


Date: May 29, 2008

To: All UW Campus Emergency Response Team (CERT) Members

From: Steve Charvat, CEM  
Facilities Services 

**Subject: Notice of UW CERT Program Discontinuation**

As most of you are already aware, UW Emergency Management (UWEM) has been going through a number of changes over the past year. Our reorganization from Business Services to Facilities Services, the recent loss of UWEM staff and the expiration of a number of federal operational and support grants have required a serious re-evaluation of the programs and services we provide to the campus community – especially those involving “response” efforts.

I have always been very proud that the UW CERT program has been at the cutting edge of campus-based disaster response programs and was a model for the development of an employer-based program for many other higher education institutions across the country. However, due to the lack of continued local funding to fully support an effective CERT program, we have found it necessary to officially discontinue the CERT program at the UW as of today. This difficult recommendation has been approved by the Associate Vice President of Facilities Services.

While the value of the CERT program and its volunteer commitment remains unquestioned, without the crucial financial support, the UW CERT program cannot meet its responsibilities as a viable campus emergency response resource. We are no longer able to support an effective program with ongoing training, supplies and equipment, or strong leadership as we have done in the past.

### **What Does This Mean for You as a CERT Trained Volunteer?**

- Effective immediately, all CERT automatic notification lists will be removed from use and future CERT call-outs will be discontinued. Your names and contact information will no longer be maintained by UWEM as a 24/7 campus disaster resource. We will, however, temporarily maintain the CERT email listserv for the next 3 months to respond to any remaining participant questions and post program closure FAQs. Any CERT member who had previously volunteered to assist at the June 14<sup>th</sup> Commencement Ceremony at Husky Stadium may still do so if they choose; however, it is no longer required.
- All UW CERT trained volunteers may keep their CERT supplies and equipment as a UW resource for their department’s emergency response. Because the supplies were purchased using government grant funds, they must stay on campus

(you cannot bring them home). However, if you would like to return your CERT backpack, hardhat and other equipment, please contact me at [disaster@u.washington.edu](mailto:disaster@u.washington.edu) to set up a time/date for drop off at Gerberding 36. The various CERT supplies caches throughout campus will be inventoried over the next 2-3 months and a determination will be made about their final disposition and return to Facilities Services.

- Facilities Services encourages you to still be involved in other campus emergency response and safety efforts. The UW Environmental Health and Safety Department is always recruiting and training emergency wardens for buildings all across campus. The EH&S Building and Fire Safety Office can be reached at (206) 543-7262 to find out more information on training and other safety efforts..
- If you still want to be active in a CERT program, I would encourage you to contact your local office of emergency management or fire department to inquire about volunteering your time in your home community. Many programs will “grandfather” you in if you have completed another certified training program.
- Finally, in late 2009, the UW’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will be moving from the Bryant Building to the UW Tower C-Building as a dedicated facility. Once we have established the new EOC, Facilities Services will be looking for volunteers to help provide staff support for drills and real-life activations. Please let me know if you would be interested in assisting in some capacity (message runners, scribes, computer operators, status and display board assistants, etc...)

Over the next few weeks, the UW CERT information on the UWEM website will be modified to reflect these changes. I would like to thank Bruce Menzies and Marcos Solis-Bethancourt for the leadership throughout this challenging transition period. In addition, a huge debt of gratitude is extended to Scott Preston for his many years of leadership in the CERT program as well as the various CERT Steering Committee members.

Most importantly, I would personally like to thank *each of you* for your commitment and dedication to the UW’s CERT program and overall disaster readiness for our campus community.

c: Charles Kennedy  
Ray Wittmier  
Norm Arkans  
Karen VanDusen  
Dale Deering  
Scott Preston – Covington Water District