

March 2013



President's Message

By Peter Petrelis

The "State of CERT" general meeting was held on Thursday, February 7, 2013 at 6:30 pm in the Huntington Beach City Council Chambers. The meeting was a combination of recognition awards and a 2013 planning presentation by Brevyn Mettler, Emergency Services Coordinator. Huntington Beach Mayor Connie Boardman read and presented to CERT a commendation celebrating the 20 year anniversary of CERT.

The Dick White "Partners in Preparedness" Award was given to CERT Volunteer Roy Alzua for his leadership as our Booth Team Leader. The Dick White Award is given to the person the CERT Executive Board believes has informed and educated the most Huntington Beach residents. Roy has been an active member of our Train the Trainer Program and the CERT Booth Team. He has led the Booth Team for six years, setting up once a month at our HB Pier, businesses, schools and many special events. Thanks to Roy and his team for educating thousands of HB residents in disaster preparedness. Dr. Barbara White, Dick White's widow, presented Roy CERT's most prestigious award. Dick White is affectionately known in HB as the "Father of CERT." He was a principal founder of Huntington Beach CERT and remained active until his passing in 2011.

CERT Founders Award of Excellence plaques were awarded to the four active CERT founding members: Judy Ann Morris, Carol Burtis, Phil Burtis and Billie Brandon plus the founding Emergency Services Coordinator, Gloria Morrison, now retired.

Awards for outstanding service were given by Brevyn to: Mike Reyes, CERT 2012 Volunteer of the Year; Richard Batistelli, CERT 2012 Most Inspirational; and Joanne Tabata, CERT 2012 Trainer of the Year.

Fire Chief, Patrick McIntosh, formally administered the Loyalty Oath of Affirmation (volunteer oath) to those 2011 and 2012 "Fire Department Volunteer" graduates who were present. Graduates present from the 2011 class were: Blanche Kung, Kitty Kwan, Barbara Tonelli, Linda Vollmar, Gerald William Chatman

III, Elaine Hill, Susan McClaran, and Chris Merkle. Present from the 2012 class were: Debbie Crothers, Janice Goodwin, Betty Hickey, Todd Hoida, Paul Oelschlager, John Weidrick, and Scott Weidrick. Those graduates who were not present will be administered the oath by Brevyn at later dates.

Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to members who are active in CERT and reported working more than 75 hours. See article on page four in this newsletter for details on recipients.

Brevyn discussed the plans for 2013 CERT classes and described the new CERT Members' Portal in the City website. See page two for details.

Surprise Call-Out Drill: A call-out, using the emergency notification system, was held February 16th. A message was sent to all listed CERT members' cell phones, land lines, and e-mail addresses at 8:00am stating that it was a drill and, if available, to report to the Council Chambers at 9:30am. Members who reported were given informative advanced training in electrical safety around downed power lines by Janelle Godges, Southern California Edison local public affairs representative.

Monthly CERT Member Meetings: CERT members are invited to the monthly management and general member meetings. Effective in March 2013, we are changing the meeting night to the SECOND Thursday of the month and the location to B7 / B8 (next to the Council Chambers) so that we can accommodate more members. We are also changing the format of the meeting to include special speakers or advanced training. The meetings will start at 6:00pm with 30 minutes devoted to management followed at 6:30pm by advanced training or a speaker.

March 14 meeting: Chris Merkle will discuss his first-hand experience working on-site cleanup after Super Storm Sandy as a member of Team Rubicon, a veterans' organization that unites the skills and experience of military veterans with first responders to rapidly deploy emergency response teams. Chris, who is a 2011 CERT graduate, shared his experience in the January newsletter. Please come at 6:00pm to participate in the management meeting and by 6:30pm to hear Chris. (continued on page 2)



HB CERT

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CLASS 1

NEW FORMAT for CERT CLASSES: The former Save-A-Life Saturday four classes are now scheduled over four weekday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 pm (April 10, 17, 24, and May 1) plus one Saturday, May 4, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Urge your friends and neighbors to sign up for the free classes at the CERT website, www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert

Upon completion of these classes, participants will receive a completion certificate signed by the mayor and be better prepared to help their family and neighborhood in the event of a disaster. Upon completion of more training, participants can become CERT Fire Department Volunteers and participate in city-wide CERT activities outside their neighborhoods. CERT Fire Department Volunteers, by taking Red Cross Shelter Training, can become members of the County Mutual Aid Program (CMAP.)

