

Good afternoon and thank you for joining the webinar today on CERT competitive events. My name is Catherine Warren and I will be facilitating today's webinar. I have a couple of brief technical considerations to share with you today. First, please turn the volume up on your speakers to hear today's presentation. Next, we will have a question and answer session following today's webinar. To ask a question please type it into the Q&A box. Without further ado I would like to turn it over to Natasha Vacroux, the national Citizen Corps program lead to get us started. Natasha?

Thank you, Katie. Welcome to the first of six annual CERT webinars, everyone. We will be hosting a CERT webinar every other month - with each presentation featuring state, territorial, tribal and local programs and focusing on a specific topics. My name is Natasha Vacroux and I work on Citizen Corps with FEMA's Individual and Community Preparedness Division. Dante Randazzo, the national lead for the CERT program unfortunately could not be with us for this first webinar because he is getting married this weekend so we are very excited for him. We are also very excited about this month's webinar. CERT competitive events offer local programs the chance to validate, practice, and reinforce their skills and procedures in a challenging, fun, and competitive but friendly environment. The events typically consist of numerous skill and demonstration stations with each team rotating from station to station and usually involves multiple CERT programs. Throughout the country CERT programs are planning and organizing competitive events whether they are Olympics, rodeos, games, or something else, to increase the visibility of their programs, engage community partners, develop teamwork and partnerships and to keep volunteers engaged and their skills sharp. We are very fortunate to have three such programs with us today who will be sharing the benefit of their experience. Today's speakers include Stacy Belt from Carson City, Nevada and Shirley Rhodes from Washoe County, Nevada who will be talking about the northern Nevada CERT rodeo. Mike O'Neil with the Platte County Sheriff's emergency management and Jennifer Fales with the Kansas City Missouri emergency management who will share some smart practices for organizing CERT programs and Dave Nichols, from the state of Mississippi, which has held many CERT Olympic events. We hope our featured guest speakers will inspire you to organize similar events in your communities and that their insights and lessons learned will help you get started on the right foot. Once all of our speakers have completed all of their presentations I will talk briefly about resources available organizing CERT rodeos and there will be a brief Q&A session. At this time, I would like to turn it over to our first speakers, Stacy and Shirley.

Thank you. I am super excited to share about our event in Western Nevada. If you can go to the first slide? I will give everybody a little bit of context about where we are located. We are in the northwestern part of Nevada, which is at the base of the Sierra Mountains, just over the hill from Lake Tahoe. So three counties who share boulders, Carson City, the state capital, Douglas County and Washoe County where Reno is located joined forces that decided to develop an event that would test skills and get our volunteers together and promote fun.

Okay, Nevada. Everyone thinks we are near Las Vegas. Our area of Nevada is about 450 miles from Las Vegas and we are only about 220 from San Francisco so that gives you a little bit of context.

With that mission, skills, learning, collaboration and fun, we talked about doing an Olympics or field trial, but decided a rodeo was a great Western theme. We envisioned several teams being

between five and eight volunteers from each of the jurisdictions and that included our local tribal CERT teams as well. I'm going to mention a few lessons learned as we go through this but mostly I'll address those of the end with Shirley.

All right, next. So who were our supporters? And how did we afford this? Our host organizations were key to helping with the expenses, were which would less than \$2000. That included participant T-shirts, food, lapel pins, certificates of participation, and supplies and materials like sandbags and victim tags. We also hired an artist and we have a plaque for the winning team which we hope will rotate over the years through the three counties. So for staffing, Douglas County has a part-time CERT coordinator. Washoe County at the time had one full-time and one part-time CERT coordinator and Carson City CERT team is led by me. I'm the deputy emergency manager for our county and I rely on four on my team lead volunteers. Our evaluators for this event mostly paid staff from various fire departments but we also had a couple of CERT coordinators and volunteers that evaluated and we will talk a little bit more about that and lessons learned.

Next.

