

CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT NEWSLETTER

April 2011

SINCE 1991



HB CERT
HIGHLIGHTS

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CLASS 1



President's Message

By Peter Petrelis
pgpworks@verizon.net

April is the 20 year anniversary for the Huntington Beach CERT. While digging into the photo archive, a CERT historian found a 1994 photograph of the first graduating class of CERT members. Quite a few of these original members are still active in CERT and provide a legacy of experience.



1994 CERT Graduating Class

Over the years, CERT members have participated in many activities. Faces of CERT and some activities are illustrated in photos on pages 5 and 6.



2008 CERT Graduating Ceremony

Do you have a memory or picture of the early days of CERT? This year we invite you to share them with us and we will publish them in the newsletter.

All past and current CERT members are invited to bring family, friends and neighbors to the: **First 2011 "Save-a-Life" Saturday (SALS) class** on **Saturday, April 16, from 7:45am to 2:30pm** at the **Huntington Beach Civic Center, 2000 Main Street, HB.**

Class 1: Disaster & Terrorism Preparedness

April 16, 2011 7:45AM to 2:30PM Civic Center

Learn what threats Huntington Beach residents face, how the City will respond in a disaster, and how you can get your home, family, neighborhood, school and/or business prepared to respond to emergencies. **Free Lunch Provided**

Dress code for Save-a-Life Saturday (SALS) Classes.

Long pants and closed toe shoes are necessary for safety reasons. No tank tops.

The President's preparedness challenge for this month is:

Since April is Earthquake Preparedness Month, the challenge is to educate and retrain yourself to be able to help your family, neighborhood and community in the case of a man-made or natural disaster.

- All past graduates are welcome to attend one or more of the SALS classes.
- If you do not belong to a CERT team, please consider joining a team.
- The following websites provide valuable information on disaster response:

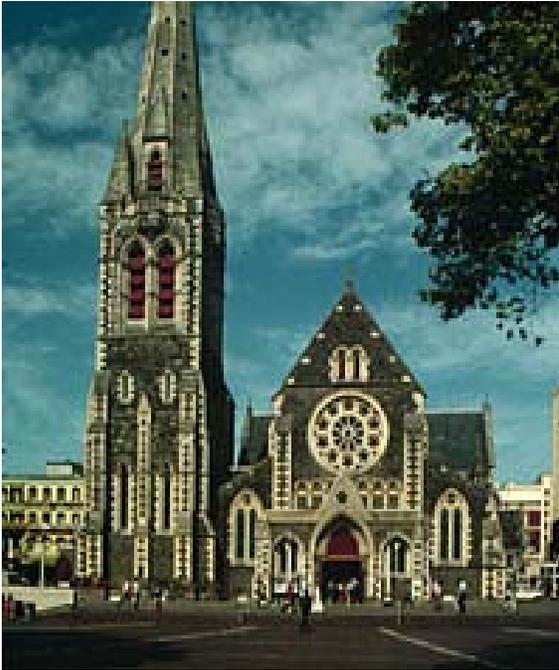
- <http://www.oes.ca.gov/>
- <http://www.fema.gov/plan/>
- www.ocready.org/
- www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert

CERT Database

Fire Department Volunteers (CERT members) have the opportunity to be added to the new CERT database by contacting me to update their information. **E-mail me at pgpworks@verizon.net or call 714-842-6136.**

It Could Happen to Southern California

By Virginia Petrelis & Anna Pinter



In February 2002, Peter and Virginia Petrelis visited Christchurch, New Zealand. Christchurch, known as the Garden City, is one of the most beautiful cities we've ever seen. It's the gateway to New Zealand's South Island and draws thousands of tourists each year. Peter and I were impressed by the very modern city and the pride the people take in their surroundings. Flower gardens are everywhere.

On September 4, 2010, a 7.1 earthquake hit causing minor damage to the city of Christchurch, population 350,000. The city had been hit by three earthquakes previously: 1881, 1888 and 1901. Residents were filled with unrest and fearful waiting to see if another aftershock was going to occur. Five months after the 2010 earthquake, the tension had begun to dissipate when a tremor shook the area on Tuesday, February 22, 2011, at 12:51 p.m.

