



# Warren CERT eNews



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

Volume 5 Issue 4

April 2019

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

Springtime Gardening - Safe Digging

The month in review

Scheduled Events & Training

Warren CERT Staff

3 Day Emergency Supply Checklist

Do1Thing

Cool Products Page

## SPRINGTIME GARDENING - SAFE DIGGING

By JoAnn Christian

It is that time of year - spring - when you want to do your planting. A garden, shrubbery or trees. Please be safe doing so.

5 Steps to safe digging

1. Call 8-1-1 or visit [elocate.missdig811.org](http://elocate.missdig811.org) at least three working days before digging to request underground utility lines be marked.
2. Wait for utilities to be marked. Natural gas lines are marked with yellow stakes, flags or paint.
3. Avoid digging near marks. Before using power equipment within 4 feet of marked lines, hand dig to expose the pipe. If you have difficulty finding the pipe within 18 inches of marks, contact MISS DIG 811.
4. Respect the marks. Be aware of all underground utility marks and other gas facilities such as valve boxes and regulator boxes. Do not place construction materials or equipment downriggers over marks.
5. Call if you make contact with underground lines. If you hit or nick a pipeline while digging, stop and call consumers Energy immediately.

Contact 8-1-1 even for routine jobs, such as planting shrubs and trees, replacing a mailbox post or installing a fence, deck or a basketball pole.

The call and service are free.

Learn more at [ConsumersEnergy.com/gassafety](http://ConsumersEnergy.com/gassafety)

Please follow these guidelines and you will have a safe dig.

March was a good month, no call-outs.



It was the first month in years CERT didn't have a call.

It allowed us time to work paperwork and planning future events.

## **178.5 Total Volunteer Hours**

**0 - Call-Out / Events**

**0 - Meeting / Training Hours**

**178.5 - Executive Board / Administrative / Education**

Although the IRS does not assign or allow volunteer hours a dollar amount many state and federal entities do assign a value to volunteer hours.

According to today's rate of \$24.69 the CERT team has performed

**\$4,407.16**

**dollars of service to the residents and city of Warren this month.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Thu Apr	11	TBD	TACOM VRC (Volunteer Recognition Ceremony)
Sat May	4	12:00 - 15:00	WPD Appreciation Event @ FOP
Sat Jun	1	09:00 - 13:00	General Membership Meeting
Sat Aug	3	09:00 - 13:00	General Membership Meeting
Sat Oct	5	09:00 - 13:00	General Membership Meeting
Sat Dec	7	09:00 - 13:00	General Membership Meeting / Family Appreciation Brunch

Unless otherwise indicated meetings will be held at  
**Warren Community Center 5460 Arden Ave, Warren, MI 48092**

Watch the 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](#)

## CHECK THIS OUT

Special arrangements have been made for active Warren CERT members to join the Warren Community Center.



See your email for specifics.

Minimum hours required!

## 3-DAY EMERGENCY SUPPLY CHECKLIST

### When disaster strikes, immediate help will not be available.

Every household should have an emergency kit with enough supplies to see you through three days following a natural or man-made disaster or emergency.

Start with the basics

#### Water

**MINIMUM 1 GALLON PER PERSON & ANIMAL - 2 IS BEST!**

Plastic, Glass, and Stainless Steel Containers made for water storage.

Water Bladders

Water BOB

Pre-packaged Cans, Jugs, and Bottles.

#### Food

Ready-to-eat canned fruits and vegetables.

Canned juices, milk, soups.

Staples: sugar, salt, pepper, grains, flour.

High-energy foods: peanut butter, jelly, crackers, granola bars, trail mix, dried fruit and nuts

Foods for infants, elderly persons, or those on special diets

Comfort foods: cookies, hard candy, sweetened cereals, lollipops, instant coffee, and tea bags

Canned meats such as tuna and Vienna sausage

#### Safety

First-Aid Kits

Trauma Kits

Tourniquet

Medications

#### Sanitation

Toilet paper

Towelettes

Feminine supplies

Personal hygiene items

#### Emergency Supplies

Cash

Battery-operated radio and extra batteries

Cell phone (fully charged)

Compass

Cameras to document damage

Paper cups, plates, and plastic utensils

Flashlight and extra batteries

Non-electric can opener

Paper and Pen/Pencil

Sterno Cans

Charging Bricks

Crank Radios (Weather & Emergency)

Clothes

# BE PREPARED

## BUILD A KIT

Plan to be on your own for at least 7-10 days



Water  
(1 gallon per person,  
per day)



Food  
(non-perishable)



Medications



Medical  
equipment



First aid kit



Can opener



Sturdy shoes



Radio



Extra batteries



Flashlight



Warm clothes



Personal hygiene  
items



Fire extinguisher



Tools



Pet supplies



Small bills



Toilet paper



Identification  
& important  
documents



! Keep a 7-10 day kit at home — also have smaller kits in your vehicle and at work

