



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT NEWSLETTER

SINCE 1991

April 2014

HB CERT HIGHLIGHTS

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CLASS 1



President's Message By Mike Reyes

Huntington Beach CERT started the month of March with an all member "callout" exercise drill. The callout exercise tests the readiness of CERT to respond at the City's request. Over 30 CERT team members reported to the City Council Chambers and received instructions on what to expect during an actual callout, the supplies and resources to have on hand, and an overview of the Incident Command System (ICS) Command Post function. Overall, the exercise was a success. Thanks to all who participated.

The previous week brought several days of heavy rain mixed with thunderstorms and hail. As the rains continued on day two, Huntington Beach activated a Level 1 sandbag alert. Responders included myself, CERT team member Anthony Reyes, and "Spontaneous Unaffiliated Volunteer" (SUV) John Bishop. Together we filled, transported and placed sandbags at Huntington Beach homes affected by the significant amount of rainfall.

John Bishop had learned the previous evening that volunteers were needed for sandbag operations, so the next day he called in and volunteered his time. John has registered and will attend the CERT basic course this April. We look forward to having John on our team. All CERT members are welcome to join the sandbag team.

Anyone interested in attending the upcoming basic training course can sign up on the Huntington Beach CERT online class registration website at: http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/departments/fire/cert/class_schedule.cfm.

Our CERT activity calendar is on the CERT members login of the website. It is important to read the calendar for upcoming events and to find out how to become more involved in serving your community.

Lastly, I would like to welcome Erin Concas, Huntington Beach's new Assistant Emergency Services Coordinator. Erin's background with the American Red Cross is a valuable asset to the Huntington Beach CERT program. Welcome aboard and we look forward to working with you!



Get Tech Ready By Anna Pinter

Code for America is a non-profit organization enlisting the talent of the web industry by pairing passionate technologists with innovative cities to create useful civic technology. The organization hopes to combat problems cities may have by offering year-long fellowships to visionaries who are talented programmers to provide civic services through the creation of apps.

Jennifer Pahlka, Code for America Founder, believes that Generation Y has the power to be agents of change and create a more effective society. Gen Y has grown addicted to programs which revolutionize civic efforts. There have been notable efforts in the area of natural disasters initiatives such as the app called Adopt-a-Fire Hydrant, originally created for the city of Boston after the January 2011 snowstorms that dumped

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CERT Calendar March through April 2014

Thursday, March 13, 2014

Event: CERT General Meeting, Tsunami Volunteer Meeting
Time: 6:30 PM
Place: Room B8 HB Civic Center

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Event: Tsunami Drill
Place: (sign up at CERT member portal for information)

Saturday, April 5, 2014

Event: American Red Cross Shelter Class
Place: Emergency Operation Center (EOC)
Time: 9:00AM - 1:00PM

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Event: CERT General Meeting, "Map Your Neighborhood"
Place: Room B8 HB Civic Center
Time: 6:30 PM

Saturday, April 12, 2014

Event: First Annual HB Coordinating Council Volunteer Fair "Find Your Passion"
Place: HB Central Library Main Entrance
Time: 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Sign up to work CERT booth Saturday April 12. Contact: Anna Pinter at apinter2000@yahoo.com Three available shifts are:

10:00 AM to Noon / Noon to 2:00 PM / 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Questions: Judy Ann Morris JAMorris189@yahoo.com or call 714-536-8595

REGISTRATION FOR CERT BASIC CLASSES (For New Students)

Go to www.Huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert go to - online class registration

You will receive an application via email and it must be returned by April 02, 2014. By signing the application you are authorizing the Huntington Beach Police Department to conduct a summary background check. You will receive the class locations once your application is approved.

BASIC COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) CLASSES

Wednesday, April 23, 2014

Event: CERT Class #1
Time: 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Event: CERT Class #2
Time: 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Event: CERT Class #3
Time: 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Wednesday, May 14, 2014

Event: CERT Class #4
Time: 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Saturday, May 17, 2014

Event: CERT Class #5
Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00PM

Get Tech Ready (continued from page 1)

38.3 inches of snow which is about three times the amount of snow for the month. As the residents began the task of shoveling their sidewalks, the fire hydrants adjacent to the sidewalks were left untouched.

