,	Via Lido Nord 500 to 516		Via Lido Soud 429 to 445	
Via Genoa		Via Lido Nord 518 to 534		Via Lido Soud 447 to 501	
Via Graziana	<i>222,</i>	Via Lido Nord 536 to 604		Via Lido Soud 507 to 519	<i>510</i>
Via Havre	112	Via Lido Nord 608 to 634		Via Lido Soud 523 to 537	523
Via Ithaca		Via Lido Nord 640 to 662		Via Lido Soud 539 to 617	
Via Jucar	211,	Via Lido Nord 700 to 732		Via Lido Soud 619 to 641	
Via Koron	<i>120,</i> 200,	Via Lido Nord 736 to 760		Via Lido Soud 645 to 685	
Via Lorca	126, 200, 210	Via Lido Nord 800 to 828		Via Lido Soud 725 to 751	725, 744
Via Mentone		Via Lido Nord 832 to 900		Via Lido Soud 755 to 809	801, 808
Via Nice	201, 127	Via Lido Nord 904 to 928		Via Lido Soud 811 to 835	
Via Orvieto	115, 201, 207	Via Lido Nord 930 to 944		Via Lido Soud 853 to 941	
Via Palermo		<p>NOTES</p> <p>Piazza Lido - Covered by Side Streets</p> <p>Non-water addresses on Soud and Nord are typically covered by with the streets on which they front</p> <p>Address numbers in <i>green italics</i> are interim block capitans</p> <p>Piazza Lido - Covered by Side Streets</p>			
Via Quito					
Via Ravenna					
Via San Remo					
Via Trieste					
Via Undine	115,				
Via Venezia	149,				
Via Waziers					
Via Xanthe					
Via Yella	140, 111				
Via Zurich	129				
Zurich Circle					

CERT recognizes that some residents travel and vacation schedules may limit their ability to serve as block captains, so it is encouraging co-captains - block captains that "share" a block area. Some block areas could be shared by two co-captains; when one co-captain is traveling or on vacation, the other could be available. Co-captains would notify their co-captain of such plans so that they could serve as block captain in the event of a disaster. If a volunteer does not travel or vacation more than a few weeks a year then they might want to be a block captain without a co-captain. Either way, block captains or co-captains are essential for the proper functioning of the island's CERT program.

CERT is also looking for volunteers to assist with other duties at the San Remo park CERT staging area. Setup and take-down of tables and equipment,

The Community Emergency Response Team "CERT" educates residents in disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact our community and trains them in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. 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 programs started in Los Angeles, California and spread across the United States and abroad. Officials from Los Angeles traveled to Japan in February of 1985 to study its disaster response plans. The team discovered that Japan had extensive neighborhood-based training programs focused on fire suppression, light search and rescue operations, first aid, or evacuation.

Following the 1987 Whittier Narrows earthquake, Los Angeles created the Disaster Preparedness Unit within the Fire Department. Their goals were to:

- Educate and train the public and government sectors in disaster preparedness
- Research, evaluate, and disseminate disaster information
- Develop, train, and maintain a network of Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs).

In 1993, The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) decided to make the concept and program available to communities nationwide. The Emergency Management Institute (EMI), in cooperation with the LAFD, expanded the CERT materials to make them applicable to all hazards.

CERT plans to sponsor first aid classes and other programs to help families understand and prepare for disasters and emergencies. CERT will also sponsor education on a variety of preparedness subjects including detection of natural gas leaks and when and how to turn off gas in an emergency, preparing "go bags" to grab in the event of an emergency, backup power sources, etc.

Lido's Community Emergency Response Team "CERT" educates residents in disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact our community and trains them in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training from courses held at the fire department and sponsored by FEMA, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help.

While CERT volunteers are there to help, their first duty is naturally to their families. It is important to understand that CERT's supplies are limited to medical equipment such as bandages, gauze, splints, etc. The program does not have food or water for residents, so they should have their own supplies in the event of need. Based on FEMA comments, CERT expects that in the event of loss of water supply, the government would respond within three days, so families should have at least a three day water and food supply. The LICA office has checklists available to residents to help them prepare for emergencies and CERT suggests that you ask for a copy and review it with your family in mind.