



Camden County, MO
Emergency Management Agency

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Polar Plunge Event
February 25, 2023
AFTER ACTION REPORT

Prepared by

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Executive Summary - On Saturday, February 25, 2023 the Camden County EMA/CERT operated from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm, acting as traffic and crowd control for the days' events. These included the 5k run (traffic control) and parking control from the start of the events.

Project Overview

Project Name:	Polar Plunge 2023
Date:	February 25, 2023
Duration:	~1 operational time period
Location:	Public Beach #2 Osage Beach, MO
Planning Team:	Camden County EMA, OBPD, Camden County CERT
Number of Participants:	2 EMA and 6 CERT members
Oversight:	Camden County EMA

Overall Assessment

Objective 1: Traffic control for the 5k run.

Activities: CERT members assisted with setting out traffic cones prior to the event. They then provided traffic control during the event. They assisted with removing/collecting traffic cones after the event. The Deputy EMD provided oversight for all of those activities.

Assessment: With the exception of a few individuals who ran the cones, operations proceeded as expected. The route and stationing of CERT members was great.

Objective 2: Parking for the day's events.

Activities: One of the event coordinators requested CERT operations for parking control. The Deputy EMD provided oversight for the activities.

Assessment: CERT leadership was dynamic and knowledgeable. Cooperation with a partnering EMA (Cole County) was greatly appreciated (we borrowed their light tower, as ours was received the day before). Cooperation with other first responder agencies and private/public sector entities was phenomenal.

Conclusion - There was no Incident Action Plan (IAP) provided by the first responder agency that was running the event. CERT needs more multi-point traffic control training. There was no parking designation.

Overall, with the sparse information the EMA and CERT were provided, the team responded well and did a great job. We found some issues and training concerns on which to work.

Recommendations -

The recommendations for correction are as follows:

1. Better communication leading up to event needed from event sponsors and OBPD if the EMA/CERT is to continue participation. The EMA and CERT were given little to no direct communication about the event this year and were told to “just do it how you did it last year” though it was explained that we had new staff and a new CERT Coordinator.
2. CERT members should remain in assigned spots unless otherwise directed.
3. CERT members should maintain flexibility since it was a more fluid situation with less information this year.

Direct assessment and recommendations from CERT Assistant Coordinator Ranita Jones:

PROs -

- CERT performed traffic/parking task well.
- Suggested attention to address bad parking situation from last year's After Action Report (AAR) was addressed and worked very well. (This year while waiting for event briefing to take place, CERT members present reviewed last year's issue, analyzed parking lot and came up with a workable solution.)
- Handicap parking was assigned to the VIP Parking Lot.
- CERT members received several 'thank you's' from some event attendees who were glad we were there. One lady in particular was especially thankful we were there because last year she was one whose car got sandwiched in between two other cars.

CONS -

- Lack of communication with Assistant CERT Coordinator as to status of CERT working this event. (Not until Asst CERT Coordinator reached out to the CERT Coordinator again on the Monday before event did she find out that CERT was working event, and which CERT members were already signed up.)
- Event briefing didn't take place until 9:00 a.m.; 1 1/2 hours after CERT members reported in.
- No Event Incident Action Plan (IAP) was provided to the CERT Coordinator for review or to create a specific IAP for CERT. (Basically the CERT Coordinator was told things were the same as last year; unfortunately, the new CERT Coordinator wasn't even a CERT member last year at this time so had no idea what took place at last year's event.)
- One CERT member was hard to keep track of as to where they were and what they were doing,

SUGGESTIONS -

- Be sure CERT Coordinator/Asst CERT Coord knows CERT members locations throughout shifts, especially if member has been assigned another location. (This is both to be sure areas are covered by a CERT member, and that CERT members are safe.)
- Large parking lot - Reserve parking on far right side of lot only for trucks & large vehicles.
- In VIP parking - Need 2 cones and length of tape to mark off spaces for kiddy pool setup.

- Parking lot CERT member needs:

At beginning of event til about noon:

Large parking lot - 3 people is Ideal number (1 on road by tent, 1 at parking lot driving lane being utilized at time, 1 at back of lot indicating how and where to park)

VIP parking lot - 1 person

From noon to end of event - or - when given instructions parking lot no longer needs to be covered:

Large parking lot - 2 people

VIP parking lot - 1 person (who can also help cover the area of large parking by VIP parking lot if needed)

- Provide a basic event time schedule of activities taking place. This way CERT members have an idea when there may be an influx of traffic to be ready for. Also, if someone asks a CERT member they would be able to provide an answer. (*Note: this was provided on the event website and at the EMA for several weeks leading up to the event.)