

CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT NEWSLETTER

May 2012

SINCE 1991



President's Message

By Peter Petrelis
gpgworks@verizon.net

The first Save-A-Life-Saturday (SALS) class held April 21 was attended by approximately 70 new students. The class started by viewing a video of Brevyn Mettler, HB Emergency Services Coordinator, welcoming the new class. Brevyn is currently in Uganda with a goal of adopting a little girl. Lisa Kennedy supported our class as the City representative. Thank you Lisa, we could not have done it without you. Excellent presentations were given by CERT instructors Judy Ann Morris, Carol Burtis and Mike Reyes. Fire Department Captain Gary Finney gave a very informative explanation of "How the City Responds to Emergencies."

Complementary lunch consisted of pizza and punch. An amusing pizza-eating contest was held among the seven high school students who attended the SALS class. The winner chomped down eight pieces, or one whole pizza. Oh, to be young again!

The 2012 SALS class series consists of four sequential classes and enrollment is now closed except for those who missed a class last year. If you missed a class last year, make sure you attend the appropriate SALS class this year.

I hope everyone who attended the first SALS class this year will continue with the remaining three classes and receive useful information on personal family and neighborhood preparedness.

If you are a CERT member and have a ham license, please read Richard Batistelli's article in this newsletter. If you have questions about the CERT Communications Team, please contact me as I am the CERT Communications Team leader.

Included in this issue you will find lists of items for *grab-and-go* bags. Please review and use this information to update or build your kit.

Current 2012 Requirements for CERT Member Certifications:

Certificate of CERT class completion -- Basic three SALS classes (Disaster Living Class recommended, but not required.)

Fire Department Volunteer – Certificate of CERT class completion, HB Police Department Live Scan (\$35 cost to you), complete ICS 100 and ICS 200 on-line or attend the Responder Class to be taught later in the year. The First Aid

Class is also a requirement. This class will be taught in the Huntington Beach EOC sometime later this year. As an alternative, you can take the class through the Orange County American Red Cross or the Heart Association.

County Mutual Aid Program (CMAP) Volunteer – To become a CMAP Volunteer requires a Certificate of CERT class completion, the Fire Department Volunteer requirements and completing the American Red Cross Shelter Manager Classes.

From the Desk of Richard Batistelli, HB CERT First Vice President

I have several events of note for the CERT membership:

As Liaison with Huntington Beach Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), CERT Communicators have been invited by HB RACES to visit their American Radio Relay League (ARRL) "Field Day" planned for June 23, 24, 2012 in Huntington Beach. It is their first overnight campout for radio DXing (radio talk for communications with other amateur radio groups around the world.) You can stay the night or just walk in and watch our "hams" talking and enjoying their craft. The location is 6th Street at PCH, in the upper parking lot. I will be there, so come by and say "Hi."

There are other opportunities for CERT communicators to hone their skills with radio protocol and procedures. HB RACES has invited our radio group to participate in the four large Huntington Beach City events in which RACES assists the police and fire departments each year.

These events include:

- The Surf City Marathon in February.
- The Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay in April with approximately 1000 law enforcement and military agency participants.
- The HB 4th of July Parade on Main Street.
- The Surf City Beach Derby in November.

Our communicators will enjoy the exciting activities while practicing their skills and will be helping the city at the same time.

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HB CERT HIGHLIGHTS

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CLASS 1

From the Desk of Richard Batistelli, HB CERT First Vice President (continued)

I also serve as Liaison with the Orange County Chapter of the American Red Cross (ARC). I want to let the membership know of two events on the ARC calendar:

1. For those of you needing CPR training, the ARC is planning a "Save-A-Life" training event at Angel Stadium on Saturday, May 12, 2012. Check with ARC (714-481-5300) for time and cost.

2. In cooperation with Veterans First, the ARC is helping homeless Orange County veterans with the many issues and pressures facing these American heroes. The 2nd annual STAND DOWN is planned for August 17-19 in Costa Mesa. If you know of any veterans needing help with VA problems, medical or dental needs, or other important concerns, please contact Veterans First at (714) 547-0615.