New Zealand Prime Minister, John Key, declared the magnitude 6.3 earthquake an aftershock of the September quake. He called the quake a national disaster and estimated its cost to be as much as \$12 billion dollars. Christchurch Cathedral, one of the city's historic buildings, (dated Dec 16, 1864) sustained major damage. The spire and part of the tower were destroyed leaving only the lower half of the tower standing. After the quake on September 4th, the church reopened on the same day and the only damage was broken glass. Scaffolding was erected to repair the damage. During the February 22nd aftershock, the structure of the building was seriously damaged. The damage was more extensive from the aftershock,

both physically and emotionally.

The next day, the cozy downtown area, normally filled with pedestrians and trolley cars, was described by

the press as having an "end of the world" feeling. The streets were deadly quiet with only the sound of search and rescue helicopters overhead. Bricks and toppled facades littered the streets and cars. The sides of buildings fell off, exposing rooms inside like life-size dollhouses. In grocery stores, fallen shelf stock was waist deep in the aisles. Many blocks away, the 27 floor Hotel Grand Chancellor, the city's tallest building, was leaning like the Tower of Pisa and safety officials feared its collapse. People wandering the streets had to jump over three foot fissures in the asphalt.

Two days later, on early Thursday, rescue crews were ready to begin work. Early rescue work was done by residents helping their community. Urban Search & Rescue workers concentrated on collapsed buildings while many others fanned out across the city going door to door. The rescue personnel stated they were working against time as they pulled people from collapsed buildings. Morale was lifted for rescuers and the entire city as people were pulled from the rubble. These rescues gave hope, but the officials knew there was only a limited time for human survival in these conditions.

Even though people were in shock, especially the elderly, they greeted the rescue workers and said they were so glad not to have been forgotten. They were in tears about the lives that were lost, but the sentiment that was said over and over was, "We can rebuild, it is only bricks and mortar."

A major earthquake could happen anytime here in California. We can only hope that the skills we've learned in CERT and our plans to check on the frail and elderly will help us all survive. After all, our CERT motto is "Neighbor Helping Neighbor."



Upcoming Events

- April 7, 2011 - 6:00pm: Management Meeting in the EOC open to all HB CERT Members
- April 16, First *Save-a-Life Saturday* Class, 7:45am to 2:30pm register on-line www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert
- May 22, First *Save-a-Life Saturday* Class, 7:45am to 2:30pm

Fire Med customers can take CPR classes for free and non-FireMed customers can take classes for a fee. Dates are listed below:

- Saturday, April 9, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30p.m.
 - Wednesday, April 27, 6 to 9 p.m.
- To enroll in CPR classes, call 800-400-4277. Class location is in the HB area and exact location given at time of enrollment



CERT Training Pays Off By: Gloria Morrison

My son, Jeff Morrison, recently separated from the Navy. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2004 and served as a submarine officer from May 2004 until December 2010. He was

the Submarine Squadron Eleven Junior Officer of the Year in 2008 and left active duty as a Lieutenant and will continue his career in the Naval Reserves. Jeff was recently hired by The Department of Homeland Security in Washington DC as a Program Analyst in the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO).

Jeff graduated from the HB CERT program at age 15. In 2003 when he was at the Naval Academy, a Category 5 Hurricane hit Annapolis. Since he had extensive experience in sandbagging from HB CERT, he volunteered to lead his company's sandbag team. Hurricane Isabel caused \$60 million in damages to the Academy. At that time, I had him write an article for the HB CERT Newsletter about his hurricane experience. Little did he know that his CERT article would show up years later.

Before Jeff's first DNDO staff meeting, his supervisor Googled him and found the CERT article and his new boss made him tell his future coworkers about it. Jeff discussed growing up with his mother being an Emergency Manager and going through the CERT and RACES programs. He discussed how he learned to sandbag and help in emergencies. In the 1990's we activated the EOC 7 times, 6 for flooding. Jeff worked in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on many occasions as a youth. He was an amateur radio operator, a member of HB RACES as well as an active HB CERT volunteer. He told the DNDO staff that this

was a perfect beginning for his new job safeguarding our homeland.

Thank you to HB CERT and RACES for helping Jeff get into the US Naval Academy. Jeff's college application included the honor HBFD Youth Volunteer of the Year for 2 years which helped him get into the Academy. His education at the Academy prepared him to be a submarine officer. These experiences prepared him for his job at the Department of Homeland Security.

