



Warren CERT eNews



Not if..... When Always Vigilant - Always Prepared

Volume 4 Issue 1

January 2018

This newsletter is brought to you by the Executive Board and is meant to give you the latest news and information from around the organization as well as further your capabilities in a disaster or emergency situation. - *Michael Riley*

IN THIS EDITION

Container Potatoes
Presidential Volunteer Service Awards
The month in review
Scheduled Events & Training
How To Perform CPR On A Dog
How to get your Amateur Radio License
Do1Thing
Cool Products Page

HOW TO GROW POTATOES IN CONTAINERS

If you don't have backyard space for growing potatoes or you want to be able to harvest them more easily than digging the spuds out of the ground, consider growing potatoes in containers. Growing potatoes in containers can make gardening accessible for the small space gardener. When you grow potatoes in a container, harvesting is easier because all the tubers are in one place.

There is a wide variety of containers that work well for growing potatoes. Generally a container should be the size of a 5-gallon bucket or larger.

- 1) 5 Gallon Pails
- 2) Cardboard Boxes
- 3) Laundry Baskets, Plastic Bins, or Trash Cans
- 4) Tomato Cages
- 5) Bushel Baskets
- 6) Wire Mesh you make into a shape yourself
- 7) Burlap Bags (Coffee / Rice Bags)
- 8) Milk Crates (1 or 2 seed potato's only due to small size)



PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD (PVSA)

As another level of recognition and acknowledgement for all the time volunteered by our members CERT has added the ability for members to qualify for the President's Volunteer Service Award or PVSA.

Please go to <https://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov/register-vo> and create your own account. Each person must create your own account! To associate your account to the Warren CERT team you must reference our Record of Service Key WBU-4628



Any community volunteer work is allowed to be added for review. Any other groups or teams you volunteer can be submitted for consideration. For example RACES/ARES, Ducks Ltd., any city commission, etc. Any non-compensated training you do or volunteer work you perform may be submitted.

[Every member should log all your community service.](#)

HOW TO GROW POTATOES IN CONTAINERS

Continued

CONTAINERS

You will need a minimum space of approximately 12" high x 12" wide x 12" deep per seed potato. Thus, in larger containers you can plant more seed potatoes and in smaller ones (milk crates or 5 gallon buckets), you'll only plant one. If they are solid containers, poke plenty of ¼" holes in the bottom for good drainage. If they have open sides or bottoms (wire cages, milk crates or laundry baskets), line them with newspaper, paper bags, cotton cloth (x-large t-shirts work well for small containers), or straw to help hold the soil in place. Assure to allow the green plant to grow without obstruction above the rim of the container.

SEED POTATOES

You can purchase certified seed potatoes or use organic potatoes from the store. The best potatoes to use for container gardening are those that mature early. The potatoes should mature in 70 to 90 days. Common store bought potatoes are not recommended as they may have been treated with chemicals to prevent sprouting and may still have herbicide present. Each of the 'eyes' on a potato can grow into a potato plant so you will want to cut the medium or larger potatoes into chunks that contain 2 to 3 eyes each; if the potatoes are small, then leave them whole. Cut them and leave them to dry for 24 to 48 hours before you plan on planting them to allow the cut sides to callous over.



GROWING REQUIREMENTS

The space where you have decided to grow potatoes should receive at least 6 hours of sun a day, although 8 to 10 hours is better. Plant potatoes after temperatures remain regularly above 45 degrees. In the lower Michigan area that typically means planting from mid-March to mid-May.

