



Whatcom County Sheriff's Office News Release

Bill Elfo
Sheriff
[\(360\)778-6605](tel:(360)778-6605)

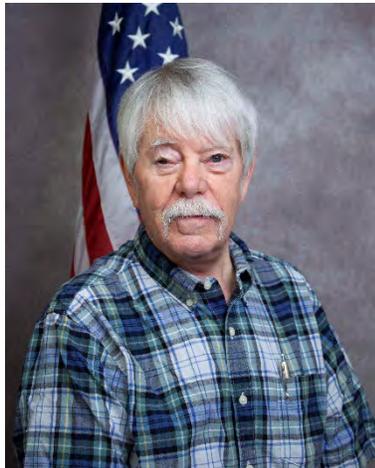
Doug Chadwick
Undersheriff
[\(360\)778-6618](tel:(360)778-6618)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Deb Slater, WCSO PIO
[\(360\) 927-4838](tel:(360)927-4838), dslater@co.whatcom.wa.us

WCSO ANNOUNCES A NEW PROGRAM MANAGER FOR CERT

Whatcom County, WA - The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) Division of Emergency Management (DEM) is pleased to announce that as of August 15th Doug Bestle has taken on the volunteer position of Program Manager for the Whatcom County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program.



Doug Bestle, CERT Manager

Doug is a multi-decade resident of Whatcom County, originally from Denver, Colorado. He recently finished up a 20+ year career as a Project Manager at CH2MHill working the Oil & Gas sector for the Whatcom and Skagit County refineries. He also has an extensive background in non-profit Program Management including senior leadership roles with Kiwanis International, former President of the Brigid Collins House, and Board Member of Computers for People in Need. He is a US Army Veteran and a recent graduate of the WCC Cybersecurity/IT Networking programs.

Doug has also been an active member of Whatcom County CERT. During COVID-19 he volunteered to support many activities – including traffic control, testing, vaccinations, donations, food bank support and women's winter shelter. He's also been active with moulage activities for CERT and local Fire Department and Airport mass casualty exercises.

Doug is stepping into the Program Manager role following the six years of dedicated service and leadership of Greg Hope. Greg will continue to support CERT and remain an active member and instructor of the program. He currently is the Education & Outreach Coordinator for the City of Bellingham Office of Emergency Management.

About CERT: The Whatcom CERT program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area, and trains them in basic disaster response skills. CERT members are prepared to safely and efficiently assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help.



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