Jeff's success started at age 15 with his CERT and RACES volunteerism. The HB CERT and RACES programs can be proud that they are preparing our youth to be future leaders.

(Glorria Morrison was the Emergency Manager for the City of Huntington Beach from 1985 to 2009.)

HURRICANE ISABEL AND CERT

BY: Jeffrey J. Morrison, Huntington Beach CA.
CERT Graduate 1994 & Student at U.S. Naval Academy

(Article from *THE CONNECTION*, summer 2004, vol . 6 number 2)



One might wonder what CERT and Hurricane Isabel have to do with each other. CERT is in Southern California, Isabel on the Eastern Seaboard; CERT deals with disasters like floods and earthquakes, Isabel was a hurricane. I will tell you what they have to do with each other...ME! Being a native Southern Californian, I am accustomed to infrequent earthquakes, mud slides, Santa Ana Winds, wild land fires, and that very rare water spout off the coast. When the National Weather Service put Annapolis, Maryland on a level five hurricane alert, I was caught off guard. Being a CERT graduate for nine years and being the son of the *Master of Disaster* of Huntington Beach, I thought I was ready for whatever Isabel could throw at me...but was I?

HURRICANE ISABEL AND CERT (continued)

It's 1500 hours (3 PM for you civilians) and the announcements begin over the MC. The academy needs working parties to start sandbagging around the academic buildings as well as Bancroft Hall (where all 4000 Midshipman live). Being a volunteer most of my life for CERT, I gladly volunteered, as I knew my expertise could be used in some way. I was put in charge of my company's working party and we were responsible for sandbagging the 8th wing of Bancroft Hall. I directed the 30 or so underclass I was in charge of where to place the sandbags and how to stack them. Remembering my CERT flood preparedness class, we stacked the sandbags in brick-line format and formed a water-proof wall to hopefully stop Isabel's rising waters.

Around 1900, the winds began to pick up. Being a squad leader at the United States Naval Academy, I am in charge of 11 underclassman. Three of my squad members are from the West Coast, and like me, had never experienced a hurricane. One of my freshman (Plebes) knocked on my door when the rain began and asked what she should do if this hurricane gets as bad as everyone said it is supposed to. I told her, "Duck and Cover I guess, but I really don't know to be honest with you." I looked to my roommates who are both from the East Coast for guidance as to what to do in case this level five hurricane really hit. This just shows that while you may live in Southern California, you never know where you will be when, The Big One hits and what The Big One could be. Everyone assumes The Big One will be an earthquake. In my case, it was far from it.



Midnight came around and I looked out my window through the mostly horizontal falling raindrops and howling wind and all I could see was water. It was amazing how much water there actually was and how fast it was rising. Being a *newbie* I ran outside to check the rising sea. The

water had risen over 10 feet and overwhelmed the academy's man-made seawall. As I looked into the distance, I could make out two or three boats that had washed up onto the seawall. They were capsized and broken into pieces while being slammed up against the large boulders that comprise our seawall. Man, was that a sight to see! I could see it all fine until WHAM, the lights went out. Everyone was anticipating losing power, but I don't think anyone really prepared for it. While my company mates were digging through boxes and bags blindly, I reached to my top desk drawer and pulled out my trusty flashlight. I keep in there at all times for incidents such as this one. Most of the time, I use it when the power fails which is often when you live in a 150-year old building.

I finally fell asleep around 0300 only to have to rise, like every morning, at 0530. When I awoke, the winds had calmed a bit, but the rain was still falling furiously. The power was still out, so I grabbed my trusty flashlight and ran down to the bottom of the 8th wing staircase to see if my working parties sand bags had held up against the awesome power of Isabel. Sadly, the water had overwhelmed our wall and had flooded the basement of Bancroft Hall. There was nothing we could have done, Isabel was just too powerful.

The next day we found that all chemistry labs at the Academy had been flooded and destroyed. Not only were they flooded with water, they were also flooded with chemicals used for research. The entire basements of five academic buildings were completely destroyed resulting in an estimated \$60 million in damage for our site alone. Also, under two stories of water was the academies heating and cooling plant. We don't anticipate having heat or air conditioning until March or April. If the Academy were in San Diego, this wouldn't be a problem, but I know I am not looking forward to three feet of snow on the ground and no heat. I'm a Californian and not used to the cold. (I'm missing my Surf City!)