Cont. pg. 5

THE MONTH IN REVIEW - CALL OUTS, DEPLOYMENTS, AND EVENTS

Sat Dec 2 CERT Appreciation Breakfast

Sat Dec 2 Tree Lightning

Wed Dec 20 DTE Road Closure - 11 & Dequindre

Sun Dec 24 Guard Rail in Roadway - Ryan & Chicago Guard Rail

Sun Dec 31 Dawson & Ryan Water Main Break - Close South Ryan

133 Volunteer Hours - CERT Call-Out & Meeting/Training Hours

76 Hours Executive Board / Administrative

24 Hours Miscellaneous Community Service

UPCOMING EVENTS

Full details available at meetings, emails, and official CERT calendar

Sat February	3rd	09:00 - 13:00	General Membership Meeting
Sat March	3rd	12:30	Siren Check
Sat April	7th	09:00 - 13:00	General Membership Meeting
Sat June	2nd	09:00 - 13:00	General Membership Meeting
Sat August	4th	09:00 - 13:00	General Membership Meeting
Sat October	6th	09:00 - 13:00	General Membership Meeting
Sat December	1st	09:00 - 13:00	CERT Family Appreciation Breakfast

Unless otherwise indicated meetings will be held at

Warren Community Center 5460 Arden Ave, Warren, MI 48092

Watch this eLetter and the official CERT Calendar for the latest location information and other training dates.

[Make sure you follow Warren CERT on Facebook & Twitter](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/wrncert/>

[@WarrenCERT](#)

HOW TO PERFORM CPR ON A DOG

The first thing you need to do when you find a dog that appears to be in serious distress is to call for help!

Determine if the dog is breathing - A collapsed dog that is unconscious may still be breathing, and if the dog's still breathing, CPR is not required. So it's imperative that you first determine whether CPR is necessary before beginning.

To determine if the dog is breathing, watch for a subtle rise and fall of the chest. A dog normally takes between 20 - 30 breaths a minute, which means its chest will move every 2 - 3 seconds. If you can't see the chest moving, place your cheek close to the dog's nose to feel for air flow against your skin. If his chest does not move and you can't feel air movement, the dog is not breathing.

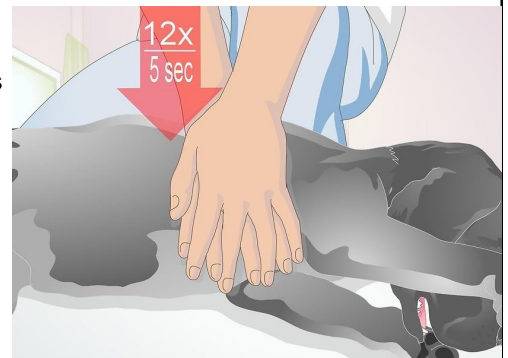
Check for a heartbeat - To locate the heart, lay the dog on its side, swing its front elbow back to the point where it meets the chest wall. That point is the third to fifth intercostal space, which is where the heart lies. Watch the chest wall at this point on the chest and look for signs of the dog's hairs moving in time with a heartbeat. If you don't see any movement, place your fingers over that same point on the chest and apply gentle pressure, feeling for the bump of a heartbeat against your fingertips. If you can't feel a heartbeat, check for a pulse on the dog's wrist. Run your fingertip along and under the main stop pad (the pad that doesn't touch the ground) on the back of the front foot and press gently to feel for a pulse.

Check that the dog's airway is clear - Open its mouth and check the back of its throat for blockages. An obstruction at the back of the throat can block the dog's air supply and interfere with resuscitation, so if you discover any blockages, remove them before starting CPR.

Position the dog for artificial respiration - Pull the dog's tongue forward. Align the head with the back, and tilt it back a little to help open the airway.

Place your mouth over the airway - If it's a small dog, place your mouth over the dog's nose and mouth. If it's a large dog, place your mouth over the dog's nostrils. Hold one hand under the lower jaw to close it. Place the thumb of the same hand on top of the nose to hold the mouth shut. Alternately, you can cup both hands around the mouth (and lips if it's a large dog). It's important that you prevent air from escaping through the mouth. Blow firmly enough into the dog's snout to lift the dog's chest wall. If the chest rises easily (as is likely in a small dog), stop blowing once it has gently lifted. If you continue blowing, you may damage the dog's lungs. Then release your lips to allow the air to escape. Aim for 20 - 30 breaths a minute, or one breath every 2 - 3 seconds.