New CERT Website

By Virginia Petrelis

Brevyn Mettler has added a new CERT Members Portal page to the City of Huntington Beach website. When the site is fully developed, each member will have a personal password. **You will be receiving an email with the temporary password at the beginning of March.**

On the page you will find announcements pertaining to CERT, a yearly Calendar of Events and a place to track your volunteer hours. You no longer have to send your CERT hours to the CERT Secretary.

Once you have received the temporary password to check out the site, go to www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/departments/fire/cert. On the left side of the page, under CERT, click on "Members Login."

Enter your CERT ID (the number on the front of your badge) and the password you have received in the mail. Make sure your name pops up in red at the top right side of the page.

At the bottom of the page is a place to log your volunteer hours. Input the number of hours and a description of the activity. This could be anything from attending a meeting or training, organizing your neighborhood, church, school, etc., or working a booth or event. While there is no set format for entering the information, it is preferred that you do it for each activity or, at a minimum, once a week with a descriptive overview.

Please check the website frequently for Brevyn's announcements. Don't forget to record your valuable volunteer hours.

Electrical Safety

By Virginia Petrelis

On Saturday, February 16, 2013, Huntington Beach CERT members received an 8am call asking them to report to the City Hall for a drill and special training. Brevyn Mettler introduced Janelle Godges from Southern California Edison who gave a very interesting presentation on electrical safety.

Of special interest to me was her discussion on the hazards of downed power lines. I remember just last August two Los Angeles women were electrocuted trying to save the driver of a SUV who had crashed and sheared off a concrete light standard and knocked over a fire hydrant before coming to rest on a front lawn.

As a couple came upon the scene of the accident, the wife rushed out of their car eager to help even though her husband urged her to stay in the car while he called 911. Water spewed from the broken hydrant and pooled in the intersection. Apparently intending to help the driver, the wife ran toward the wrecked SUV and stepped into an electrified pool of water. She was immediately electrocuted and killed by what firefighters estimated to be 4,800 volts of electricity. In a bizarre and tragic series of events, a second woman stepped into the electrified water, touched the first woman in an attempt to help her, and she was also electrocuted and died. Would-be rescuers came from all directions. At least half a dozen others, including the driver of the SUV and a Los Angeles police officer were hospitalized after they too received electrical shocks while trying to aid the victims.

According to Janelle, if you come upon downed power lines, always assume they are energized. Do not touch or attempt to move them. Stay at least 30 feet away. The ground can be energized up to 30 feet away. Call 911 and inform the operator of an electrical emergency and give the operator the street address if possible.

If You Are In A Vehicle Upon Which A Downed Wire Has Fallen (continued on page 3)



If You Are In A Vehicle Upon Which A Downed Wire Has Fallen (continued from page 2)

- Stay in the vehicle and remain calm until help arrives.
- Use a cell phone to call 911 for help.
- Warn others to stay away and not touch the vehicle, and direct them to call 911 if you are unable to do so.
- Follow these tips only if the situation necessitated you to leave the vehicle (for example, it is on fire.)
 - Before you open the vehicle's window or door, make sure the window or door are free of anything in contact with the ground. Possible obstructions include trees and fire hydrants.
 - With your feet together, jump clear of the vehicle without touching the vehicle and the ground at the same time.
 - Be careful not to fall back against the vehicle and to avoid any wires on the ground.
 - Shuffle your feet as you walk away and keep shuffling until you are a significant distance away.

Safety around electricity is important. Coming into contact with energized wires can cause serious injuries and even death.