HURRICANE ISABEL AND CERT (Continued)

I have witnessed first hand the preparations, the event, and the aftermath of a serious hurricane. I used the skills taught to me in CERT (and at home with my mother) and survived a serious hurricane. Not only did I survive, I was prepared and helped out others, the true theme of CERT. Although our sandbags did not hold, we did everything in our power to fight the rising water.

Sometimes mother-nature is just too powerful, and there is nothing that can be done. We worked as a team to fight the water, now we're working as a team to repair the damage. The United States Naval Academy will not be the same for months, if not years, but whenever a working party is needed, I'm always at the front of the line as CERT has taught me to be the team player and the community volunteer that I am.

Hurricane Isabel – September 2003

- No food – 1 day (We ate MREs)
- No water – 2 days
- Days without electricity – 4 days
- No hot water – 7 days

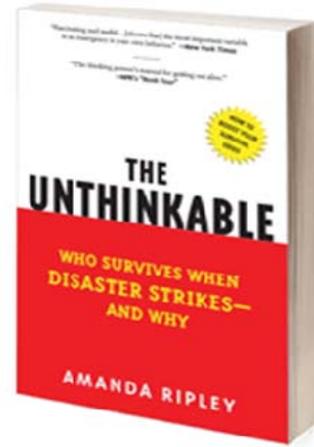
When he wrote this article, Jeff Morrison was a senior at the U.S. Naval Academy and had been accepted in the Navy's Nuclear Power Program. Upon completion of that program, he became a submariner.



***The Unthinkable* – Great Read!**

by Brevyn Mettler, CEM

The past few years have been unbelievably hectic for me with the retirement of Glorria Morrison, budget cuts, expanded responsibilities, graduate school, getting married and so on. This said, you have not heard from me in quite a while, something I hope to change. I recently read the book *The Unthinkable: Who Survives When Disaster Strikes - and Why* by Amanda Ripley and decided that I had to pass this on to CERT Newsletter readers. Furthermore, the recent tragic events in Japan and New Zealand remind us of the fury Mother Nature can unleash



and that it is not a matter of if, but when we will experience a similar catastrophe.

Amanda Ripley, an award winning writer for *Time* magazine, takes a compelling look at how people react in disasters. Ripley interviews survivors of many disasters as she explores the psychology of fear and the stages of human response to a traumatic incident. Disbelief, deliberation and action are the commonalities that seem to cross different crisis scenarios. The average person slows down and often wastes valuable time doing menial things, such as looking for a purse when they need to evacuate a building, gathering useless belongings in their home or simply freezing as the body tries to process the situation around them. It is these precious few moments that can mean the difference between life and death.

There are several lessons that come from this book that must be passed on. First, Ripley found that people who reacted quickly and decisively were those who had experienced traumatic incidents before and/or people who thought out and planned what they would do if an incident occurs. One example is people who paid attention to airplane emergency announcements and thought out what they would do if they needed to evacuate. Second, evacuation drills are imperative; the more people practice, the more it will become second nature when needed. Third, people generally do not over react and panic in disasters, and more often than not, move nonchalantly, often times with tragic results.

Ripley has written an eye-opening book that is easy to read and should be mandatory for anyone who wants to improve their chance of survival in a disaster. I encourage you to not only read it yourself but to encourage others to do so as well. Think of the lessons that you learn in this book and what you can do to prepare yourself and your loved ones to react when the time comes.



Sending needed supplies to the Marines



CAMP CERT



Retirement Lunch for Bobbie Purdue



Moulage at John Wayne Airport Drill



Alternative Cooking (Chili)



2008 Graduation Banquet



4th of July Parade

CERT PAST EVENTS

THE 1906 SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE
Submitted by CERT Members Linda & Cecil Wright
(REPRINTED FROM February 2010 CERT Newsletter)



Linda's maternal grandfather, Arthur Spangenberg, was born in San Francisco on Christmas Day 1892. He was 13 years old when the 8.3 Magnitude earthquake struck the Bay Area killing 503 people (the total death toll reached 700 due to the subsequent fires). The following is his personal account of the earthquake and the few days following. This write-up was extracted from his hand-written autobiography which had been created for a class at the Pasadena Senior Citizen Center when he was approximately 85 years old.