Begin chest compressions - The heart pumps oxygenated blood to the organs, so if you're giving artificial respiration but there's no heartbeat, the oxygen can't get where it's needed and you'll need to provide chest compressions as well as artificial respiration. The goal is to perform chest compressions and artificial respiration in a pattern of 1 artificial breath for 10- 12 chest compressions. Locate the heart by laying the dog on its side and swinging its front elbow back to the point where it meets the chest wall, this is where the heart lies. Lay your palm over the heart and press down gently but firmly--use enough pressure to compress the chest to one-third or one-half of its depth. The compressions are a quick, rapid movement: compress-release, compress-release, repeated 10 - 12 times around every 5 seconds. Give one artificial respiration breath and then repeat the cycle.



A large or giant breed may benefit from abdominal compressions, which can help return blood to the heart, but these should not be done at the expense of cardiac compression. You can also add an "abdominal squeeze," which can assist recirculation of blood to the heart, by slipping your left hand under the dog's abdomen and using your right hand to "squeeze" the abdomen between your two hands. Repeat this movement once every two minutes or so--but if you have your hands full with chest compressions and artificial respiration, leave this element out.

Stop periodically to assess the situation. Stop every 2 minutes and check if the dog has resumed breathing for itself. If not, continue artificial respiration until help arrives.

[Instructional Video](#)

[Downloadable and printable pdf](#)

HAM RADIO - HOW TO GET YOUR AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE

Simple Answer.... Take and pass a 35 question multiple answer test. These questions are pulled from a pool of 426 questions.

Is getting a HAM radio license difficult? Not really, although some would say it depends on who you ask. There are a few ways that you can approach the test.

- 1) Learn the information and take the test - Buy a book and study, study, study.
- 2) Download or find an online test bank and take the test over and over until you consistently pass it (This is the method I used).

Where can I take the test?

The ARRL has a great tool for finding test locations near you. [Find an upcoming test near you](#)

What level license do I need?

Technician class (first level) will cover you for everything done in CERT.

Do I need to learn Morse code?

Nope, this used to be a requirement way back in the day, but no more! (Ask me about this someday, Morse code was my kryptonite)

How much should I plan to spend on getting licensed?

Typically \$15 to take the test. Books and study guides are above and beyond. Books are available from the executive board.

Do I need to buy / bring a HAM radio to take the test?

No.

What should I bring to the test?

ID, SSN, and some pencils! [ARRL covers the specifics here!](#)

How long does the license last?

Ten years, but the licenses can be renewed without retesting.

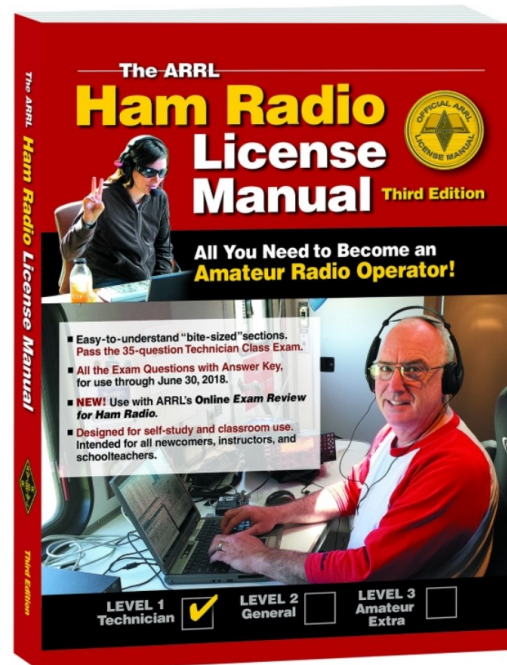
[Ham Study](#) – A great study resource for all your needs.

[Technician Class License Test Bank](#) - This is the full test bank of questions for the Technician level test. You could memorize this and take the test.