For more information about electrical safety, go to www.sce.com/safety

DISASTERS AND FINANCIAL PLANNING: A GUIDE FOR PREPAREDNESS

By Cynthia Goebel

Records in a Disaster Supplies Kit

Think about the records you would want to take with you if you suddenly had to evacuate your home during a disaster. These records should go into a disaster supplies kit that would be ready to grab on your way out of your home. Consider making copies of all the records stored in your bank safe deposit box or home safe and put them in a portable, fire-resistant, waterproof box that you keep nearby at all times.

Suggestions to include:

1. Letter of instruction to your loved ones in case you are not there to help them through a disaster
2. List of emergency contacts, including family members, neighbors, doctors, and financial advisers
3. Birth, death and marriage certificates
4. Social Security cards

5. Drivers' licenses, auto titles
6. Medical information: your health insurance card, doctor's name and phone number, prescriptions, immunization records
7. Credit card records
8. Retirement account records
9. Recent checking, savings and investment account statements
10. Recent rental/lease agreement and/or mortgage documents
11. List of insurance policies (life, health, disability, long-term care, auto, homeowners, renters)
12. Copies of power of attorney, living will and other medical powers

Set aside enough money for your family to get by for three days if you cannot get home, banks and ATMs are unavailable, power is out, etc. The money should be in the form of cash (include small bills), traveler's checks and a roll of quarters (to use in pay phones.)

This is excerpted from *Disasters and Financial Planning: A Guide for Preparedness* written and produced for the American Institute of Certified Public Accounts (AICPA) and the American Red Cross. This was referenced in the Wall Street Journal shortly after Super Storm Sandy hit the east coast.

Go to www.aicpa.org for the full booklet.

You will want to adjust the suggestions to meet the needs of your personal situation/family.

Follow Seven Steps to be Prepared for the Next Earthquake

1. Identify potential hazards in your home and begin to fix them.
2. Create a disaster preparedness plan.
3. Prepare disaster supplies kits.
4. Identify your building's potential weaknesses and begin to fix them, (buildings where you spend your time such as work, school and other places).
5. Protect yourself during an earthquake—DROP, COVER AND HOLD ON.
6. After an earthquake, check for injuries and damages.
7. When safe, continue to follow your disaster preparedness plan.

If you follow the above seven steps, you may save dollars and prevent countless casualties in the next big earthquake.

Visit www.daretoprepare.com for instructions and resources to help you act now.

Visit www.earthquakecountry.info/roots

2011-2012 CERT Awards

At the February 7, 2013 STATE OF CERT Ceremony, the following awards were presented for 2011-2012.

CERT 2012 Dick White Award

Roy Alzua was awarded the prestigious Dick White award. Roy is CERT Booth Team Leader and organizes distribution of CERT literature monthly at the pier and at many CERT and community activities. He is a very dedicated CERT worker. Roy was also one of the October 2011 responders to help secure the perimeter at the Seal Beach beauty salon mass shootings.

CERT 2012 Volunteer of the Year

Michael Reyes is the Disaster Service Worker (DSW) Leader and a member of the CERT Executive Board. He joined CERT in 2009 and has participated in most activities. He has led CERT efforts at the US Open of Surfing and distribution of Fire Department packets to mobile home parks. He is a volunteer on the logistics team and has been an instructor for sandbagging, light search and rescue and has participated in writing booklets used to teach CERT classes.

CERT 2012 Most Inspirational

Richard Batistelli is first Vice-President of CERT and a member of the CERT Executive Board. He joined CERT in 2005 and has been very active. He has led several activities and volunteers for most. He is a member of the shelter team, and the CERT Liaison to RACES in communication. In October 2011, he was one of eleven CERT members who responded in less than two hours notice to help secure the perimeter at the Seal Beach beauty salon mass shootings. Richard is also very active with the American Red Cross.