So when we were scheduling the rodeo we took into consideration travel time to Carson City from Washoe and Douglas County which can be up to 65 miles. Carson city is the county in between Washoe in Douglas so as a national choice of location but we wanted to give volunteers a reasonable amount of time to arrive in the morning. In addition, May can be very unpredictable as far as whether. It can be 13 degrees in the morning or 50 degrees. So we chose what would be a later than normal start time but it really worked out very well. Super quick, I will tell you that just as we were packing up and finishing cleaning up for the day we had a monumental hailstorm but the weather in the morning and during the event was perfect. Next. All right. I know this slide is difficult to see but what it shows is the rotation of all the teams. Each team was pre-designated a station time ensuring that all the teams were rotated through each of the events. Each team was given two breaks.

One was for lunch which was between 1145 and one and then another break throughout the day. An important lesson here was when you are completing the schedule it is really like a big puzzle. You need to compensate also with extra schedules like an unanticipated team showing up or a team who has registered that doesn't show up. We had a team not show up and so there was a lot of standing around time that we had not anticipated. Next. For our rodeo we decided on five skills-based stations. Each station had a very clear criteria for evaluation like picking a team leader, maintaining buddy contacts or documentation. So going back to timing for a second, we scheduled each station for 20 minutes except for the team building exercise which I will describe in the second that required a minimum of 30 minutes. This really made the scheduling more complicated and I think we have figured out how to fix that I scheduling evaluator feedback time after each session or station. So I will talk about that in lessons learned. All right, next. This was a fun station. We asked that each team develop two different teams to extinguish the fire and three overall teams with the fastest times got bonus points added to the score for this event. There really was too much time for this event so next year I think we are going to couple it with another skill like turning off utilities and I think that will really respect there volunteers time. Because there was some standing around at this event.

The interior search. This was a ton of fun. We had pre staged 13 victims who were dummies and sand bags each were tagged with specific victim identification cards regarding their injuries and symptoms. We stage this event in a burn tower which is five floors with a wide stairwell and a room on each floor. Next.

This is the search. This is the building. Each team, in addition to the search was expected to conduct an initial size up of the building and on the outside of the burn tower there is an electrical or utility panel and inside that utility door we posted a note this is utilities are now turned off. This station also requires the accurate marking of the building upon entering an exit and we did that with the jumbo Post-it notes that we attached to the entry door. It was actually interesting in the station because if we dropped the pipe or slightly dropped a doorway or threshold some of the teams would enter the rooms and assess the victims and a couple of the teams determined it was too dangerous in they wouldn't remove the debris and enter the room. If I remember correctly only three teams found all the victims. As coordinators that give us insight as to how we were actually training our teams for search. All right, next. We added the command structure as part of this event and it was developed to really encourage our volunteers to remember the incident command system and the importance of documentation. So we brought teams into a room, asked them to sit down, read them a them a scenario which says something like you just arrived at Nevada Park after an earthquake. You are the initial team on site and the entire park needs to be searched, you have 35 volunteers who are arriving. How do you organize this response? We scored them based on identifying key positions like an incident commander, safety officer, communications and also on establishing objectives and doing a sign in procedure and making sure all of the volunteers were accounted for and overall documentation. Next. Okay, triage is an area that we found is most confusing for our CERT volunteers and probably for most nonmedical volunteers. We hired an artists and got volunteers from our local high school drama students and we put 17 victims in the field. Next.

When the competing teams arrived at the station they were given a scenario and promptly divide into teams and became a methodical search. I can say this station definitely needed to be longer than 20 minutes. We evaluated on their ability to divide into those teams, shouting out into the field anyone who can hear my voice, properly introducing themselves as CERT volunteers and documentation and then finally correctly triaging or tagging each of the victims. So each team had the chance to get 17 additional points to add to their score for correctly identifying triage of the victims. All right, next.

Teambuilding was a fun event. It was really about communication and working as a team. This particular event required 30 minutes of time between reading the rules, the scenario and the playtime but we had teams that argued. Some gave up. Some couldn't stick with one leader. Some got hung up on the rules about handling hazmat. Rather than remembering that the name of the station was teambuilding. It was a really good event and I think team members really kind of learned about themselves and working with one another. All right. Next.

We would take a quick look at the map of our fire department training facility. It was a perfect facility. We were able to separate the events so that teams in one station couldn't see another station in progress but I can imagine that a park or another large area it would be just as good.