[Technician class study guide \(Online & PDF\)](#) - A study guide of terminology and information you need for the Technician test.

[The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual](#) - As mentioned this can be bought from the executive board at cost.

More information - [Getting your Technician license \(ARRL article\)](#)



**Any person transmitting on Amateur Radio without a license is in violation of federal laws.
Any Warren CERT member will be subject to discipline and possible termination from the team!**

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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HOW TO GROW POTATOES IN CONTAINERS

Continued

INITIAL PLANTING

To plant potatoes, first place about 3" of damp soil (mixed with compost is ideal) in the bottom of the container. Then place your potato chunks, cut side down, on the soil layer. Use the appropriate number of seed potatoes for your container size. Last, place enough soil on top of the seed potatoes so that they are completely covered by 2" to 3" of the soil. Water liberally. Set them outside in your sunny spot. (Bring them into the garage or basement should the temps unexpectedly drop below 40 degrees at night.) Providing the seed potatoes with deep, loose, acidic soil with a pH from 4.8 to 6.5, and adding lots of potassium and nitrogen, helps them get off to a strong start.



HILLING

It can take 1 to 3 weeks for the seed potato to peek through the soil. When that green potato growth is about 5" or 6" above the soil, gently add more soil/compost all around the stem, so that about ½ of the plant stem and leaves is covered, leaving the top 3" uncovered. Add the soil/compost in small scoops so as not to damage, bend or break the plants. Each time the plants reach 6" in height, carefully add more soil/compost to cover them halfway. This may happen as often as twice/week, but will more likely be weekly.

WATERING

Water the plants consistently, keeping all of the soil moist. You can add a liquid fertilizer (like fish and/or seaweed emulsion) every couple of weeks. Organic gardeners use a variety of fertilizers during the growing season after they plant seed potatoes. Using a mixture of cottonseed meal, bone meal and greensand increases the soil's acidity and provides nitrogen, potassium and phosphorous. A small amount of kelp meal combined in the mixture supplies trace minerals. That fertilizer typically is side dressed just after the seeds sprout. Some growers choose to feed the foliage every two weeks with fish emulsion or kelp extract from the foliage's emergence and until bloom. Six weeks after planting, non-organic gardeners can side-dress the same fertilizer they applied when they planted the potatoes but use only one-half as much as they used then.

Cont. pg. 6

MAINTENANCE

Remember to keep the soil evenly moist, down to the bottom of the container. (Do not just wet the top few inches!) The potato plants will automatically slow their top growth once they fill the container, while continuing to grow their tuber size underground. If your potato plants turn light green or yellow while the leaf veins remain green, or if they take on a scorched appearance, the soil may be deficient in nutrients. The most common deficiencies when growing potatoes are magnesium and sulfur. Iron and manganese, both micronutrients, are essential for potatoes as well. The first step in curing these deficiencies is to have the soil tested or to test it yourself with a soil testing kit to determine which nutrient or micronutrient causes the problem. Once the deficiency is identified, you can apply the appropriate fertilizer to cure it. Once the potatoes have flowered, some upper tubers can be harvested although they will be small. (Gently reaching down into the soil with your hands and feel for the small tubers, making sure you cover up the holes when you are done.) Stop fertilizing at this time.

HARVESTING

All are full-sized and ready to harvest 2 weeks after the top growth totally dries up and turns brown. Simply spill out the soil and tubers onto a tarp and sort through it to find the potatoes; you can re-use the soil/compost the following year mixed with 1/3 new soil. To store potatoes, brush off the soil, and let them 'cure' in a single layer in the open air for a few days in a temperate, dry, shady space. Store potatoes layered between newspapers in cardboard boxes or woven or bushel baskets in a cool, dark spot. They will store for 3 to 5 months.



Do not ever refrigerate potatoes!