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Ham Call Sign</u>
Director	Michael Riley	586-943-6110	mriley@warrencert.org	kd8fmg
Dep. Director	Mike Rose II	586-855-1685	mrose@warrencert.org	ke8cih
Coordinator	Mike Slupinski	586-214-4704	deploytheyak@outlook.com	kd8vdz
Coordinator	JoAnn Christian	586-980-2055	kd8stz@yahoo.com	kd8stz
Coordinator	Ryan Prouse	248-259-1226	ryanprouse68@gmail.com	kd8ygv
Coordinator	Sandra Jones	586-457-6159	sgjones586@gmail.com	
Coordinator	Ron Mesic	248-830-8450	rmesic@gmail.com	n8xz
Coordinator	Eric Bordeaux	586-242-4996	ericbordeaux@comcast.net	
Secretary	Angela Middleswart	586-219-4329	amiddleswart@warrencert.org	
Coordinator	Rex Marshall	586-933-3886	rexmarshall44@yahoo.com	

## PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

The President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) is the premier volunteer awards program, encouraging citizens to live a life of service through presidential gratitude and national recognition.

The President's Volunteer Service Award is an initiative of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and is administered by Points of Light. Through a shared mission of inspiring more to answer the call to service, the President's Volunteer Service Award celebrates the impact we can all make in bettering our communities and our world.

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**

**Every member should sign-up and start to log all your community service.** You can list any service; it does not have to be directly related to CERT. As you can see below there are references to many different types of service.

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 commissions, Red Cross, any non-compensated training you do or work you perform may be submitted.



## LED SAFETY FLARES

The executive board has made a large purchase of LED Flares and will be handing some out to the members who have worked the most traffic call-outs. We will also be selling some, at a reduced rate to all members.\*

We will be selling the LED Flares to members for \$5.00 per unit. This is approx. one third off of regular retail.

The first order has arrived and these are 3 packs with a carrying bag. The cost will be \$15.00 per 3pack. No splitting of packs permitted. We have other flares coming that are individual and those will be sold one at a time.



\* Sales will be based on participation priority! Other restrictions may apply. Subsequent orders will be over the next few months.

## CERT POLICIES MEMBERS 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.**

## 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](http://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:

### Food

**Goal for April:** Have an emergency food supply that will meet the needs of your household for three days without outside help.

An emergency food supply doesn't have to sit on a shelf, ready for disaster to strike (although it can). It can be part of the food you use every day. The key to a good food storage plan is to buy ahead of time. Replace items before they run out. Buy items when they are on sale. A large duffle bag or plastic tub with a lid makes a great storage place for an emergency food supply. Make sure your family, including pets, will have what they need when disaster strikes.

**Food:** Buy a three-day emergency food supply for your household.

**Food:** Take steps to make sure food in your refrigerator and freezer will stay safe.

**Food:** Make sure you can meet any special dietary needs in your household.

See the Video: <https://youtu.be/vUxtgF8UEmM>

Read More: <https://do1thing.com/topics/food>

## Business:

### Insurance

**Goal for Step 4:** Make sure you have insurance that will enable you to get back into business after a disaster

Finding the capital to make repairs and restore vital resources can be difficult after a disaster. It is critical for businesses to move quickly in reopening their doors. Having the right insurance and the necessary amount of coverage can be the difference between success and failure

**Insurance:** Assess the insurance your business will need if you are affected by disaster.

**Insurance:** Assess the insurance your building will need if you are affected by disaster.

**Insurance:** Purchase special hazard insurance, such as flood and wind damage insurance.

Read More: <https://do1thing.com/topics/facilities>

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

## PRODUCTS PAGE

At the membership meeting yesterday safe battery storage was discussed. As shown at the meeting here is a safe and functional means of storing your batteries.

The Storacell Battery Caddy solves the problem of how to conveniently store your batteries in a compact and easy to find holder. Originally designed for pilots, the Battery Caddy is also great for photography, camping, travel or home use. The Battery Caddy is durable and break resistant and the slim and lightweight design makes it portable. There are no sharp edges to catch on clothing or bags. Storacell's patented locking system snaps batteries into place; batteries snap into place and remove easily. When ready to use, simply push the battery out with your thumb. Keep fresh batteries separate from used batteries by turning them in opposite directions.



The Storacell Battery Caddy provides the best terminal protection at both ends. Batteries left rolling around in a drawer, bag or container have the potential to cause a fire. 9V batteries can be a hazard if the double terminal comes in contact with metal objects; an electrical spark can be created causing a fire. The Battery Caddy is great for a variety of uses including outdoor activities, photography bags, emergency kits, by emergency responders and for home organization.

### Storacell Battery Caddy



[See them on Amazon](#)

[This one is on sale at Amazon](#)