You don't need a tower for the search, any building would work. We really found the most important were the barbecue in the bathrooms. All right, next. I want to touch a little bit on safety and the initial briefing we conducted with all of the participants. When the teams arrived in the morning between 945 and 1015 he went to a registration desk and we're given a packet which included their customized schedule for the day, a hold harmless agreement and media release. So each team member signed the forms and when that paperwork was returned to registration they were given their 2014 1st annual rodeo T-shirts. They also got a boot lapel pen and at that time we had coffee and muffins and fruit and water and stuff available while everyone was getting checked in. Then we conducted a group briefing after everyone arrived. We gathered everyone to talk about ground rules, orientation to the ground and most importantly the safety message for the day. Next. So what did we learn? It was a lot of work but it was really rewarding and Shirley, jump in here any time. We know that we need to build in time after each station for the evaluator to discuss with the team their specific performance. What their scoring was, what the observations were, where more training may be needed. The pictures that I think you saw in this slide presentation were all the pictures that we got so I would encourage anyone to ask another volunteer or hire a photographer. It is important to dedicate specific additional volunteers were not competing to work as a food unit. They really worked hard all day and functioned kind of as support staff for all of the volunteers. And then I think we would allow more time in the technical areas like search and rescue and triage, maybe not as much time for teambuilding but each area really needs to be stretched out to about 30 minutes. Again, going back to that hold feedback piece. For fire extinguisher that was really fast and since it was a timed event with bonus points for how fast they went, there was some standing around time there.

If I may, Stacy?

Yes.

I was going to say because we were a little short on professionals to participate as evaluators and as you said we did use some experience CERT volunteers in that capacity. However, we found that each unit trained just a little bit differently and the evaluation must be objective we found. And of the most of those differences were fairly subtle, the teams as it turns out were extremely competitive and they were willing to point out these differences with enthusiasm. So we need to make sure that even the professional evaluators are aware of those little differences in our training.

I think too, our biggest take away is that we all learned a great deal. We had a lot of fun and we shared ideas and I know that we mentally enjoyed collaborating among the different units. I know my teams, in particular who anticipated and are still talking about rodeo. They had such a great time and I suspect we will even have more participants last year after hearing about it.

I agree. It was a really fantastic event. It took a lot of planning but it paid off.

I think we are good unless you want to take any questions? This is our winning team there. That last picture and like I said we are hoping that plaque gets moved around from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Thanks for your time.

Thank you, Shirley and Stacy and we will be able to take some questions through the chat box at the end of the presentation. I have to say, I love those photos. So I am really looking forward to seeing more. Not that now we are going to turn it over to Mike and Jennifer with Kansas City.

Hello, this is this is Mike O'Neil, I am the assistant emergency management coordinator for Platte County, Missouri Sheriff's department. And I am also the CERT coordinator that combines both Platte County and Clay County and neighboring jurisdictions.

And I am Jennifer Fales, I'm a training and outreach coordinator with the Kansas City Missouri office of emergency management. Mike and I partnered to co-chair this past year's CERT rodeo. Next, please.

Next slide please. Thank you. Next slide please. So you might be asking yourselves why should you do a CERT rodeo? As the previous speaker said there is a lot of work involved but it is rewarding.

The main reason we did it is we needed a way for CERT members to stay active in between disasters. We wanted to give them an opportunity to network with other regional volunteers. We are very blessed in this area that we all work closely like Mike and I across city and county lines. We know our volunteers are going to be shoulder to shoulder when something happens and we wanted them to get to know one another and we also want to make sure that they keep advancing their skills. The basic CERT program is wonderful, but we always say it's a foot on the path it's not the end of the journey. We also want them to practice the capabilities that they did get in the basic CERT class. Next, please.

So planning an event. That is really where Mike and I wanted to focus our time with you today. If you have never done it or if you're still new to doing it we recommend that you give yourself six months or more to plan your first rodeo. 12 months is optimal. When you start getting into the details of an event, there is a lot more involved than what looks like on the surface when you go on YouTube and you watch videos of an event. You don't see the things that are happening behind the scenes.

The more that you plan and put on these big CERT type events the easier it's going to get. Our CERT rodeo this year, because we had a grant constraint we were working under it we had to get it finished in under three months. I can tell you it was taxing and something we would probably not commit to in the future. At least six months is optimal. Mike, did you want to add anything?