CERT POLICIES YOU NEED TO KNOW

Warren CERT ID and Lanyard can ONLY be worn when activated as Warren CERT and must NOT be visible when stored in your vehicle. Do not keep lanyards in your cup holders, hanging from your rear view mirror, or other obvious place. You need to assure it does not get stolen or is used to misrepresent the team.

When deployed on Warren CERT events, logos and ID's from any other agency's cannot be worn. This includes, but is not limited to Badges (Security, Hospital, Work, etc.), Shirts or uniforms with logos of other agencies (Police, Sheriff, Fire, Ambulance, Security, even other CERT teams). Displaying multiple identifying marks causes confusion and can possibly place you in unwanted and dangerous circumstances.

Under no circumstances should you self-deploy!! IF YOU SELF-DEPLOY AND ARE INJURED YOU ARE ON YOUR OWN! IF YOU SELF-DEPLOY AND ARE INJURED YOU ARE NOT COVERED BY THE CITY! If you decide to offer assistance without being called out by during a city sanctioned event you are doing so as a civilian and assume all responsibility.

You are authorized to use your red warning light while on official CERT call-outs or events and when you are using it according to CERT guidelines. You must be stationary while it is in use. You are only authorized to use it while in the city of Warren. Your light should not be visible outside of the city

Warren CERT has a Chain of Command and every member is subject to follow it. If you ever have any questions or problems bring it to your executive board. No member will email or call a city official concerning a CERT topic without having gone thru the executive board or Emergency Manager.

Under no circumstances should any member attempt to approach or attempt to move any downed wire!

All safety policies and procedures must be followed at all times.

All members, at all times, must exhibit professionalism.

No smoking, indecent or lewd behavior or discussion will be tolerated.

ANY VIOLATION OF THE ABOVE GUIDELINES COULD RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION, EXPULSION FROM THE CERT TEAM OR CRIMINAL CHARGES.

Cont. on pg. 9

IMPORTANT INFO

Remember to call 586-960-5315 and leave your name, time arrived, time departed, and what scene or event your calling about!

Please like our Facebook page [Facebook.com/wrncert](https://www.facebook.com/wrncert)

**Don't forget to tell your friends and neighbors, about CERT.
We're always looking for good people.**

[Apply at warrencert.org](http://warrencert.org)

Make sure you continue to receive this eLetter and are signed up to the electronic version of the official CERT calendar.

[Check your texcom.com info to assure its current!](http://texcom.com)

Warren CERT Call-Out Procedures

Warren CERT uses Texcom.com as its primary dispatch and notification system.

All CERT members must be registered with Texcom with SMS (texting) and email. *An exception is allowed for members that do not use texting or email.*

When a call out request is received from an official source the on-duty CERT dispatcher will immediately relay the help request to the members via texcom using text messages and email.

Every message will contain specific details on how to contact dispatch and respond to requests.

Responding parties must respond as detailed in the message.

A request may advise to **call** "Dispatcher Name" at 586-xxx-xxxx.

In this case as stated **call** the dispatcher and advise of availability and interest in responding.

A request may advise to **text** to "Dispatcher Name" at 586-xxx-xxxx.

In this case you must enter the number into your texting/messaging program and enter your response to the dispatcher.

Do not reply to the message you received, it does not go to the dispatcher!

Do not call if the Texcom message states to text to respond!

In all cases, include **your First and Last name** in the response.

The dispatcher will advise of any new updates to the call, information too large to type into the Texcom message, or of a sensitive nature that can't be openly distributed.

The dispatcher may also advise of a CERT Member in Charge (CIC) in charge of the call-out as well as names of other responding members and any preliminary instructions or recommended equipment.

All responding members must report directly to the CIC and follow their directions. With the exception of emergency first aid, members are not to begin response unless directed by Warren CERT. With the exception of emergency conditions members are not to leave the response without checking out with the CIC.

New members will also be advised that they are not to perform any action until the CIC arrives, new members must wait on the side lines, in safe location until given instructions by the CIC or dispatcher.