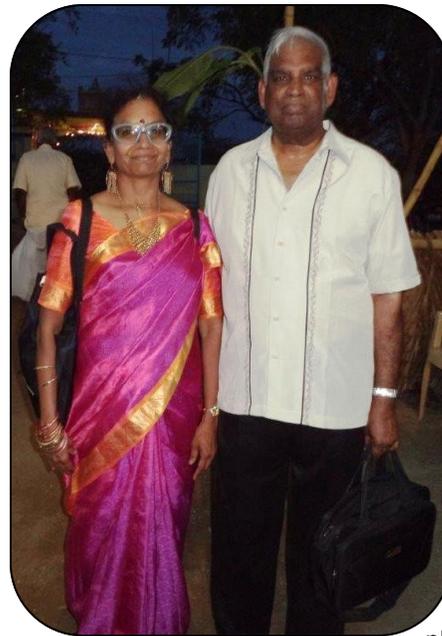
Buried under mountains of snow, the firefighters would not easily be able to find them when needed. A creative fellow named Erik Michaels Ober created the app. When downloaded or by accessing the site online, citizens could "adopt" a nearby fire hydrant and take responsibility for making it accessible to firemen especially during snowstorms. Mr. Ober then integrated game dynamics and gave the participants the opportunity to name your fire hydrant and the ability for users to "steal" ownership if the snow was not cleared in a timely manner.

"Recovers," was used in Moore, Oklahoma, after the tornadoes in the spring of 2013. Recovers.org improves the process of disaster response by offering a framework to empower communities to prepare, mitigate risk and locally match resources with needs. These are examples of apps created by these talented programmers and used by cities. There are many other apps to help law enforcement, health, create new businesses and storage of data. Many of the apps are free and others can be purchased. Code for America hopes to help cities adapt new ideas, solve everyday problems and streamline government services.

The founder of Code for America jokes that the program is equivalent to the "Peace Corp for Geeks."

Be Prepared While Traveling

By Raji Shunmugavel



On March 9th, 2014 my husband and I were returning home from India via Turkish Airlines. After two hours at the airport in Istanbul, Turkish Airlines 009 flight was on its way to Los Angeles. After takeoff, a big meal was served and all the passengers were sleeping, including me. After almost three hours, I woke up and saw the sign saying Copenhagen, thirty minutes. I was wondering why the plane was planning to land in Copenhagen. I woke my husband and asked, "You never mentioned a stop in Copenhagen, what is going on?" He was surprised too.

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Be Prepared While Traveling (continued from page 2)

Then the Captain ordered all passengers to go to their seats and fasten their seat belts. He announced that landing the plane in Copenhagen was due to a medical emergency. As a passenger's medical condition was beyond help available in the plane, they had to land and seek better help. Once we landed in Copenhagen, the passenger was disembarked from the plane and his luggage was also cleared. The whole process resulted in three hours delay in the journey and all the passengers were nervous.

I personally thought, after the disappearance of Malaysian Airlines flight MH370, maybe we were becoming victims of terrorists. The captain maintained the confidentiality of the passenger's medical condition and the airline did a fabulous job of keeping the whole plane in good order while attending to the needs of the patient.

This experience brought to mind my CERT training of being prepared for emergencies, not only at home but while traveling. We never know when we will be delayed. We should always carry our medical records, medicine and any other medical needs in our carry-on luggage along with water and snacks. CERT prepares us to take good care of ourselves in the real world as well as possible natural disasters such as earthquakes.

Recovering After a Natural Disaster

By Art Weiland

After a natural disaster in your area, be it earthquake, flooding, or fire, your home will certainly be damaged. After taking care of your family, you may be thinking you need to look into hiring a contractor. You won't have to look very far since your area will be swarming with contractors with all kinds of offers to repair your home. Most are probably trustworthy, but beware, some may be con artists intent on swindling desperate homeowners out of their disaster relief checks and insurance settlements. Potential scams are billing for work not performed, charging more than the going rate, or manufacturing damage in order to collect more money. But if you are cautious, you're more likely to find a credible contractor that can get your home back in shape.