As well being a short rant period, our volunteers were able to stand up with us. We held weekly meetings and we put a boundary on the meeting times for two hours so that we would stay on focus and stay on track. So a lot of that you may see throughout our programming and our stuff that we got for you, so definitely involve your volunteers.

Next, please.

So one of the other big lessons we learned is too many cooks spoil the soup, and there has to be a balance think with all things in life you want to make sure you're involving the major teams

that are going to compete but consider limiting how many representatives that can send to the planning committee meeting.

What we ended up doing this year learning from previous years experience was to limit a core planning team to at least one rep from each team. And then we had subcommittees what they could bring in other representatives. That helped us stay on topic. That helped us get through discussions and decision-making quickly which was paramount for this year but it let people feel like they had good involvement by being able to serve on some of the subcommittees. It also kept those of us on the core committee from becoming overly voluntold told for certain items. They gave us a pool of people to delegate to. As Mike was saying an agenda for the meeting is really important. When you get a large group of enthusiastic, excited people together, it is really easy to get off topic. We use something called the parking lot method. If there are any facilitators on the call you may be familiar with that. Any subject that comes up that is not relevant to the agenda items of the evening, we put to the side on the flip chart, revisit them at the end of the meeting to decide if we needed to put it on a future agenda, if we needed to send it to a third-party to deal with and in a few cases we decided that it wasn't really relevant. So all of those things are going to help you stay on task and stay on target and stay on time.

Next slide please.

Some of the key decisions that you want to do early, is what do you want to hold your rodeo? And where would you hold it? Is the venue we to be big enough for what you are planning to do? In our particular case we held it at the University which gave classrooms and also gave us the ability to have a group meeting and then be able to spread these folks out and put the rodeo outside. We also decided because of the time of the year and the weather, we wanted to have a backup to that as well. Who should you invite? That's something that the core group decided to get together and we put that out to everybody to put out there. What is your budget? As Jennifer said we were under a grant. We had budget constraints. We had to work on a budget and one of our classes you will see here down below is something that will help you get an idea of what to do. What will your rodeo include? Our boundaries on this last one where we had to do something that was over and beyond the basic CERT. We tasked a core group with those core capabilities of what we had and what did we want it to go onto. And what were we using a lot more of that we put out for others to gain. And again, like I said, we had to have contingency plans just in case. We set up weekly meetings. We set up a specific timeframe and if we had to get together we also had an e-mail vote and an e-mail group that we could keep everybody in touch on.

One thing that I would add to that, when you are deciding who you should invite, think beyond CERT teams or their political figures that support your CERT team that would do well to come and see you in action. Are there potential donors that would give money to your team? The media, it's not just a chance for your team to learn, but it's a chance for people to learn about your team so you want to open those invitations up to some dignitaries.

Next slide please.

Part of this we learned in previous rodeo is we do use the ICS. Again, based on this particular CERT grant we compartmentalized down a little bit. Jennifer and I were the leads. We put our

core group as the ICS. We set up everything based on that configuration and we made all our plans with the core group. Previous events we have let CERT volunteers set up the whole ICS and did all the planning and we gave them the equipment to do and use and what they needed to do but we had a longer period of time to do. Again this one we little more constrained so we reformed the ICS is a little bit differently. It gave the opportunity for your teams to understand what ICS is. We always talk about it in some of your CERT program programming and some of your training. We actually make them use some forms and we follow the guidelines on some of that as well.

Next slide please.

At this point, you know weather is all always one of those what if's. As many of you would say, well we can't do it in this. Well -- an incident or environment does dictate what we are able to do. So in this particular case, we wanted to make sure we had backup plans and that is where we had to go. We had to look at late deliveries of food. We do, as mentioned in the other group, we do have some that have bad attitudes. There was some misinformation out there that we had to deal with. We did have some equipment that didn't function but we had some folks there that were able to get us back up and back on game and made it rather effortless transition to make sure we continued on. If there's anything else that goes wrong, it probably will. We were prepared for anything to come up and we had a good group of folks that were able to take on the task to get those problems taken care of quickly.

Next slide.