CERT 2012 Trainer of the Year

Joanne Tabata is CERT First-Aid Team Leader. She graduated from CERT in 2009 and is a pharmacist with the OC Sheriff department. She is a Wilderness Fire Authority instructor and teaches first-aid at the CERT classes. She is also very active teaching first-aid to CERT outreach neighborhood classes.

CERT Founders Award of Excellence

The four active CERT founding members are: Judy Ann Morris, Carol Burtis, Phil Burtis and Billie Brandon plus the founding Emergency Services Coordinator, Gloria Morrison, now retired. These individuals were awarded CERT Founders Award of Excellence plaques.

Judy Ann Morris is one of the four founding members of CERT and was the first President. Judy Ann also was CERT President in 2009 and 2010. She is our Neighborhood Coordinator. As a member of the CERT Speakers' Bureau for over twenty years, Judy Ann educates Huntington Beach

neighborhoods, and recently she has conducted many neighborhood training classes. Judy Ann is a believer in the importance of forming neighborhood networks whose volunteers become first responders and neighbors helping neighbors in an emergency. She works tirelessly, in any capacity she is needed, to serve her City.

Judy Ann's dedication to prepare our Huntington Beach community for emergencies is unsurpassed. Judy Ann is very dedicated to Huntington Beach Council on Aging (HBCOA) whose volunteers enhance the dignity and quality of life of seniors through comprehensive support, education, and advocacy. She was HBCOA president in 2012.

Carol Burtis is one of the four founding members and a past President of CERT. Currently she is the leader of the CERT Neighborhood Speakers' Bureau. The speakers' bureau has been very active in educating neighborhoods, churches, schools, businesses and other organizations in the community of Huntington Beach in how to be prepared for a man made or natural disaster. Preparedness for yourself, family and community is their message. Some of the members on the team have been speaking to the Huntington Beach community for over twenty years. This is real dedication! Carol is one of these volunteers. She is an honoree of the Dick White Award.

Carol also organizes disaster drills and finds volunteers for Orange County. Carol, Phil and their son, Justin, teach personal preparedness in the CERT classes. The Burtis family is a CERT family.

Phil Burtis is one of the four founding members and a past President of CERT. Phil is an enthusiastic supporter of neighborhood CERTs. In 1994 when CERT was just beginning to tell Huntington Beach neighborhoods the need for being prepared, Phil was one of the speakers who came to residents' homes and encouraged neighborhoods to have a plan, make a "Grab and Go Bag" and attend CERT classes. Phil's philosophy was, "When you have a meeting in your neighborhood CERT, have a BBQ, feed your neighbors and they will come."

Phil has been an instructor in the CERT classes since 1994 teaching personal preparedness. He is a member of the CERT Communication Team. Phil was the webmaster for the CERT website 1994-2005. In 2005 the site was transferred to the Huntington Beach Fire Department website.

In August 2004, Phil saved the life of a ten year old girl. She nearly drowned after her hair became tangled in a filter of a backyard Jacuzzi. Phil managed to pull unconscious Katie from the Jacuzzi and perform CPR. Huntington Beach CERT and Katie's parents nominated Phil for the American Red Cross "Bravo for Bravery" award. Phil was honored with the "Aquatic Hero" award and Katie came on to the stage to personally thank him for saving her life.

(continued on page 5)

2011-2012 CERT Awards (continued)

Billie Brandon is one of the four founding members of CERT. Billie has been involved in CERT for over twenty years and is known for her expertise in alternative cooking methods in CERT Shelter classes. Billie taught us how to make chili, corn bread and apple cobbler in a cardboard box oven or dutch oven over charcoal.

She was Cooking Team leader at Camp CERT I, and co-leader at Camp CERT II. Many special trainings such as: chili cook offs, picnics in Central Park, and invitations to come to her home to spend the day preparing for a CERT banquet or special events are fond memories. Billie is a retired caterer and teaches cooking survival skills at her church.

Billie has been a member of the CERT First Aid Team teaching since the first class in 1994 to 2009.

Billie is a member of the Church of the Latter Day Saints. One of her tasks has been Church Emergency Preparedness Consultant and liaison between CERT and the area LDS Stake Center.