Tornadoes—Be Prepared

By Anna Pinter

Huntington Beach Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program was created after a tornado hit the city in 1991 and the City's resources were quickly overwhelmed. CERT's purpose is to train volunteers to respond to their neighborhood, school, or business after a disaster and to be able to take care of themselves until public safety can respond. http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/departments/fire/cert/about_cert.cfm

Tornadoes are rare in California but there were 73 twisters in Los Angeles and Orange Counties between 1950 and 2009; nothing stronger than an F1 since 1983. <http://www.accuweather.com>

There is no such thing as guaranteed safety inside a tornado. Extremely violent EF5 tornadoes are very rare, though. Most tornadoes are actually much weaker and can be survived using these safety ideas.

Know the signs of a tornado: Weather forecasting science is not perfect and some tornadoes do occur without a tornado warning. There is no substitute for staying alert to the sky. Besides an obviously visible tornado, here are some things to look and listen for:

1. Strong, persistent rotation in the cloud base.
2. Whirling dust or debris on the ground under a cloud base -- tornadoes sometimes have no funnel.
3. Hail or heavy rain followed by either dead calm or a fast, intense wind shift. Many tornadoes are wrapped in heavy precipitation and can't be seen.
4. Day or night - Loud, continuous roar or rumble, that doesn't fade in a few seconds like thunder.
5. Night - Small, bright, blue-green to white flashes at ground level near a thunderstorm (as opposed to silvery lightning up in the clouds.) This means power lines are being snapped by very strong wind, maybe a tornado.

6. Night - Persistent lowering from the cloud base, illuminated or silhouetted by lightning -- especially if it is on the ground or there is a blue-green-white power flash underneath.

In the years 2011 and 2012 many tornadoes have struck areas in the United States. Everyone should be prepared to know how to understand and protect themselves from the dangers of tornadoes. California is not as prone to large destructive tornadoes as other parts of the United States. Our society is mobile and as a traveler you could encounter situations where knowing signs of a tornado, and what to do after warnings have been issued, could save your life.

<http://www.spc.noaa.gov/faq/tornado> is an excellent Internet link for tornado information. Some of the above information is taken from the above Internet link.



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" Saturday Classes to the residents of Huntington Beach. It is easy and it is FREE!

Five Simple Steps:

1. Find a place to host an hour-long presentation given by a trained HBFD CERT Volunteer Speaker.
2. Choose a convenient date and time for your group.
3. 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.
4. CERT will provide a flyer to distribute to your neighborhood or group.
5. 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.

The City Tests the HB Emergency Warning Sirens on the First Friday of the Month at Noon

By Tara Fort What do I do?

STOP & THINK...What does the siren mean? The repeating siren system is activated by city officials to warn Huntington Beach residents and visitors of an “**immediate impending threat.**” The City of Huntington Beach has identified mitigation and plans for our 18 potential top hazards. Some of these hazards are (not in any specific order) coastal storm, earthquake, epidemics/pandemic, land subsidence, flooding (due to severe weather storms), hazardous material, man-caused hazards, nuclear accident, Prado Dam-failure-inundation, tornado, tsunami, water spouts (coastal), windstorms (Santa Ana’s high-winds electrical damage.)

STOP & THINK...What exactly do I do when I hear the Huntington Beach Emergency Warning Sirens repeatedly (and it’s not the first Friday of the month at 12 noon)?

DO NOT CALL 911 DO NOT CALL HB FIRE OR POLICE DEPARTMENTS

IMMEDIATELY TUNE THE RADIO TO KWVE 107.9 FM. THIS IS THE OFFICIAL HUNTINGTON BEACH DESIGNATED EMERGENCY ALERTING SYSTEM USED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR DISTRIBUTING TO THE PUBLIC EMERGENCY MESSAGES, EVACUATION INSTRUCTIONS, OR UPDATES.

KWVE 107.9 FM is the emergency frequency. Preset or tape a note to all radios.

It is recommended that all Huntington Beach residents, teachers, and children go outside and listen for the siren test at noon on the first Friday of a month to review its meaning and plan future intended actions.

If radio KWVE 107.9 FM gives you evacuation information, already have in your car an “Emergency Road Kit,” take prepared *grab-n-go bags* for each member of your family and pets. Listen to your car radio for additional directions and updates.

“Safety Around Electricity is Important”

From Southern California Edison’s March 2012 Business Connection

Coming into contact with energized wires can cause serious injury or even death. Review these safety tips with friends, neighbors and loved ones to help them stay alive.