So designating troubleshooters for your rodeo or your event and that is their sole job to oversee what is going on. To look for anything that is starting to go off track so they can correct it quickly took if you have a bad attitude because someone doesn't feel like they got the class they wanted or, whatever issue, if you can get that person before rumors start spreading and things start happening you can turn the whole day around for that individual. When you find out from the caterer that food is not coming on time that troubleshooter can quickly reconfigure the schedule, let it be known to the instructors what is happening. I think a lot of a lot of times as planners we stress over the little things. As long as your attendees don't know anything went wrong, it is a great rodeo so our troubleshooters did a great job. All participants had no clue that things were not exactly as we intended so at least one or two troubleshooters is really going to save your bacon. Next slide please.

Try it if you like it. If funding is low, you can still put on a really good rodeo for little to no cost. My co-partner here is definitely a person who goes out there and looks for the best deals, which either cost little to no money. If you've got those kinds of folks on your team, those are the ones you want to put to work because they can actually go out and help you maintain your costs and keep you down to a minimum where you are not having to expend a lot of money that you don't have. You might be surprised who rises to the occasion when you need them to because as we found in this group we had a lot of folks that have a lot of great ideas and they had little cost to them and it just took time and teamwork to get those things put together. Participants really don't notice the little things, just as Jennifer said. And our group, the core group, the planning, the ICS

everything, everybody was staying on top of their game and we all knew but we should to do and we were prepared for whatever little problems came up.

Next slide please.

The benefits far outweigh the negatives. You may struggle through some of the planning process, but when you get to the event day and you see how excited the volunteers are and you see everybody having a good time, you really do forget the little things you were stressed over through the planning sequence. We know that our team is better equipped should we have an actual disaster. We know they know each other, we see our CERT now going to joint training and they recognize one another. And you as a planner are going to have more experience putting on a big event and we really think that using ICS and things you get the experience of dealing with the disaster even though it's an event and in no way take that to mean our rodeo was a disaster. It was wonderful.

Next slide.

If you would like to take a look, this is the website that we have that has the rodeo in a box. It's got videos that we were lucky enough to have a group here in Kansas City that has done many, many different deals for emergency management and fire and police and everything else. They did an outstanding job with ours and I think once you go out and look you can do one of these at a time or you can do it as a rodeo plan and make it part of your class. The nice thing about this rodeo in a box, you can pick and choose how you want to use it and it will also give your instructors some paper to work with and it will also give you some videos of things that we've done so if you do not have the subject matter experts out there then you can use our videos to help you teach that class and if you have some other people they can augment there that would also be helpful.

The six classes that we have videos on our the art of moulage, preparedness on a budget - which is basically an extreme couponing class so if you don't have money for your rodeo check that out or get some things for free or cheap. We also have the art of grid search, knot tying 101, damage assessment for CERT and working with functional and access needs as well as a seventh video that is an introduction to CERT rodeos. We also put a CERT rodeo in a box manual on the website that you can download. It has all of our meeting agendas, it has the ICS forms, it has planning tips, planning committee organization structures and a whole lot of lessons learned that we couldn't pack into our time today. It is absolutely free. There is no copyright so you can download all of those tools and use them however you like. FEMA actually gave us the grant that paid to have the videos filmed and the manual put together. The rodeo itself we paid for and I think we came in under \$1000 and we had almost 148 participants at our rodeo as well as support staff and dignitaries, so it is very doable. If anyone has any questions or if you go out to that website and you look at the materials and you would like to ask Mike or I questions, feel free to contact us, we would both happy to help you if we can.

And as you see there is our information. Please feel free, we are both available, we feel strongly about this and we are getting ready to get ready for preparation for another CERT rodeo for

2015. We will put the work on that as well and we will be glad to help anyone that needs anything with any questions that they may have. Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you, Jennifer and Mike. And thank you for offering us your contact information. I am sure you're going to be getting a feel questions on how you pulled that off in three months. And I wanted to remind the people who are sitting on the webinar today that you can type in your question on the chat box and if you have time left over at the end of the webinar we will do a little facilitated Q&A. But without further ado, I would like to turn it over to Dave Nichols in Mississippi.

Thank you very much. Glad to be on here. I only picked up some good things that I can apply to ours so I appreciate the other presenters. We've been doing Olympics just like the rodeo but a different name. We started our first one back in 2007 and we actually used to do two a year, summer and winter. Because of funding we have cut that down to once every 3 years but we do, do three big events every year. We didn't Olympics 1 year, a CERT conference the next year and a teen CERT conference the next year end then went back to the Olympics. Next slide.