She has been involved for over forty five years with the Boy Scouts of America. In 2006 she was awarded the America Silver Beaver Award. Billie became one of the first two women to complete the Boy Scout training. Her commitment to service over so many years is an example to us all.

In 2013 Phil, Carol, Judy Ann and Billie are still encouraging neighborhoods, schools, churches and other organizations to be prepared.

Glorria Morrison was honored by receiving the Founders of Excellence Award. She was one of five individuals honored for their service of more than 20 years to Huntington Beach CERT. Glorria retired in 2008 as the Huntington Beach Emergency Services Coordinator. In 1991 a tornado struck a mobile home park in Huntington Beach. After this incident, Huntington Beach CERT was instituted under the leadership of Glorria. In 1994, 38 Huntington Beach residents graduated from the first CERT class.

Today, many of these volunteers are still involved in CERT. The participation of volunteers after 20 years is a tribute to Glorria's enthusiasm, motivation, dedication and passion to spread the message of saving lives through mitigation and disaster preparedness.

Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to the following CERT members:

Peter Petrelis, CERT President 1717 hours

Judy Ann Morris, CERT Past President 1614 hours

Virginia Petrelis--1196 hours

Virginia is the CERT Secretary and also a member of the Executive Board. She monitors the CERT e-mails and phone message line. Virginia joined CERT

in 2005 and is a member of the newsletter, cooking, clerical, shelter and communications teams. She volunteers for most activities.

Michael Reyes--1025 hours

Michael is Disaster Service Worker (DSW) Leader and a member of the CERT Executive Board. He joined CERT in 2009 and has participated in most activities. He has led CERT efforts at the US Open of Surfing and distribution of Fire Department packets to mobile home parks. He is a volunteer on the logistic team and has been an instructor on sandbagging, light search and rescue and has participated in writing booklets used to teach CERT classes.

Richard W. Batistelli--706 hours

Richard is first Vice-President of CERT and a member of the CERT Executive Board. He joined CERT in 2005 and has been very active. He has led several activities and has volunteered on other activities. He is a member of the shelter team, and is the CERT Liaison to RACES. In October 2011, he was one of eleven CERT members who responded in less than two hours' notice to help secure the perimeter at the Seal Beach beauty salon mass shootings. Richard is also very active with the American Red Cross.

Anna Pinter--579 hours

Anna is a Charter Member of CERT and graduated from the very first CERT class in 1994. In the years 1994 to 2009 Anna donated 14,200 hours to CERT. Three of those years she worked the equivalent of a full time job. Anna has been the team leader or a member of every CERT team in the past years, except communication. She was the leader in our CAMP CERT I, and a co-leader with Donna Stefferud for Camp CERT II. Anna was the CERT Sandbag Team Leader for Huntington Beach from 1997-1998 El Nino. Anna was presented the Dick White Award. She was the CERT Disaster Worker Manager for two years and has been in charge of special trainings as well as a member of the CERT Executive Board. She is a member of the newsletter, clerical, booth, shelter, and cooking teams.

Tara Fort--526 hours

Tara Fort has been a member of CERT since September 2001. She is currently very active in CERT Communication Team, helping John Fort prepare the CERT radio weekly net. She purchased and organized CERT supplies to be stored in the Cargo Container so the City of Huntington Beach could open and operate a temporary Red Cross Shelter. She was care & shelter team leader and CERT Radio Color Team Leader from 2005 to 2011. She is a member of the moulage team, management team and the CERT Senior Response Team. She has received many CERT Awards including 2005 Management Volunteer of the Year and in 2008 CERT's highest award, the Dick White Award. (continued on page 6)

2011-2012 CERT Awards (continued)

Michael Depin--508 hours

Michael is Second Vice-President and a member of the CERT Executive Board and Command Post Team Leader. He joined CERT in 2009 and has been very active. Mike volunteers his talents and takes hundreds of pictures of CERT activities every year. He was one of the responders at Seal Beach and is always ready to volunteer.

