




2025

RheKen AI Investigator	Dinky CERT Squirrel	Chat's Help Desk
	<p>Dinky, Ranch Squirrel division for CERT. The Critter Emergency Response Team.</p> <p>I'm a fearless first responder, and also a journalist. I publish my very own *Dinky News in a Nutshell. *</p> <p>Please note: "I'm a squirrel. Always double-check for accuracy—after all, *you're* the human here!"</p>	

2025

January	Lily and Teacup



NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

By Dinky the ranch squirrel

I'm a squirrel!

Always check the information.



January
Lilly &
Teacup

Once upon a time, in the town of FEANTM, the Critter Emergency Response Team (CERT), was known for its crucial role in ensuring the safety of all residents, both human and animal. They worked tirelessly alongside the neighboring town of Livermore, and their local police, sheriffs, and firefighters, always ready to respond in times of crisis.

On a small ranch lived Lilly, her daughter Teacup & her sons. While the other critters spent their days gathering food, Lilly was passionate about civil engineering. She wanted to teach her daughter, Teacup, about building a dam and the role of civil engineers. Teacup wanted to be just like Mom – a Civil Engineer.



Lilly started by having Teacup practicing building with wood blocks - balancing them on top of each other.

Then the training moved to a small stream. Lilly showed Teacup how to put rocks on top of each other to stop the flow of water or slow it down. Additionally, to look at soil composition.



Showing her two sons a dam that wasn't structurally sound she explained, "As a civil or structural engineer, if a dam like the St. Francis Dam were to fail today, the first thing we'd do is assess the damage to the surrounding infrastructure. It's crucial to figure out what went wrong and why it happened so that we can prevent future catastrophic failures. We'd work closely with teams like CERT to keep everyone safe. You'd want to evacuate any residents in the path of the floodwaters, and then start planning how to repair or rebuild the dam to prevent further harm. With our new knowledge it would not be built like the St. Francis had been built.



Wikipedia: The St. Francis Dam, was a concrete gravity dam located in San Francisquito Canyon in northern Los Angeles County, California, United States, that was built between 1924 and 1926. The dam failed catastrophically in 1928, killing at least 431 people in the subsequent flood, in what is considered to have been one of the worst American civil engineering disasters of the 20th century...**a defective soil foundation and design flaws led to the dam's collapse just two years after its completion. Two and a half minutes before midnight on March 12, 1928, the St. Francis Dam catastrophically failed.**



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Other critters lined up on the dam and listened intently, imagining the horrible sound of the rush of water, the destruction, and the urgency. Lilly explained how, after a collapse, engineers would analyze the soil, the construction materials, and the design specifications. They would have to figure out how to mitigate further damage and make sure it didn't happen again.

"This is why we now work together with teams like CERT, the police, fire departments, EMTs, and all departments." Lilly explained. "In an emergency, coordination is everything. Being on the CERT team you would help with evacuations and making sure everyone stayed safe while the engineers and emergency agencies come up with a plan."



Lilly smiled but she noticed the critter's worried expressions. She calmly said, "Let's wait a few minutes and Bob will arrive and give further explanation."

She then grabbed her squirrel-nut cellphone and called in her friend, Bob, from the Livermore Pleasanton Fire Dept.

Once Bob arrived, he gently picked up Lilly and Teacup. He surprised Teacup with a pink cowboy hat just like her Mom wore. While holding Lilly and TeaCup he explained, "Don't worry, you live in a place that doesn't have dams like the St. Francis, and my department and others, monitor all existing dams for safety. We run regular checks and do reports on any potential weaknesses. We're constantly making sure things are safe, so you don't need to be afraid." By the end of the lesson, the critters were no longer worried. They felt reassured knowing that there were clever engineers like Lilly and

the local agencies working hard to prevent such disasters. They left the lesson inspired, imagining themselves one day becoming engineers, members of CERT, the LPD or like Bob with the LPFD, EMT's or working for agencies ready to help keep their town safe from disasters big and small.



TA DA DA – Happier Ending!

Bob told TeaCup that she was now an honorary LPFD Baby Squirrel Volunteer.

When it was safe for Teacup to accompany Bob, he would carry her to visit the fire station. He gave TeaCup a special cowboy hat like her Mom but Teacup's was special with the logo of the Livermore Pleasanton Fire Department who is always on call for your emergencies big or small.

The CERT TEAM – Coummunity Emergency Response and Critter Emergency Response Teams



“Dinky – I’m a squirrel, always check the information”

**CERT
Critter Emergency
Response Team
Future Stories**