Again, when is the best time to do it? We have found that summer is the best time to do how we do ours because it's easier for teams to schedule to be there - more vacation, less things to going on school related wise, you're not competing with college events and things like that. So again we have found that summer is the best time of year to host our Olympics. Next slide.

Teams. How many teams are you going to have? We usually do up to 10. One thing that we kinda changed that we can actually bring more in than 10 at the end. We used to house 100% of the teams that would come because our events are over the course of the weekend, but what we do now, is that if a team is within 45 miles we don't pay for their housing. They can stay there, it will be on their dime otherwise they can travel back and forth. How many per team? You have to have a minimum of five to have a team there. Because some of the events you have to have five people to be able to carry them out and we have a maximum of 10 and that way we can have more and more people participate. So of that's kind of what we do there. Next slide.

Vendors, we invite vendors. We have several vendors here in Mississippi that sell CERT products and different things like that. I am with the Mississippi office of Homeland security, I'm the state Citizen Corps program manager so we can't charge those vendors to be there, so what we do is we ask them for items to put into our goodie bags that we give to all of our participants at registration. We also give a T-shirt all of our participants with a different logo for it every year end. We feed our people while they are there and we include those vendors in the meals.

Another enticement to get them there. They will set up their booths, display their stuff and we have had a nice collapsible coolers given to us with our logo put on it and different things like that, that we can give to our participants. So make sure you invite your vendors. Again your state may allow you to charge and they'll pay for it, and that would be great, but if not you can get some other things out of them, some in-kind services, if you will. Next slide please.

Meals. We have Friday evening is our registration, so we have snacks at the registration and that's where as teams begin to arrive to get the goodie bag, pick up get their T-shirt, a get their agenda of what is going to happen over the course of the weekend. On Saturday we serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner. We have a speaker always come in for the Saturday dinner. Someone that they can relate to. We just find that works out really well and then on Sunday, we feed them breakfast before they go home. One of the biggest things, especially if you're doing this in the summer, is make sure you have plenty of water on hand during competition and we also have snacks available as well during the competition and we pay for all meals. Again one of the biggest things that we do other than the teams getting themselves to the venue it does not cost them anything to participate in our Olympics and so we think that is one of the big things. Let me say this, ours is done through the state and we are still fortunate, we do get a budget every year and we actually budget money for this. We do these on about anywhere between \$11,000 - \$15,000 depending on how many people we have coming in. But we do it right. Again we are playing for lodging, meals, snacks, waters, snacks, waters, T-shirt, medals, certificates and things like that so that's kind of how that works. Next slide.

Location. Well the location of housing is on-site and what I mean on this is two main places we have done our Olympics is at a community college that has a conference center with a hotel attached to it, and this last year we did it at Mississippi State University and the hotels were literally right next to the campus and that worked out well because that gave us again all kinds of room on those campuses, auditoriums. There's plenty of great things to use at our disposal. Again if you're doing a statewide Olympics, essentially location a centrally located venue would be best. One of the things we thought about if our program continues to grow is maybe doing some like a North, Central and South Olympics regional each year and then the winners of those would come to the overall Olympics at that third-year so we have been playing with that, that way you can kind of stretch this out and get more teams involved. But if you read doing the statewide like we do, a centrally located venue is going to work best. Again you got more teams you don't have to pay housing for, but again and if you do have to pay a housing it does shorten the trip for those teams coming from out of town. Next slide.

Links. How long are you going to do it? Friday as early registration and social, Saturday, we actually do a couple early morning training and then we have our competition the rest of the day Saturday. As I said Saturday night we will also have a speaker come in. Many times Saturday night will also have a NIMS Jeopardy game that we will play with them and give some of the teams extra points if they do well at that. And Sunday we usually do our awards and evaluations and that will happen at the breakfast and people are free to go home. That is kind of the length of ours. We have seen it really works well -- in again word-of-mouth, more teams are willing to come every year this is a nice little trip away, we get to practice or skills, we get to compete and we will talk about awards here in a minute so people really get excited about this event. Next.

