

# CERT Deployment Preparation Checklist

Team # \_\_\_\_\_ Team Radio Channel # \_\_\_\_\_ Radio Privacy Code \_\_\_\_\_

(Team Incident Commander Hub Radio Channel # \_\_\_\_\_)

Assembly Area: Location \_\_\_\_\_

- If you evacuate: Before You Leave, contact: Team Captain \_\_\_\_\_  
TEL: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL: \_\_\_\_\_

## At the beginning of the storm season:

- Rinse out your hydration pack bladder several times, air dry and re-assemble
- Inventory, re-stock and organize your CERT backpack

## At the 48 hour alert (Hurricane Watch):

- Collect your CERT gear and keep in a central location: Backpack, helmet/goggles, gloves, vest, ID badge, hydration pack
- Charge your radio or add fresh batteries
- Clip board, pen and pre-addressed Search & Rescue forms, if available
- Small spiral notebook

## At Deployment Time:

- Notify your family or significant others that you are deploying
- Wear footwear that provides best protection possible from penetration
- Wear appropriate clothing for the conditions
- Pack a soft cap or hat with brim
- Wear sunglasses
- Apply sun screen
- Apply insect repellent
- Fill your hydration pack with cold water and ice
- Get your CERT backpack
- Put on your CERT protective gear
- Have a light snack. Bring snacks, trail bars, etc. with you.
- Drink water 1 hour before leaving. Avoid caffeinated beverages.
- Make notes of damage, street access, status of residents, etc. on your way to the Assembly Area (on a Search & Rescue form, if available)
- Review the Team Quickstart Checklist

## Safety Tips in the Field:

- Your personal safety and health, and that of your team members and volunteers, come first.
- Use your safety equipment.
- Move safely through your assigned area and be conscious of all potential hazards.
- Maintain situation awareness.
- Use a buddy system.
- Protect against heat illness
- Lift properly
- Operate within your limitations

## Hydration Pack Reservoir Cleaning Tips

When finished using it, the hydration reservoir and sip tube should be emptied as soon as possible and allowed to air out and dry. As with a tent, **ensuring that a hydration reservoir dries completely is critical** for avoiding mildew growth.

Cleaning kits, tabs and dryers offered by CamelBak and other hydration reservoir makers provide handy ways to maintain a reservoir and sustain its life.

The crew at Cascade Designs (maker of Platypus and MSR Dromedary, Hydromedary and Cloudliner reservoirs) also offers the following recipe for keeping reservoirs and tubing fresh and taste-free:

- Mix 1 or 2 cups of baking soda with 2 or 3 quarts of water.
- Squeeze half a lemon into that mixture, pour it into a reservoir and let it sit for 1 or 2 days.
- Empty the reservoir, rinse it very thoroughly and prop it open so it can dry fully. (Commercial drying kits are particularly handy for this.)
- Some of that mixture can also be used to soak a sip tube to restore its freshness. Another option: Soak the tube in a mild bleach solution.
- Always rinse and dry the tube thoroughly.

If you use **flavored drinks or sports drinks** in a hydration reservoir, it can be close to impossible to totally remove every hint of an introduced flavor from the plastic. The baking soda/lemon treatment described above gives you an above-average chance to succeed.

**Avoid using iodine** to treat water in a hydration reservoir. Typically, the taste of iodine will linger in the plastic forever. Chlorine dioxide tablets will likely also leave a trace of taste, just one not as blatantly noticeable (and distasteful) as iodine.

### Reservoir Storage

When storing a completely dry reservoir, do not fold it. Allow it to lie flat or, if possible, keep it propped open. Creasing the material may spawn cracks in the future as the material ages.