



# CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT NEWSLETTER

SINCE 1991

August 2020

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### Congratulations, Carol Burtis! A Winner of California State Assembly District 74 2020 Woman of Distinction Award

Carol was chosen for her years of volunteer service and dedication to the Huntington Beach Fire Department's Emergency Services Office as a specialist in disaster preparedness and mitigation. Carol has taught literally thousands of people how to be better prepared for disasters.

Carol was one of the founding members of the Huntington Beach CERT program in 1992/1993 and dedicated herself to disaster preparedness awareness. She participates in community events and meetings to encourage residents to attend training classes to become better prepared. After over 20 years of volunteering for the HBFD, Carol was given the opportunity to become the part-time CERT Coordinator in 2016.

Carol is also a member of the Orange County CERT Mutual Aid Program. She has on numerous occasions acted as a consultant to Orange County to find and coordinate volunteer "victims" for various county mass-casualty drill exercises. Last year she was invited to present neighborhood preparedness at a CERT training event in San Francisco.

Carol is an inspiration to everyone who is engaged in disaster preparedness.



## **Hello Everyone!**

*From Carol Burtis*

I just wanted to write a short note to say hello! I hope all of you are staying healthy and not getting too bored without our usual CERT events and meetings! I hope you know I miss seeing all of you and look forward to the day COVID19 is eradicated and out of our lives! As you can imagine, without CERT meetings, classes or events my work has changed a lot from what I usually do.

Our current project is putting together a series of Disaster Preparedness online trainings that we will do on Zoom Webinar. This is not just for CERT but for the entire Huntington Beach Community. This series will address basic home and family preparedness that anyone can use. The webinars will be one hour or less in length, but by using Zoom, people will still be able to ask questions using Chat.

I realize some of you are not comfortable using Zoom and I completely understand. Unfortunately, in these challenging times, Zoom Webinar is what the City has available for us to do online training. Once we get dates for this series, I will be emailing the schedule to each of our CERT members so it can be passed on to family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. The training will be recorded and eventually available on the HBReady website to view at any time.

In September I am planning to restart our CERT monthly meetings on Zoom on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. Our September 10 meeting will continue our Disaster Living class with the Pet Care portion taught by our own Susan Keyes. I will email out the Zoom login information by September 8.

Several of you have asked me when we will start meeting in person here at City Hall. Sadly, I don't know if we will be able to do that in 2020. Hopefully, by next year this virus will let up and/or they will have a successful treatment or vaccine that will make this less of a problem.

Please take care and do email or call me if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions!

 Mask

## **Distribution Booths July 25-26, 2020**

*By Phil Burtis*

On Saturday and Sunday July 25-26, CERT volunteers staffed three booths in the downtown Huntington Beach area distributing masks to anyone who wanted one. The masks were donated to the City and CERT activation was requested by the Mayor and City Manager late Thursday afternoon. That left Carol with very little time to organize the event, but once again, CERT volunteers came through.

By Friday afternoon the first set of volunteers had responded and logistics plans were in place. Arrangements were made for the Lake Street fire station to be the collection point for equipment. E-Z Ups and boxes containing everything for each distribution booth were picked up from the Rodgers Senior Center and City Hall and delivered to the Lake Street station.

On both days, Huntington Beach fire personnel delivered the materials at 9:45 am to the chosen booth locations at Main and Walnut, 5<sup>th</sup> and Pacific Coast Highway and Pier Plaza by the memorial plaques. At 2 pm they came back to tear down and collect everything.

To be honest, at the start of Saturday we had no idea how this would go. Clearly mask vs. no mask is a big hot button and we didn't want to end up in any sort of situation! But it turns out any and all fears were unnecessary and all three booths had many people come by and take a mask or two. We also had handouts on general disaster preparedness for anyone that wanted more information about CERT.

In total, over 780 masks were handed out and it turned out to be a great event. In fact, it was so successful that the decision was made to continue the operation, with only one booth, for the next few weeks. See photos on pages 6-8.

## **Hello from Susan McClaran**

Hello my CERT family! I hope you and your families are safe and well! Some of you may be wondering just how to give first aid to an injured person during this unprecedented time of COVID 19. The following important information is from the Chief Medical Officer of the American Red Cross (ARC). Also included in this newsletter is "Guidance for Lay Responders" from the June 2020 ARC Newsletter offering some very good and helpful advice.

Please remember to always keep yourself safe and well protected should you choose to offer aid to anyone.

***Lay Responders: The established "Check, Call, Care" guidance directs that lay responders check the person, call 9-1-1, send someone to get an AED, and start CPR. Our guidance reiterates the importance of high quality CPR and use of AED and further delves into recommendations to minimize risk of transmission when performing CPR on persons with presumed or confirmed COVID-19. We continue to track the latest science closely and will maintain regular correspondence with you to ensure you have this information on hand.***

Be well my friends.....Susan



May 21, 2020

## GUIDANCE FOR LAY RESPONDERS

For lay responders who may need to provide care to someone suspected to have COVID-19. We recommend wearing PPE as recommended by CDC, this would be wearing respiratory protection using a respirator (e.g. N-95 mask), eye protection, disposable gloves and a disposable isolation gown if possible. Per CDC guidance facemasks are an acceptable alternative when there is shortage of N-95.