No member will respond to a call until they have checked in with dispatch!

In all references in the above to dispatcher it refers to the CERT dispatcher, under normal circumstances no contact will be made directly to Warren PD 911 dispatch!

Should a situation or problem develop on a call-out notify CIC immediately. If an emergency develops and CIC is unresponsive or incapacitated notify then notify Warren PD dispatch

Check and update your texcom.com information occasionally. Phone numbers and email addresses do change.

do 1 thing

Being prepared for disasters and emergencies can seem like a big job. Many people don't know where to start, so they never start at all. With Do 1 Thing you can take small steps that make a big difference in an emergency.

Do 1 Thing is a 12-month program that makes it easy for you to prepare yourself, your family, and your community for emergencies or disasters.

Warren CERT is proud to be a partner with do 1 thing. Every month we will be showcasing some of the information from do 1 thing for Individuals and Business's.

Individual:

Make a Plan

Goal for January: Understand what puts you at risk from disasters and take steps to lower your risk.

Disasters change things. When an emergency happens you may have to decide what to do very quickly, while you are worrying about what might happen. By planning ahead, it will be easier to make the right decisions when the worst happens

Tasks

Make a Plan: Plan what to do if you have to evacuate.

Make a Plan: Take steps now to prevent damage to your home in a disaster.

Make a Plan: Learn what disasters can happen in your area and decide what you will do in a disaster.

Read More: <http://do1thing.com/topics/plan>

Business:

Risk Assessment

Goal for Step 1: Understand how an emergency or disaster could affect your business and identify potential risks

For businesses, a disaster is any event that endangers its ability to continue operating and follow its business plan. Statistics show that one in four businesses won't reopen after a disaster. New research shows that many more businesses will reopen, only to fail within a few years of a disaster, often after the business owner has exhausted their life savings trying to stay afloat. Understanding your risks is the first step to making your business disaster resilient

Tasks

Risk Assessment: Identify general hazards that can occur in your community, and specific hazards from which your business may be at risk.

Risk Assessment: Understand major variables that can affect your ability to reopen after a disaster.

Risk Assessment: Take steps to protect your assets from those hazards.

Read More: <http://do1thing.com/topics/risk>

Thank You to do1thing
<http://do1thing.com/>
A Warren CERT Partner



High Performance Jump Starters and Portable Battery Packs

Our award-winning Jump Starter line designed for the average Joe to the seasoned Pro

- > Maximum power output and performance, up to 10L (up to 5L Diesel)
- > Revolutionary, patented Smarty Clamps® walk you through a SAFE, foolproof jump every time
- > Detect-o-Matic™ USB charger automatically provides fastest charge to your phones & tablets
- > Larger models feature both 12V and 19V port for powering laptops, fans and more
- > Powerful tactical flashlight can be seen for miles plus strobe and SOS
- > Staying power – 1000 charging cycles and up to 3 years of standby power on a single charge
- > IP65 certified, built tough for water, dust and dirt resistance

Basic Jump Starters Quick Comparison High Performance Jump Starters

WeeGo's new line of Rechargeable Battery Packs offers increased performance at up to half the price of our previous models! All three models offer increased input and output charging speeds - which means you can charge both your WeeGo and your mobile device even faster than before. Our Tour 10400 also has Detect-o-Matic™ super-quick charging which detects & provides the fastest-possible charge for your device and Pass Thru charging which allows you to recharge your WeeGo and your device at the same time. In addition to their increased performance, the Tour 5200 and Tour 10400 also store inside of a super-fun, retro-inspired tin box!

Phones, tablets, portable speakers, GoPro®, e-readers...the list of portable devices goes on, but your battery doesn't – and when that time comes, WeeGo Rechargeable Battery Packs are there to ensure you keep going without interruption!

Battery Packs



12V Power

For your on-the-go devices



* 12V Adapters available; sold separately

Use WeeGo to Power ...



Tour 2600	Tour 5200	Tour 10400