Rajarajeswari Shunmugavel--505 hours

Raji is always ready to volunteer and help on many activities. She is a member of the CERT Booth, Communication, Clerical, Shelter, and Cooking Teams.

Graciela Ennis-Becerra--328 hours

Graciela is a 1995 graduate of CERT and a frequent volunteer and a member of the CERT Booth and Registration Teams. She encourages young people to participate in community service by joining CERT. Three of Graciela's children, Gabriel, Jessie, and Grace, have graduated from CERT. Two of her children are still active members.

Esther Whitton--302 hours

As long time CERT Treasurer, Esther is a member of the CERT Executive Board. Esther has been active on several teams including clerical, cooking, and shelter teams. At Camp CERT II, Esther stepped in and ran the event's cooking team. She has chaired the great December CERT holiday parties held at the Senior Center.

Gerard Charles--300 hours

We welcome Gerard back after his recent illness. He was missed as the CERT Logistics Leader. As logistics leader, his team sets up and takes down equipment for the CERT classes. When special events are happening, the logistics team volunteers to be first in and last out.

Ronald Roth--245 hours

Ron is a member of the CERT Executive Board and a past President of CERT. He is a member of the communications team and, as the past logistics team leader, has filled in as leader during Gerard Charles' health absence. He has volunteered for various special activities including distribution of Fire Department packets to mobile home parks and staffing the medical tent during US Open Surfing. He is always available to help.

Cynthia Goebel--241 hours

Cynthia is a member of the newsletter, booth and cooking teams. She has volunteered for various special activities including distribution of Fire Department packets to mobile home parks and staffing the medical tent during US Open of Surfing.

Linda Vircks--237 hours

Linda is a member of registration, cooking, booth, and clerical teams. She has helped organize CERT participation in the 4th of July parade. Linda also volunteers with other City organizations.

John Fort--150 hours

John Fort has been a member of CERT since 1998. He is currently leader of the weekly CERT Ham Radio Net. He was CERT Communication Team Leader from 1999 to 2009 and a member of the management and command post teams. John is an expert on tenting and has taught tenting as part of the shelter class. For many years, John taught the ham radio license class. Many of the CERT Radio Hams owe John a debt of gratitude for helping them get their Federal Technicians Radio License. In 2000, CERT awarded John Communications Team Leader of the Year. In 2009 he received the Dick White Award.

The following members received **Certificates of Appreciation** having volunteered for many of the various special CERT activities including: 2011-12 distribution of Fire Department packets to mobile home parks, US Open Surfing medical tent, 4th of July Parade, Senior Saturday, Disaster Preparedness Expo, Fire Department Open House and HB hospital flu drive. They are always willing to help and have contributed up to 250 hours of volunteer effort.

Paul LaGreek--233 hours

Paul is active in the CERT Ham Radio Communication Team and a frequent volunteer.

Alan Collins--214 hours

Al has been a member of CERT for many years, and has been CERT Search and Rescue Team Leader. He is also a member of the CERT Communications, Shelter, and Logistics Teams member. Al has taught several CERT classes.

Jessie Israel Becerra-- 200 hours

Jessie is one of our younger logistics team members who volunteers at every class and training event. He is one of the first in and last out crew.

Maggie Reyes--190 hours

Maggie is a recent CERT member and has volunteered for many events. She is also a member of the cooking team.

Linda Sheaffer--185 hours

Linda is a frequent volunteer and a member of the cooking and communication teams.

Arthur Weiland--157 hours

Art is a member of the newsletter and clerical teams and a diligent worker. Art's favorite activity is the cooking team where he can be found tending the fires, and stirring the chili. (continued on page 7)

Robert Dow--180 hours

Bob is very active in the CERT Communication Team and also volunteers for clerical. He was one of the Seal Beach responders and is always ready to volunteer.

Nelly Dow--160 hours

Nelly is also very active in the CERT Communication Team and is color team net control during classes.

