

# 2023 National CERT Conference

June 29-July 1, 2023 in San Francisco, CA  
(pre-conference June 26-28, 2023)

## Overview

The National CERT Association (NCA) is excited to announce that the 2023 National CERT Conference will be held in the San Francisco, California (technically just south of San Francisco), Thursday, June 29 through Saturday, July 1, 2023. (pre-conference training Monday, June 26 through Wednesday, June 28). This year, the NCA is partnering with the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The partnership with Cal OES and FEMA will allow us to offer additional training opportunities and presentations. Cal OES will be providing reasonable accommodations if requested.

The conference will be planned and executed by a planning team comprised of CERT leaders in California and across the nation. All conference planning team members, event staff, instructors, and presenters are pro-bono, allowing us to keep the conference registration fees as low as possible.

You can sign up for the 2023 National CERT Conference here: [2023 National CERT Conference Email List Signup](#). Signing up for the email list will ensure that you receive conference updates.

If you are interested, you can see pictures of the 2022 National CERT Conference (Held in Galveston Texas in August 2022) here: [2022 National CERT Conference Photos](#).

## Conference Venue

The conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency SFO Hotel. The Hyatt Regency is located at 1333 Old Bayshore Hwy, Burlingame, CA 94010, just minutes from the San Francisco International Airport. The hotel features free airport shuttle pickup and drop off (about 10 minutes each way).

We have negotiated a fantastic conference rate of \$140 per night for single or double rooms (standard rates during that week is \$322/night), with waived tourism fees for a final price (after taxes and city fees) of just \$158.07 (based on current taxes and fees). The daily self-parking has been reduced to \$15 (from \$40). A link for hotel reservations will be shared at a later date.

The hotel will honor the conference rate up to 3 days before pre-conference and up to 3 days after the main conference ends (pending availability). If you plan to come a few days early or stay after the conference, the hotel is just an hour or two away from



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popular tourist sites such as Napa Valley (wine country), the Monterey Bay, and about 3-4 hours away from Lake Tahoe and Yosemite National Park.

You can see a virtual tour of different aspects of the hotel here: [Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport](#).

## Dates

Pre-conference training will be Monday, June 26 through Wednesday, June 28, 2023. Main Conference will be Thursday, June 29 through Saturday, July 1, 2023 (ending by 1pm).

## Registration Fees

The conference budget and registration fees have not been finalized. The current estimate is \$550 for Early Bird Conference registration and an additional \$150 for pre-conference training, inclusive of taxes and fees. A number of reduced-price registrations will be available for CERT volunteers that are covering their own costs to attend the conference. Information regarding the discounted registrations will be available at a later date.

Currently, the food and beverage included with this pricing includes:

- Coffee each morning for both pre-conference and main conference, Monday through Saturday
- Boxed lunch for each pre-conference day
- Coffee each afternoon on Thursday and Friday
- Plated lunch on Thursday
- Lunch on Friday

Additional food and beverage may be provided as sponsorships are raised for the conference.

Conference registration will open in early 2023.

## Conference Agenda

We understand that a preliminary conference agenda is crucial for many potential conference attendees. We hope to have a preliminary Conference agenda available in early 2023.

## Pre-Conference Training

This year, we are expecting to offer up to 10 training tracks during pre-conference training.



We are excited to announce that this year, the CERT Train-the-trainer Course will be offered in 3 languages! This includes English, Spanish and Mandarin. The Spanish and Mandarin CERT Train-the-Trainer course deliveries are presented by the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES).

