



GRAND ISLE CERT



After Action Report – *High Water on Lake Champlain*

April 29, 2011

Grand Isle CERT was called on 4/28/11 by Jim Benson, EMD for North Hero, asking about our availability to assist in a sandbag operation and inquiring how many bags we had on hand. We only had about a dozen bags that had been purchased to hold down signs. On 4/29/11 Jim Benson contacted us again and had located some bags. He had rock fines delivered to a house on Canal Lane in North Hero and asked us to go the site and assist the homeowner.



Those responding were Marty Koldyk, Carl Sourdiffe, Dick Trudell, and Kay Trudell. The CERT trailer was brought to the site to provide us with equipment. We filled approximately 200 bags and helped stack them around the house. Two loads of rock fines were delivered. We were on site from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

April 30, 2011

CERT was contacted by Bruce Noble, Isle LaMotte Fire Chief, to assist with traffic control on the island. Due to the high level of Lake Champlain, a section of the main road onto Isle LaMotte, Route 129, was flooding. Debris was being washed over the roads. Two sections of West Shore Road, and a section of Main Road through an area called The Marsh were underwater, with up to 18 inches of water over the surface. We were asked to set up traffic control on Route 129, which had been limited to one-way traffic and was being fortified with rock on the shoulders, in order to allow vehicles around the trucks and excavators. On West Shore Road a section of the roadway next to the Lake had eroded and the rock was being placed to secure it. Traffic was to be limited to homeowners only and construction vehicles.



Those responding were Becca Bowser, Susanna Jaeger, Carl Sourdiff, Shawn Toof, Marty Koldyk, Tom LaBombard and Dick Trudell. The CERT trailer was brought to the site, and warning signs placed on both ends of the work areas. Radios were used to communicate from one end of the work areas to the other, and traffic control vests were used by those directing traffic. We arrived on site at 10:00 am stayed through 7:00 pm when the work crews quit for the evening.

May 5, 2011

CERT was contacted by Bruce Noble, Isle LaMotte Fire Chief, to return to Isle LaMotte and assist with traffic control again. The main area was on the s-curves on Route 129 leading onto the island, where we deployed signs and controlled the one-way traffic by radio. Trucks carrying rock for reinforcement were given priority. The intersection of West Shore Road and School St. was manned to provide warning to residents; and the intersection of Main Road and School Street was manned to allow truck traffic only to the area of The Marsh where the road was being raised. The CERT trailer was located on a turnoff in the s-curves and served as our command post.



Those responding were Susanna Jaeger, Marty Koldyk, Tom LaBombard, Carl Sourdiff, Dick Trudell, and Kay Trudell. We were on site from 10:00 am to 7:45 pm, when it was getting too dark for the equipment operators to work safely. We were asked by Bruce Noble to return the following day at 8:00 am.

May 6, 2011

We arrived on site at 8:00 am and set up in the same locations at the intersections of School Street (both ends) and at the s-curves on Route 129. Duties were the same as May 5, but an additional person was required on the other side of The Marsh as the road was now partially opened. Those responding were Chuck Besterman, Susanna Jaeger, Marty Koldyk, Tom LaBombard, Carl Sourdiff, Dick Trudell and Kay Trudell. We were on site from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm.

Observations:

Communications was key for the traffic control portion and our radios operated fine. However, the life in the radio batteries is approximately 5 hours after which communications were hampered. On both May 5 and 6 we operated the portable generator in the CERT trailer to recharge the radio batteries and used some spare radios from members not present to switch out radios. Charging the radio batteries takes several hours each, so that this method, although it gave us some additional capacity, was not entirely satisfactory. It would be prudent to provide each member with a spare battery along with their radio. Our decision to use first names rather than call numbers for the members proved to work more easily, since without constant use of call numbers, it is easy to forget them.

Submitted by
Dick Trudell
GI-CERT Director

May 11, 2011