

FEATURED

CERT honored by weather services

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From left, Ken Drozd, Peggy McGee, Hayes Galitski, Jack Cruikshank, Carole Petty, Linda Reed and John McGee celebrate being named the 2023 Southeast Arizona Weather Ready Nation Ambassador of Excellence. National Weather Service

Every year, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and National Weather Service recognize organizations that help improve the nation's readiness and responsiveness to extreme weather.

On Monday, NWS Tucson announced the Green Valley Community Emergency Response Team has been named the 2023 Southeast Arizona Weather Ready National Ambassador of Excellence.

Ken Drozd, a warning coordination meteorologist, nominated CERT for the award. "I've been really impressed with their efforts," Drozd said. "They always go the extra mile."

Green Valley CERT educates members of the community about weather safety, regularly trains its members, and interacts with the NWS to increase awareness, including hosting Skywarn spotter training, Drozd said.

He was particularly pleased CERT recently participated in the Monsoon Madness Forum hosted by the Green Valley Council where community members were able to learn about monsoon dangers and preparations from CERT personnel, the NWS, and other public safety officials, Drozd said.

"It was a total surprise to us when we got word from Ken Drozd that he'd nominated us," said CERT President Peggy McGee, who has been involved with the group about a decade. "We're very honored."

Green Valley CERT, which was created in 2003, and is sponsored by the Green Valley Fire District, has about 30 paid and 15 active members, McGee said. They meet nine months out of the year on the last Wednesday of the month and hold two basic training sessions annually. They cover disaster preparedness, disaster medical operations, disaster psychology, fire safety, light search and rescue, CERT organization and CERT and terrorism, McGee said. To learn more, visit: ggvcert.com.