Training. These are just some of the training opportunities that we have had. Crowd control, pets and disaster, your CPR, outdoor search and rescue. There is just a vast array of training modules that you can give to these people. You can even do some refreshers of their basic CERT. Some of these teams may not a practiced as much as they need to and it might help them during the

actual Olympic training themselves. We always offer additional training. We found people really appreciate it when you give the more skills. Next slide.

Events, a little stall a little smaller here. These are not all of the events we have done. These are just some of those. Hazmat awareness is a great one because that was the first time we did that this year at our Olympics and we actually had a person, two victims, we had live victims. We go to the schools of nursing and they have to get community service hours and a lot of these college campuses, a lot of these students have to get community service hours so we are always able to get a lot of live victims and we have an associate professor of nursing on our state council. He moulages them, does a great job. We invested in two moulage kits and we actually have two people at the hazmat awareness and one of them saying that "hey, I am I hazmat guy, it's okay for you to come get me" and see if they really remembered their training. If it's a hazmat, it's a stop sign, stay away. That was a real good one to add in this year but again there are all types of events. You can find them online. I will give you my contact information at the end of how we do these different events. A lot of you have already seen. Cribbing is another good one. One of the ones that I think and this was mentioned earlier, one of the ones that people always struggle one with is triage. And that has taught me is a trainer that I have to do a better job in my training on the triage. That is something that we found by doing our Olympics that even if it's a team I haven't trained other teams from around the state, we noticed that is one of the weakest areas is triage so we have to pay more pay more to do that.

Next slide. Judging. You need to have a job a judge at all events. If you are going to do an Olympics and you're going to give awards, you have to make sure you have judge at all events. Who are good judges? Local law enforcement, local fire, statewide EMA, statewide citizen corps advisory council. They have been through the CERT program so they make great judges as well. We have the score sheet there for them and it's very self-explanatory, on a scale from one to five. Make sure you have a judge at every single event. Make sure they are qualified judge for that event. Next slide.

Safety. This is huge. Again we teach this in CERT, whose safety comes first? Me and my buddy. Make sure you are preaching safety throughout your entire event. You have to have a safety officer. That's a big thing. Make sure you have to have a first aid area that is not just staff but also equipped and then you need to have a code word for a real world emergency. We like to use the word pineapple because that is not the word usually say or hear in everyday life unless you are at the ice cream parlor and you want to pineapple sundae or something. We like to use that word pineapple and you would be surprised, we would probably have done over 10 or 12 Olympics now and twice we have had real world emergencies where that code word has come in handy and we've been able to get to the person and get them treated and have no major accidents whatsoever. Safety is a primary concern. Next slide.

Awards. We need to have certificates for all of your participants, certificates for all your sponsors, that's those vendors you invite in. That is -- we also give certificates to our volunteers that are being victims or any other way they volunteer. We always give a certificate suitable for framing for framing. We do trophies or medals for the winning team and what we do is each event has a gold, silver, and bronze winner just like the Olympics. Then we add up the scores of all the events and we will have an overall gold, silver, and bronze for that year's Olympics. By

giving an award for each event you will find that more teams get awards and they feel good about what they're doing and it keeps them engaged and makes them want to stay part of their local CERT program and when you add the overall winner it gives them bragging rights and of course they want to come back next year and defend what they have won. So that really works well. Really important to do this. Trophies and medals you can get those things really nice and they are not very expensive at all. You can get medals for about a buck 50 apiece. Just don't date them and that way you can use several in use them again the next year especially on metals. Next slide.

Publicity. This is already been mentioned earlier. Invite your local newspaper, radio, in TV. Have your participants sign a photo release in advance. That is really important to make sure you do that. If you're doing a statewide event likely do, make sure you clear any publicity you do with your state agency and make sure it's okay if you are this state program manager or a state employee that it's okay for you to grant interviews, if not go find some of your better CERT team leaders that are participating, let them in and let them get interviewed. Your program, your state program is still going to get the publicity, but it's going to be better because you're going to get local people to talk about why it is important to them that you are there for this event so everybody wins when you handle it like that. I like to use my local CERT people with the TV stations there to do the interviews. Again we end up getting more publicity that way than if I was in front of the camera. Next slide.