Visually access your home and take photos if possible and then call your insurer. Your agent should guide you through the claims process. Ask for a few names of approved contractors.

A good idea would be to get recommendations from neighbors, friends, and relatives who've had work done on their homes. Another source is the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies, website (nascla.org.)

Ask for more than one estimate. After making a choice, check with the Better Business Bureau and/or home builders association to see if any complaints have been lodged against your chosen contractor. Also ask to see the contractor's license and proof of insurance. The contractor should have both general liability and workers' compensation coverage.

With a written estimate and a signed final contract, be sure they both specify in detail, the work that will be done, the completion date, the materials that will be used and the price. Check that your insurer is satisfied with the estimate.

Give your Social Security number only to the government agency that's providing your disaster relief funds. Also, don't hand over money to pay for inspections or for filling out forms to people claiming to work for government agencies. If you are told that you can get your insurance settlement or disaster relief funds faster if you pay a fee, don't believe it.

Be smart about payments. A down payment for materials is normal, but don't pay a large amount until the contractor arrives on site with the materials to start the job. The California State License Board limits down payments to 10 percent of the total home repair contract price or \$1,000, whichever is less. Paying by credit card can give you options should you need to stop or contest a payment. By all means, do not pay the contractor in full until the repairs are completed to your satisfaction.

Saturday, April 12, 2014

First Annual HBCC Volunteer Fair “Find Your Passion”



Place: HB Central Library at the main entrance

Time: 10 AM – 2:00 PM

The Huntington Beach Coordinating Council supports the charitable activities of organizations within the city that provide services for those in need.

Volunteer organizations can participate and help the public become more aware of their good deeds.

You will find your passion and add to the membership of a worthy volunteer group. Volunteer for a two hour shift and have fun telling the community about CERT

Name _____ Phone# _____
Email _____

I will volunteer in the CERT booth at the HBCC Volunteer Fair (circle one choice)
Sign up to work booth Contact: Anna Pinter apinter_2000@yahoo.com

Circle: 10:00 AM to noon noon to 2:00 PM 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Questions: Judy Ann Morris JAMorris189@yahoo.com or 714-536-8595



Huntington Beach Fire Department

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

www.Huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL**

714-374-1565



The CERT Basic Series consists of several modules that will help you prepare for a culminating drill at the end of the course. The modules include the following.

Disaster & Terrorism Preparedness

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.

Disaster First Aid (Medical Ops I & II)

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.

Light Search & Rescue/Fire Suppression

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.

The Fire Department will be conducting this class series in a different format than previous classes. This is being done to try and improve the quality of the training. You will receive class locations after you register. Class size is limited to 40 students.

Class dates are as follows:

- Wednesday, April 23 - 6:30PM to 9:30PM
- Wednesday, April 30 - 6:30PM to 9:30PM
- Wednesday, May 07 - 6:30PM to 9:30PM
- Wednesday, May 14 - 6:30PM to 9:30PM
- Saturday, May 17 - 8:00AM to 4:00PM



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.

CPR Classes

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 12 - 10 AM to 1 PM
- Wednesday, April 23 - 6 PM to 9 PM
- Saturday, May 10 - 10 AM to 1 PM
- Wednesday, May 21 - 6 PM to 9 PM

To enroll in CPR classes, call 800-400-4277 or 714-556-4277. Class location is in the HB area and exact location given at time of enrollment.

Upcoming Events

- Thursday, March 27, 2014 Tsunami Drill (members can volunteer using their CERT portal)
- Saturday, April 5, 2014 American Red Cross Shelter Class 9:00am to 1:00pm in the EOC
- Thursday April 10, 2014 General Membership Meeting "Map Your Neighborhood", 6:30pm in B8

CERT Database

Fire Department Volunteers (CERT members) have the opportunity to be added to the new CERT database by contacting Peter Petrelis at pgpworks@verizon.net to update their information.

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

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