"...In 1906 we were living at 1706 ½ Turk St., S.F., which was the upper floor of a two story residence. On April 18th at about 5 o'clock in the morning, Frisco was awakened by a terrific earthquake. There is no need to remind us of the terrible damage it did and that many lives were lost. I just want to recall what the situation was with the average lucky family - our family being in that bracket. On our house and a lot of the neighbors it was just that part of the chimneys which were above the roof that were shaken apart. Inside, all things that were on shelves had much of it fall down. As for glasses and dishes more than half of them got broken to pieces. People living on the ground floor had a noticeably greater damage than the upstairs family did. The water pipes in practically every home had big leaks by the time the quake ended. Many bathrooms and kitchens got flooded and as the stove-pipe in the kitchen was shaken apart the mixture of soot and water was an awful mess.

When I awoke I just stayed and listened to the noise of the chimney bricks rolling down the roof. I don't remember of being afraid - in minutes my Mother came to our bed-room and told us to get up right away and get dressed. Soon as I was on my feet I realized I really was scared - my legs were so shaky. Before us kids were even dressed our Dad was out on the street corner waiting for the electric street-car. At a large department store on Market St. he was book-keeper and cashier. He was able to get into the building before it was

on fire and saved much valuable material from destruction. It was the fire that did the worst damage.

Within minutes after the quake ended police-cars slowly traversed the whole city. An officer, with a bull-horn was in each car and shouted orders which must be obeyed. We were told not to use our stoves or even to have any light in our house. The city was now under martial control and disobedience would not be tolerated. Maybe not everyone got the message as some lights were seen and were actually put out with bullets. The day of the quake and the day after there were many acts of what I consider to be the lowest form of thievery. There were many bodies lying dead close by their homes and even on the streets and side-walks. Thieves worked fast and would strip the bodies of their watches and jewelry. It so happened that someone realized what was going on and notified an officer. In minutes the bull-horns were again put to use and the word was spread that anyone seen stealing would be shot on sight.

After several days a few blocks of old but well kept homes were blasted flat to make a fire-break. The fire got bigger on each passing day - the city's water-system being almost completely wrecked. The fire-department couldn't do much to stop it. Well, we couldn't cook in our homes, some people didn't even sleep indoors. Generally, two families would work together. One family, most likely the one on a ground floor would offer to have his stove removed to the edge of the side-walk. Then, both families would unhinge 3 or 4 of the inside doors of their house. They would be carried out, stood on-end, and fastened together to make 3 walls around the stove. That would be a kitchen for two families. In most cases the kitchen got a roof of galvanized iron, or of canvas. Soon, the owners gave their kitchen a name and would paint a neat sign and put it in a conspicuous place. Most people would name their kitchen after a high-tone café or restaurant - such as the Waldorf Astoria, the Little St. Francis, or the Ritz Carlton.

THE 1906 SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE

(Continued)

My brother Herbert had worked as a draft-man and could paint a neat sign. It happened that a young woman stenographer who worked for the same firm as my Dad did but whose home was in Oakland had made an over-nite visit with friends in Frisco. On account of the earth-quake it was very difficult to get a ride on a ferry-boat - so my folks invited her to live with us till conditions were normal. The young lady's name was Ethel Eager. Herb was inspired by her last name so he named our Café "Café Eager", eager for grub. A few days after the sign was up a young man came walking down our street and when he saw the sign he stopped and asked one of our family if it had a special meaning. When he was told it was in honor of Miss Ethel Eager he said he was Ethel's brother. He a few years ago had gotten the wanderlust and hadn't seen his folks for years. Also, the folks had moved and didn't know where their son was, so they were out of touch. So, happily our sign brought the family together again.

Some small stores (grocery) raised their prices but the owners soon lived to regret it. A customer reported the unfair act and right away the military took over the store. From then on the store doled out the food-stuffs - an article to each person for free.

San Francisco had always had a reputation of being an unfriendly-sort of cold people. However, the big quake changed all that kind of behavior. Every-one now greeted each other and talked together like friends. There was a wealthy couple lived in a big house one block from our home. One day the man walked down the street and spoke to neighbors he hadn't ever before even nodded to. He told my folks and several others that if another big shake occurred we were welcome to take refuge on his yacht which was docked at a harbor nearby...."