Kenneth Mailman--102 hours

Ken is active in the CERT Communication Team. He was also one of the responders at Seal Beach and is always ready to volunteer.

Carmen Villa-Allen--100 hours

Carmen is a member of the CERT Booth and Cooking Teams and has participated in many activities including passing out fliers at the mobile home parks.

Robert Allen--96 hours

Bob is a member of the CERT Booth Team. He teaches sanitation at the CERT classes, and has helped teach the light search and rescue classes.

Anthony Reyes--90 hours

Anthony is one of our younger logistics team members who volunteers at every class and training event. He is one of the first in and last out crew.

Grace Maria Becerra--85 hours

Grace is a college student at Golden West College this year. She has organized booths and introduced CERT to fellow classmates by forming a college club. She volunteers for many activities with CERT.

Kitty Kwan--85 hours

Kitty is a 2011 CERT graduate and obtained a ham radio license at the CERT radio class. She is very interested in radio and has joined RACES. (Radio Amateur Communications Emergency Services)

Rev. Mother Barbara Benjamin--83 hours

Barbara is currently Cooking Team Leader and has taught alternative cooking methods at the CERT class.

Linda Vollmar--75 hours

Linda is a 2011 CERT graduate and has stepped right in to help. She's a member of the cooking team and also works class registration.

Stephen Whitaker--75 hours

Stephen is a member of the communication team and a frequent volunteer.





CERT FOUNDING MEMBERS





2011-2012 GRADUATES, AT FEBRUARY 7, 2013 AWARDS CEREMONY

FEBRUARY 16, 2013 SUPRISE CALLOUT



SCE JANELLE GODGES





Become a Fire Department Volunteer

Get Your Home and Family Prepared

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 **CERT Basic** course, you will learn:

- How to prepare your home and family for a disaster
- How to perform basic first aid
- 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



Emergency Management
&
Homeland Security Office
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
714-374-1565



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

**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 10 - 6:30PM to 9:30PM
- Wednesday, April 17 - 6:30PM to 9:30PM
- Wednesday, April 24 - 6:30PM to 9:30PM
- Wednesday, May 01 - 6:30PM to 9:30PM
- Saturday, May 04 - 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, March 16th - 10 AM to 1 PM
- Wednesday, March 27th - 6 PM to 9 PM
- Saturday, April 20th - 10 AM to 1 PM
- Wednesday, April 24th - 6 PM to 9 PM
- Saturday, May 18th - 10 AM to 1 PM
- Wednesday, May 22nd - 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

- March 14, 2013 6:00pm Management meeting followed by General meeting 6:30pm with guest speaker in B7 / B8. Chris Merkle, CERT volunteer, will discuss his first hand experience working on-site cleanup after Super Storm Sandy as a member of Team Rubicon.
- April 11, 2013 6:00pm Management and General meeting 6:30pm with in B7 / B8.
- May 9, 2013 6:00pm Management and General meeting 6:30pm with in B7 / 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.

HB CERT Newsletter Staff

Proof Reading / Editing Team:

Anna Pinter	Judy Ann Morris	Peter Petrelis	Virginia Petrelis
Art Weiland	Carol Nehls	Cynthia Goebel	

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

Disaster Preparedness Speakers Available

It is time to schedule a Disaster Preparedness Presentation for your neighborhood, business, school, civic organization or church. This is a perfect way to introduce our "Save-A-Life" Classes to the residents of Huntington Beach. It is easy and it is FREE!

Five Simple Steps:

- Find a place to host an hour-long presentation given by a trained HBFD CERT Volunteer Speaker.
- Choose a convenient date and time for your group.
- Call the CERT Message Line (714-536-5974) or log on the CERT website at www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert (click on left column "schedule disaster presentation"). Please give us at least three weeks notice and we will do our best to accommodate your group.
- CERT will provide a flyer to distribute to your neighborhood or group.
- Host to provide simple refreshments to be enjoyed at the end of the meeting. Our CERT Speaker will provide all printed material and even bring a door prize for your guests.

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!)