

CERT UPDATE • APRIL 20, 2016

As usual, the monthly meeting will be on the last Wednesday of the month, in this case, April 27th, 6:00 to 8:00 pm (at the latest), GVFD Training Center, 1285 W. Camino Encanto.

The title of the training is ***Solar Storm***. So, can an event on the sun cause a widespread, prolonged power outage? Yes, with a qualification—satellites and earth-based observatories monitor the sun continually, so we could expect 24 to 48 hours warning of a solar storm powerful enough to cause electrical damage. Other potential causes might not be so predictable, including cyber or EMP attacks or just a major glitch in the power grid. The U.S Congress received the latest risk analysis just this month on April 11th by the Congressional Research Service: *“Blackout! Are We Prepared to Manage the Aftermath of a Cyber-Attack or Other Failure of the Electrical Grid?”* The report is not reassuring.

We will discuss this and what CERT should be prepared to do. **You also are encouraged to sign-up for an on-line Solar Storm exercise to be held on Saturday, April 30th from 9:00am to 12:00 at the Quail Creek Clubhouse.** Go to the [Disaster Resistant Communities](#) website and scroll down the page to click on “Register Now” for the April 30th exercise.

John McGee
President, GGV CERT