Any questions? Let me give you meet let me give you my contact information. By e-mail is DNichols@DPS.MS.gov. DNichols@DPS.MS.gov. My phone is 601 669 0971. Thank you all. And good luck. If we can help if we can ever help you, we are always here.

Thanks, Mike and thank you to all of our presenters for such great information. I just want to take a few minutes to let people know that we do have several resources to help programs plan their own competitive event in the FEMA library. The national CERT program has developed a library of drills and exercises including competitive events and these have been designed and are ready for use, format and include complete instructions, detailed lists of materials and all the supporting forms. The resources are available online at the FEMA library website and it can be a little hard to find and that's why we included the link here and it will be on the PDF when we upload it onto our website. But I checked yesterday and if you do a Google search for community emergency response team drills and exercises, this is the first item that will come up.

So the competitive events resources that are currently available provide overview and specific guidance on how to plan and organize events, including how to prepare for specific stations like the ones included here, fire suppression relay, triage, and some of the other kind of stations that were discussed by our of the presenters. Next slide please.

We also have some sample templates that you might choose to use in planning your event and includes things like registration forms, sign in sheets, briefing materials for facilitators and evaluators. And exercise schedule. Feedback forms and score sheets for each station. We encourage programs to use these resources as a starting point and customize them to fit your needs and the needs of your communities and programs. Next slide please. I'm going to turn impact Katie to review the question and answer portion of today's presentation. You can still

send in questions. If you have when I think we are going start with one that we want to post to all of our participants today.

Thank you very much, Natasha. If you have any questions, we still have time so please type them into the Q&A box. I would like to start off by answering the question that I have seen many times is will the slides be available. Yes, after the presentation the slides will be available in a PDF form along with a recording of the webinar today. When those are available they will be posted online and the URL will be shared with everybody. The next question I would like to pose is a round Robin to everybody and I would like to start with Stacy because it came in while you were talking. In the question is, can these be conducted by all volunteer teams where there are no paid personnel? So, Stacy, can you start us off with your opinion on that?

I think it can be. I think one of the challenges we ran into was when we were bringing in evaluators from teams who were competing - does that make sense from the county - that could be a little bit complicated or viewed as not fair. But I think if you use your team leaders and establish criteria you won't have a problem.

Great. Thank you very much. How about Jennifer and Mike. Do you guys have some advice on that?

I think, this is Jennifer. I think it is definitely doable but I also think it is a great opportunity to give some of those paid responders more interactive with your team so there might be an opportunity to introduce your team to police, fire, EMS and get them more supportive of your team. Mike?

That is basically what we tried to do because a lot of your members will show up or might be in an accident or something and how else best for these folks to know who these CERT members are if they don't have the opportunity to coordinate and work with them on the event, before a real live event or an unknown that pops up and the happen to see a CERT member with the vest out there in real life so I think it's a good piece to have with every exercise or event you have and to get these folks to try to know each other.

Thank you very much. How about you, Dave?

Yes. It's real easy to do. Like I said we have a statewide advisory Council that comes from people from all walks of life, people from the hospital association, faith based organizations, community colleges and colleges and they are a great resource to call upon to help judge these events and to do different things. You can get by without having to pay a lot of people. You just have to make sure you use all the resources at hand.

And Shirley, did you have anything else you wanted to add?

I agree with Stacy. I think this is possible but it will take a lot of coordination and again, like Mike was saying, attempting to use all the resources available to you because that is one of the things that we have struggled with too, is trying to make sure all of our first responders are aware

of who we are and what we can do and we've been making great headway there but getting them to participate in things like this might be tough at first but I think it is well worth the effort.

And I would imagine that you would definitely need more than three months if you're going to be organizing something like this with the just volunteers, right?

Yes. Absolutely.

Okay, Thank you, everybody. We didn't do any other question so I'm going to go ahead and wrap it up. I'm going to thank all of our presenters for joining today. It's inspiring to hear your stories in the interesting events you pulled off and I can't wait to see what other CERT teams do in the future to mirror these excellent events. I would like to thank all of the participants for joining us today. If you have any questions you can still type them into the question and answer box even though we are going to sign off. And again we are going to be sharing the URL for the presentation and PowerPoint slide when it's available. So thank you very much, everyone and have a great day.

[Event concluded]