



The ALERTER



October Training Meeting / by Deb Murphy

Managing Pets in a Disaster Shelter

Did you know that if we allow reptiles and birds into our shelter, there must be an extra warm room with guaranteed consistent heat set aside for them?

This and much more information was provided at this excellent training. In the first half of the training, Toni McClellen of the NH Disaster Animal Rescue Team (DART) had a lot of stories and pictures to share from her own experiences during Katrina and other sheltering events. Many do's and don'ts. She shared with us extra copies of all the different forms and guidelines NHDART uses. The second half of the evening was a table top drill — an excellent way to train. Our CERT team impressed Toni with how prepared we actually are; however, she showed us how, for a massive event, we can make a shelter go even smoother.

Items to keep ready: forms, isolation tarps, cages, towels, boxes for litter, security tags for cage and owner, a camera to take pictures of owners with their pets, etc. We also discussed and put together a team to get MOUs with local vets and with people who have large animals and/or stalls who would be willing to house other large animals during an event. NHDART offers extensive trainings around NH many times of year.

Management of pets in a shelter will soon be a skill required of all CERT members, according to the Department of Homeland Security. Lakes Region CERT is already ahead of the curve through past experience and this excellent training.

Photos: Richard Alan Dow



Toni McClellen, NH DART



Jim White registers his "invisible dog" with Deb Murphy and Joyce Messer during the table top drill.



Lisa Vermacy, Roger Turgeon, and Ethie Ritson prepare a folding cage.

Coming Up

14 November

Monthly Training

6:00, Community Room, Laconia Police Station. LPD Training Officer Michelle Cardinal will discuss police protocols for urban traffic control. And she's hoping for a lot of questions!

December

LR CERT Christmas Party

Margate. More information to follow, but plan on food to share and a \$10 gift for the Yankee swap. Spouses and significant others welcome.

Preparedness Tips

Prepping your fridge to save your food

http://communitypreparedness.net/profiles/blogs/save-your-food-prep-your-fridge?goback=.gde_95355_member_179644953

Tips for assisting those with special needs: seniors; people with service animals, with mobility impairments, with Autism, who are deaf or hard of hearing, blind or visually impaired; people with cognitive disabilities, with multiple chemical sensitivities; people who are mentally ill; childbearing women and newborns; people with seizure disorders

<http://cdd.unm.edu/dhpd/tipsEnglish.asp>



By Richard Alan Dow

It Doesn't Have To Be a Disaster — LR CERT's Community Service



What is the Lakes Region Community Emergency Response Team doing at a 5K road race, an annual county fair, and a Halloween fundraiser? Clearly these aren't the emergencies we train for.

The fact is, real emergencies, thankfully, are not everyday events. And our monthly training meetings, interesting and instructive as they are, can't substitute for a real "boots on the ground" (forgive the trendy cliché) experience.

Over the summer (see October ALERTER), we had two real emergency call-outs: a chemical spill in Laconia, and a wildland fire in Gilford. We also participated in some "show the flag" events such as the National Night Out and the Multi-Cultural Fair, also reported in the October issue.

Added to these, we provided traffic control and communications in Meredith for a 5K race supporting the Meredith Public Library. This was at the request of MPD Chief Kevin Morrow, and was the first time LR CERT had responded to a Meredith event, even though it's one of the nine communities we are charged with supporting.

Next was the annual Sandwich Fair, a fundraising event for us that we share with Altrusa. We provided parking direction in the handicap lot.

Most recently, Chief Morrow called on us again to do traffic control for a Trick or Eat event that saw more than 300 citizens tour local restaurants as a fundraiser for a childrens' lunch program.

What did these non-emergency call-outs teach us? Solving traffic control problems, setting up posts, and better radio communications. Priceless!

Top: Mike Hardy at Sandwich Fair. Middle and lower: Meredith Trick or Eat. Photos: Richard Alan Dow



by Richard Alan Dowr

LR CERT Continues to Assist School Flu Immunization Clinics

We continued with our support of the school-based flu clinics (see the October ALERTER) with clinics in the Gilford and Laconia schools. We provide administrative and “crowd control” to free up the nurses from LRPPH, MRC, and the student nurses from LRCC to administer the vaccine.

