

## Caloosa CERT

The Caloosa CERT (Community emergency response team) organization is an **all volunteer organization** comprised of approximately 20 members strong. The organization trains 12 months a year, meeting every third Tuesday of each month. Throughout the year several training exercises are held which simulate emergency situations. Past exercises have covered situations from airplane crashes to major search and rescue operations.

The training course that each CERT team member must achieve to be certified as a full team member is taught by CERT Trainer's. Each trainer is required to attend and pass a three(3) day intensive course taught by Palm Beach County and Federal emergency personnel. The CERT team member learns skills in medical, psychological, search and rescue, hazardous materials, fire fighting and much more. These classes are also given at the PBCC. Team members are required to supply their own equipment as required by CERT and the local team.

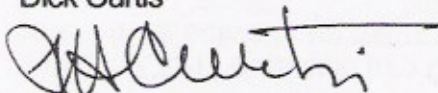
The Caloosa CERT operation is coordinated with and through the Palm Beach County EOC offices. Contact at the EOC level is with Mr. Brain Hanley, Special Projects Coordinator. This section of the County offices is the Department of Safety. There are many CERT organizations in Palm Beach County. All CERT organizations are part of Homeland Security. They cover both incorporated and unincorporated areas. Each group is supported by the area in which they respond. In the Incorporated areas the groups are supported by their local Fire and Police. Most unincorporated groups such as Caloosa CERT are self supporting through donations, gifts and small organizational donations.

Caloosa CERT deployed into Caloosa immediately after all the Hurricanes. It is good to note that all active team members and other volunteers showed to perform the CERT function for Caloosa. Every home in Caloosa was checked for injury, damage and security. All team members had the same problems and cares at home as the residents the team members were assisting and helping, and all with a smile. All team members are volunteers who pay for all their own equipment and supplies. Many man hours are invested in training, attending classes and maintaining equipment. Many more man hours are invested in advanced training and management of the team.

All the efforts of Caloosa CERT are on a volunteer basis. The tireless Caloosa CERT team is:

Dr. Berl Michel, Bob Johnson, Brian Tuck, Cleve Tuck, Dick Curtis, Elaine Zahn, John Bray, Kevin House, Laszlo Papp, LouAnn Jeffs, Mark Lowenberg, Mike Jackson, Mike Thornton, Pete Mitchell, Ted Sorg, Todd Clements, Brian Nash, Maggie Fullington, Sally Clark, Derek Barrett, Jack Sammons and all those special advisors from the medical community of Caloosa and Bruce King.

Dick Curtis



Caloosa CERT Chair