Arthur, 'Grandpa', Spangenberg was a World War 1, U.S. Army veteran. After the war he married Violet Olson and they had two daughters, Marjorie (Linda's mother) and Leah Belle. He worked for the U.S. Postal Service as a letter carrier. Grandpa died in 1981 at the age of 88 from complications after hip surgery.



BECOME ACTIVE IN CERT!

In Most Disasters, the victim or bystander is the first to respond. Do you know what to do?

What is CERT?

CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) is a FEMA endorsed training program that prepares you to help yourself, your family, your neighbors and your community in the event of a disaster. During an incident, emergency response personnel could become overwhelmed and resources will be limited. By becoming CERT trained, you will gain the skills to help emergency responders save lives and property. Once you have completed the training, you have the opportunity to become a Fire Department CERT volunteer.

What Will I Learn?

In the **Save-A-Life Saturday** series, you will learn:

- How to prepare your home and family for a disaster
- How to perform basic first aid and CPR
- How to safely search a building for trapped victims and rescue them
- How to put out small fires using a fire extinguisher
- How to survive outdoors if you cannot return to your home because it is unsafe
- How to use all these skills to create a Neighborhood CERT Team

What do CERT Volunteers do?

CERT volunteers are trained to prepare for and respond to a disaster until first responders arrive. You will be taught to manage a disaster in your home, work, neighborhood or school. After taking care of your home, family and neighborhood, you will help the city with duties such as, providing damage assessment information, sandbagging, sheltering, helping in the Emergency Operation Center (EOC), and providing support to the Fire Department and Police Department.





Huntington Beach Fire Department

A Class1 Fire Department

**CLASSES ARE FREE
BUT YOU MUST
REGISTER ONLINE AT**

www.Huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL**

714-374-1565



Save-A-Life Saturday Schedule

The series consists of four classes that build on each other and ends with a disaster drill where you can practice what you have learned. You must attend all classes to graduate.

Class 1: Disaster & Terrorism Preparedness

April 16, 2011 7:45AM to 2:30PM Civic Center

Learn what threats Huntington Beach residents face, how the City will respond in a disaster, and how you can get your home, family, neighborhood, school and/or business prepared to respond to emergencies. **Lunch Provided**

Class 2: Disaster First Aid (Medical Ops I & II)

May 21, 2011 7:45AM to 2:30PM Civic Center

Learn creative first aid solutions to common injuries resulting from an earthquake, or other disasters, and the ABC's of disaster first aid. Additional topics include splints, slings, treating burns, impaled objects and shock. Learn how to triage disaster victims. **Lunch Provided**

Class 3: Light Search & Rescue/Fire Suppression

June 18, 2011 7:45AM to 2:30PM Fire Training Center

Learn how to do a safety size-up, lift 1000+ pounds using simple leverage techniques, properly search for trapped victims, shore up an unsafe structure, and safely move the injured. Learn to use a fire extinguisher and put out a live fire, fire safety and prevention, how to shut off utilities and secure items that may cause injuries in an earthquake. Finish the class with a disaster drill that will test your newly acquired skills. **Lunch Provided**

Class 4: Disaster Living

July 16, 2011 7:45AM to 2:30PM Civic Center

Learn how and where to set up an outdoor shelter in a disaster. Whether in your yard or at a park, you will have to care for yourself and neighbors until the Red Cross establishes indoor shelters. Learn skills such as tenting, outdoor cooking and sanitation. **Lunch Provided**

Civic Center Address: 2000 Main Street Huntington Beach, 92648

Fire Training Center Address: 18301 Gothard Street



Neighbor Helping Neighbor

Neighbors-Helping-Neighbors

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program is to provide information and training on disaster preparedness; provide leadership and coordination during an emergency, and assistance to help victims recover from an emergency.



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Attention! If you want something placed in the Upcoming Events, e-mail Judy Ann at jamorris189@yahoo.com

For those who do not receive the newsletter by email, you can go to the CERT website: www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert. In order to receive the email alert, click on newsletters, and then click on sign up for email alert. It's as simple as that!

For those of you who do not have computer access at home, we have made arrangements for you:

- Rodgers Senior Center at 1706 Orange Avenue, HB will print out a black and white copy for you.
- There will be a few copies outside the door to the EOC to which you are welcome.
- The Central Library has computer access for the public.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

CERT Website: www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert,
CERT Message line 714-536-5974, (THIS IS A MESSAGE LINE ONLY!)