

Woodinville High School Teen CERT

By Robin McKenzie, NEMCo Volunteer, K17PZY

Our first NEMCo community Teen CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training started in September 2019 with 29 teens from high schools across the Northshore School District (NSD).



This September, Woodinville High School in NSD started a semester long Teen CERT class (VEC100) for grades 9 to 12 and currently has 28 students enrolled. The class is taught by Danna Kapacinskas, School Technology Specialist, and she invited NEMCo to teach parts of the CERT course since we are CERT Train-The-Train certified.



Carl Lunak, NEMCo Emergency Manager, and Robin McKenzie, NEMCo CERT instructor, have been on live video classes with the students twice weekly. Carl has been teaching fire suppression, medical triage, light search & rescue, and cribbing. In January, Robin will be teaching students about types of terrorism. He will also introduce students to amateur (ham) radio and NEMCo's RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services) activities.

The WHS course follows the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) CERT curriculum and students that completed the course receive a FEMA-CERT certification. Topics include disaster preparedness, fire safety and suppression, disaster medical treatment, search and rescue, the Incident Command System (ICS), disaster psychology, and terrorism. In addition, students will participate in American Heart Association (AHA) first aid training (certification upon demonstration of knowledge and skills), radio communications, and other emergency response skills.

If you want more information about CERT go to the NEMCo website www.northshoreemc.com, or contact Carl Lunak at clunak@northshorefire.com