Other pre-conference training being considered include:

- Second English CERT Train-the-Trainer course delivery
- Up to two CERT Program Manager courses
- Ham Radio training and Certification
- Up to two concurrent tracks of CERT supplemental modules (participants can take up to six different modules such as CERT Tools for Leadership Success, CERT Firefighter Rehab, CERT Traffic and Crowd Management, CERT Animal Response 1 and 2, CERT Communication Tools, CERT Donations Management Support (pilot), Integrating people with Access and Functional Needs and others with Disabilities into CERT (pilot), etc.)
- Up to two Advanced CERT Program Manager Workshops – a new concept geared toward CERT Program Managers that have taken the CERT Program Manager course and have 2+ years of experience as a CERT Program Manager
- A three-day advanced Instructor Development course
- CERT Master Instructor Course (final pilot) – this course is designed to train and develop participants to deliver the CERT Train-the-Trainer and/or CERT Program Manager courses
- Wide Area Search and Rescue
- A track for Non-Governmental Organizations that may include emergency management and resiliency training for NGOs.

### **CERT Exercise, Rodeo, and Hands-on Training**

The CERT Conference Planning Team is considering the inclusion of an exercise component during the Pre-Conference training. Training opportunities during this exercise could include:

- A CERT Rodeo – this will allow CERT teams to showcase their hands-on skills in a friendly competition.
- Hybrid CERT Training Train-the-Trainer – CERT Program Managers and Instructors who are utilizing the Hybrid CERT training will learn how to set up the in-person skills demonstration and practice
- Training on how to set up an exercise – CERT Program Managers and Instructors will get trained on how to plan and execute an effect CERT exercise drill/refreshers.

More information will be shared about this opportunity as the conference planning continues.



## **Main Conference Plenary**

The Opening Plenary during the Main Conference features prominent leaders in the CERT Community. Past Opening Plenary speakers have included the FEMA Administrator, FEMA Regional Administrators, Governors, State/County/City Emergency Management Directors, County/City Fire Chiefs, County Sheriffs, City Police Chiefs, Local Elected officials, etc.

## **Second Day Plenary**

The Second Day Plenary Session features CERT related updates from the FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Division (ICPD) and the National CERT Association.

## **Breakout Presentations**

In 2023, there will be up to 12 presentations during each breakout. This will allow some presentations to be repeated, allowing attendees up to two chances to take select presentations.

## **Call for Presentations**

A call for presentations for the 2023 National CERT Conference will be shared at a later date.

\*Presenters are responsible for their own travel costs. Presenters who wish to stay for the conference outside of their presentation will need to register for the conference.

## **Networking Activities**

Networking is a major component of National CERT Conference. One of the most important take-aways for conference attendees is the opportunity to build their CERT network that will allow them to learn from and collaborate with other CERT leaders in their local geographical area and across the nation. To help facilitate networking, the following activities will be included during the conference:

- Welcome Reception – a staple of conferences, the welcome reception is held during the evening prior to the main conference. Main Conference registration is scheduled for Wednesday, June 28 and a welcome reception will be scheduled for around 5:30pm to 7:00pm on that day.
- Friday Night event – The 2018 National CERT Conference included Karaoke, which was such a hit it has become a CERT Conference tradition. We are hoping to continue this tradition at the 2023 National CERT Conference.
- Hospitality Suite – The hospitality suite serves as a meeting place for attendees before and after dinner. Open roughly between 5:30pm and 10:30pm Monday through Friday during the conference, the hospitality suite will be in the Regency Club event room on the top floor, the hospitality suite overlooks the San



Francisco coast-line (usually clear and gorgeous in June). You can take a look at this space here: [Regency Club room at the Hyatt Regency.](#)

- Hyatt Regency Atrium – the second floor of the hotel is the Atrium. The Atrium features dining opportunities, a fully stocked bar with TVs (for sports and news), as well as a Top Golf booth. Many attendees will be spending their evenings in this area, giving way to lots of fun and networking opportunities.
- Additional Networking Opportunities – the networking team will be working to try to add additional networking opportunities throughout the conference.

### **Challenge Coin and Conference T-shirt**

Conference attendees will receive a conference coin and t-shirt as part of their registration fee. Additional challenge coins and t-shirts may be purchased for \$10 each (as supplies last). These are unique items for attendees to cherish.

We are very excited about the 2023 National CERT Conference and look forward to seeing everyone there!

Suu-Va Tai  
State CERT Administrator, California Office of Emergency Services  
President, National CERT Association



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