The clinic at Gilford Elementary was October 24. Mary Lou Anderson, Kate Bruchacova, Dick Christopher, Richard Dow, Mike Hardy, Deb Murphy, Norma Jo Sorgman, and Ethie Ritson were there.

Gilford Middle and High schools followed on November 1, with Mary Lou Anderson, Dick Christopher, Mike Hardy, Kate Bruchacova, Deb Murphy, and Ethie Ritson assisting.

The team next moved to Laconia, with a clinic on November 5 at Elm Street School. Kate Bruchacova, Richard Dow, Sally Porter, Kathleen Merriam, and Norma Jo Sorgman were there.

November 6 saw a clinic at Woodland Heights School with Kate Bruchacova, Dick Christopher, Richard Dow, and Kathleen Merriam participating. Also on the 6th, we were at Pleasant Street School, with Kate Bruchacova, Richard Dow, Sally Porter, Norma Jo Sorgman, and Kathleen Merriam.

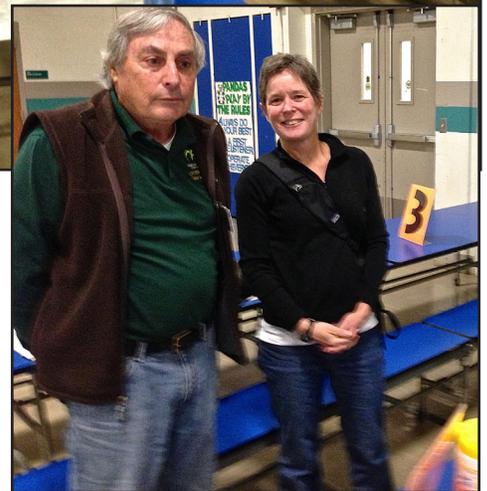
Next was Laconia Middle School on the 7th with Kate Bruchacova, Richard Dow, Kathleen Merriam, Joyce Messer, Tom & Deb Murphy, and Ethie Ritson.

We finished up with Laconia High School on the 8th. Kate Bruchacova, Dick Christopher, Richard Dow, Kathleen Merriam, and Ethie Ritson participated.

It was a long but rewarding effort.



Above: Gilford Elementary School. Norma Jo Sorgman, Renee Martin, Kate Bruchacova, Mike Hardy, Mary Lou Anderson. Middle: Dick Christopher and Norma Jo Sorgman, Gilford Elementary School Below: Laconia Middle School. Kathleen Merriam, Ethie Ritson, Joyce Messer, Kate Bruchacova, Tom & Deb Murphy, Richard Dow. Photos: Richard Alan Dow, Susan Laverack





Gear Review — Dick Dow

LED Safety Lights

Some LR CERT members are adopting emergency lights for their POVs (personally owned vehicles). This has some serious benefits, but may also have legal ramifications. Problems include the color of the lights and the way they are used. In New Hampshire, it's blue/red for police, red for fire/EMS, and amber for non-emergency public service vehicles,

What color we NH CERTers use may need clarification/authorization.

Parked on the side of a dark road to enforce a road closure due to floods or downed power lines, brightly flashing safety lights may save us from vehicular damage or even personal harm. Driving into a congested area to stage with other team members, flashing safety lights — supported by our CERT license plate placard and our ID card — *may* alert police that we are reporting to the scene, .

Another color possibility that might set us apart from DPW and towing vehicles is green, used increasingly by Homeland Security (under whom we ultimately fall} and private secu-

rity services. But this is something we would need to push up the chain of command for clarification. Each state has its own rules, and for now a removable amber unit, used in our area, may be least likely to cause problems.

I recently purchased a Trademark 75-250YST ML3 Series 24 Amber LED Safety Light that has some great features. First, it mounts with a magnet, and can be positioned, repositioned, or dismounted with ease. Second, although it has a port for DC or AC power, it also runs on four AA batteries so wires are unnecessary. Third, you can set it in an upright (vertical) position to get maximum benefit from the three rows of eight LEDs, either flashing or solid, facing forward or rearward, or you can put the unit in horizontal mode with a single row of LEDs shining front, rear, left, and right.

My unit was \$42.89 (batteries/cables not included) from Amazon. There are much cheaper lights, but their visibility, especially in daylight, is reduced.

The ALERTER / LR CERT

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