



**American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of California  
National Security Bulletin  
April 2024**



I learned some new information at the National National Security Zoom meeting this month. The Salute to Service Member Award applications are due to National by June 1<sup>st</sup> and can be submitted online. I'll obtain any applicants from National.

Submit any candidates here: <https://www.legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicemembers-Award-Form>

Units are able to submit as many candidates as they like from each branch of service.

### **C.E.R.T. Training (Community Emergency Readiness Training)**

What's more important than making sure we're ready in times of need? One of the major threats we fight annually as Californians are wildfires. Are you ready if a wild fire were to take your home?

C.E.R.T. Training ([www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)) provides resources to make sure your ready when a disaster happens and provides resources so you can help your community. CERT training covers basic skills that are important to know in a disaster when emergency services are not available. With training and practice, and by working as a team, you will be able to protect yourself and maximize your capability to help for the greatest number of people after a disaster.

To find a local Cert Program search on google for CERT and your City. Each city should have a website designed for their CERT Trained people and inform citizens how to get the training.

### **How to be Ready in case of an emergency**

1. Put a plan together by discussing the questions below with your family, friends, or household to start your emergency plan:
  1. How will I receive emergency alerts and warnings?
  2. What is my shelter plan?
  3. What is my evacuation route?
  4. What is my family/household communication plan?
  5. Do I need to update my emergency preparedness kit?
2. Consider specific needs in your household.

Different ages of members within your household, Responsibilities for assisting others, Locations frequented, Dietary needs, Medical needs including prescriptions and equipment, Disabilities or access and functional needs including devices and equipment, Languages spoken, Cultural and religious considerations, Pets or service animals, Households with school-aged children
3. Create a Family Emergency Plan  
Ready.gov has an quick and easy fillable form you can find [here](#)
4. Practice your plan with your family/household

**Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs)** are short emergency alerts authorities can send to any WEA-enabled mobile device in a locally targeted area. WEAs look like text messages but are designed to get your attention with a unique sound and vibration repeated twice. WEAs are not affected by network congestion and will not disrupt texts, calls or in progress data sessions. You are not charged for receiving WEAs, and there is no need to subscribe. Children will also receive alerts on their WEA-enabled mobile devices. Parents and guardians, talk to your children about WEA Alerts and staying safe in an emergency. A fact sheet about WEAs for kids can be found [here](#).

If you are not receiving WEAs here are some tips to troubleshoot your mobile device:

1. Check the settings on your mobile device and review your user manual (you may be able to find this online too).
2. Check with your wireless provider to see if they can resolve the issue.

The **Emergency Alert System (EAS)** is a national public warning system that allows the president to address the nation within 10 minutes during a national emergency. The EAS is sent through broadcast TV and radio, satellite digital audio services, direct broadcast satellite providers, cable television systems and wireless cable systems. The President has sole responsibility for determining when the national-level EAS will be activated. FEMA and the FCC are responsible for national-level tests and exercises. The EAS is also used when all other means of alerting the public are unavailable.

Did you know **FEMA has a Mobile App**. Their mobile app allows you to receive real-time weather and emergency alerts, send notifications to loved ones, locate emergency shelters in your area, get preparedness strategies and more. Get it [here](#).

For God and Country  
The Golden State – United as One

Elizabeth Doidge, Security Council  
American Legion Auxiliary, Department of California  
831-682-3985  
ns@calegionaux.org