After providing care for any first aid emergency, remove and dispose of PPE per local guidelines and facility guidance. After removing PPE, perform hand hygiene.

**Guidance for those responding to an Emergency with an unresponsive person with presumed or confirmed COVID-19:**

1. When assessing for normal breathing, we recommend that the CPR/first aid care provider looks for breathing but not listen or feel for the victim's breathing, as this will minimize potential exposure.
2. We recommend placing a face mask or face covering over the mouth and nose of the victim. If only 1 mask is available and it is simple face mask or face covering, we recommend placing it on the victim. If you are using a N-95 mask that should be on the responder.
3. For adult victims except those due to known causes of hypoxia (drowning, overdose), compression-only CPR until emergency personnel arrive. *Note: Compression-only CPR saves lives compared to no CPR.*
4. In the case of hypoxia, which is often the case in infants and young children, drowning, and/or drug overdoses, standard CPR - compressions and rescue breaths is preferred.
  - If you are unable or unwilling to provide rescue breathing with CPR, compression-only CPR should be initiated.
5. If an AED is available, one should be applied and used consistent with manufacturer's guidelines while waiting for emergency personnel to arrive. If gloves are available, they should be worn. Use other PPE as available





Guidance for those providing care to someone who is experiencing a seizure, heart attack, stroke, who has a burn, wound, illness, difficult breathing is severely bleeding and is presumed or confirmed COVID-19:

- Care does not differ from persons without COVID-19.
- Have the sick person place a cloth face covering over their nose and mouth, and limit contact by staying back at least 6 feet, if the person's condition allows for this.
- Based on CDC guidance, we recommend wearing respiratory protection using a respirator (e.g. N-95 mask), eye protection, disposable gloves and a disposable isolation gown if possible. Per CDC guidance facemasks are acceptable if respiratory protection is not available. It is recognized that some first aiders may not have this type of equipment but will most likely be providing first aid to those in their household. If a face mask is not available, a face cover should be used.
- After providing care, remove and dispose of PPE per local guidelines and facility guidance.
- After removing PPE, perform hand hygiene.

## Guidance for Cleaning & Disinfection After First Aid Care

While wearing personal protective equipment, clean and disinfect items that touched the victim. After cleaning, dispose of your personal protective equipment and perform hand hygiene.

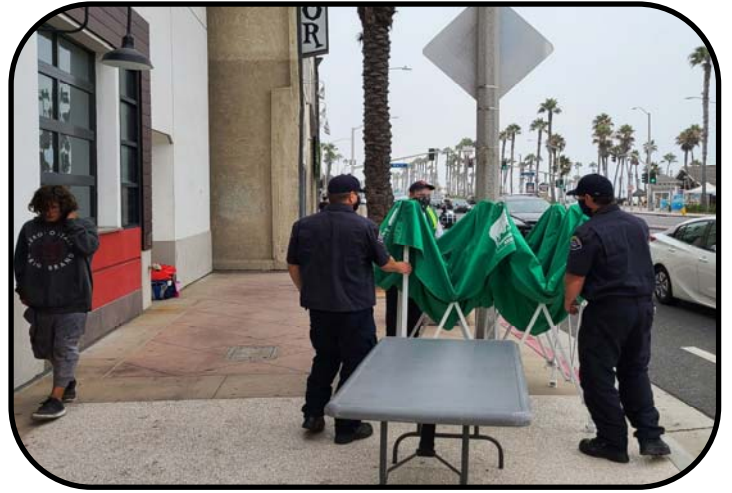
- For Hard Surfaces:
  - Surfaces should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
  - For disinfection, diluted household bleach solutions, alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol, and most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective. Products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims are expected to be effective against COVID-19 based on data for harder to kill viruses. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, etc.). In their absence, products with label claims against human coronaviruses or other viruses should be used according to label instructions.



- For Soft or Porous Surfaces:
  - For surfaces such as carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes; remove visible contamination if present, and clean with appropriate cleaners indicated for use on these surfaces.
  - After cleaning, wash items as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If possible, wash items using the warmest appropriate water setting and dry completely or use products with the EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims that are suitable for porous surfaces.
- For Clothing:
  - Do not shake dirty laundry. This will minimize the possibility of dispersing virus through the air.
  - Launder items as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry items completely.
  - If clothing cannot be immediately laundered, store in a sealed disposable bag.



MASK DISTRIBUTION BOOTHS JULY 25-26, 2020





MASK DISTRIBUTION BOOTHS JULY 25-26, 2020 (continued)



MASK DISTRIBUTION BOOTHS JULY 25-26, 2020 (continued)





## CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT

### *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.

#### Upcoming CERT Events & Activities

To be Determined

#### CPR Classes

To be Determined

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### **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!**

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