Overhead Power Lines – Call 1-800-611-1911

Always be aware around overhead power lines. Do not approach or touch overhead power lines or any person or object in contact with the lines. Do not attempt to remove kites, balloons or any other object caught in electric lines, not even an animal. Instead, call SCE at **1-800-611-1911 or 911.**

Contact a qualified line-clearance arborist to trim and maintain trees that have grown close to power lines.

To report trees that have grown near power lines, call SCE at **1-800-655-4555** or go to SCE’s online Request Tree Trimming form at www.sce.com/TreeTrim.

If you are planning to trim your home’s trees and shrubs, be careful as some may have grown near or around power lines or electrical equipment.

Always stay at least 10 feet away from electrical facilities and power lines. If you or your tools come in contact or close proximity with an energized power line, you could be killed or seriously injured. **NOTE: Only for voltages 600 to 50,000; higher voltages require a greater distance.**

Be careful as you move ladders, tree trimming equipment, harvesting poles, pool skimmers or any tool that extends above your head.

Do not climb any tree if there is a power line touching its branches or trunk as that tree could be energized.

If a cut tree branch falls on to a power line, that branch could also become energized. Contact 911 right away.

Electric Meters and Equipment

Tampering with electric meters or equipment used by the utility to deliver or measure electricity use is dangerous and illegal.

To ensure your safety and the safety of SCE contractors and employees, SCE strongly discourages any tampering with electrical equipment, including a meter or an electrical panel.

In order for SCE employees and contractors to complete their jobs safely, SCE reminds you to keep the meter area clear for easy access.

For your safety, never attempt to alter, exchange, service or block access to the meter and electrical panel.

To learn more about safety around electricity, visit www.sce.com/safety or write to publicsafety@sce.com.

“Edison International Partners with American Red Cross”

From: Southern California Edison Business Connection

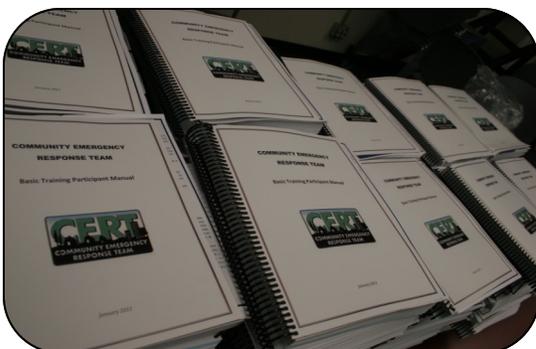
Safely delivering reliable, affordable electricity to our customers is a primary goal at Edison International.

To demonstrate our commitment to safety, the company recently entered into a three year partnership with the American Red Cross’ Prepare SoCal initiative to increase emergency preparedness throughout Southern California. Prepare SoCal aims to train up to 50,000 volunteers in First Aid and CPR, along with 70,000 general volunteers to serve in Red Cross shelters. Among those trained volunteers will be hundreds of Edison International employees who will serve as a reserve force that is called upon by the Red Cross in the event of a disaster. Connect with us on social media to learn more about Edison programs and activities in your community. We’re on Twitter, @socal Edison, and Facebook, at www.facebook.com/socal Edison.

PHOTOS FROM THE APRIL 21 CLASS



PHOTOS FROM THE APRIL 21 CLASS (continued)



Grab 'n Go Bags

Have a *Grab 'n Go Bag* for each person in the house. Keep it by your bed. If you need to evacuate, grab your bag and go.



Adult Bag

- Flashlight, batteries, and light sticks
- Portable radio and batteries
- Keys (house and car)
- Money (coins and bills)
- Glasses, contacts lenses and solutions
- Medications (at least one-week supply)
- Comfortable shoes, two pairs of socks
- Comfortable clothing (sweats, extra underwear)
- Jacket or sweatshirt
- Whistle (call for help if trapped)
- Pocket knife
- Paper and pencil
- "Okay" and "Help" signs (provided by CERT)
- Emergency phone list, out-of-state contact #
- Lists of people to notify if you are injured
- Copies of important documents: insurance, identification, social security, etc.
- Small first aid kit
- Toilet articles: comb, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, washcloth, face towel, shampoo, lotion, razor, lip balm, emery board, nail clipper, sanitary products, tissue, sunscreen, etc.
- Toilet paper
- Zip-lock bags, plastic grocery bags
- Good book, playing cards, crossword puzzles
- Work gloves, several pairs of latex gloves
- Blanket
- Plastic ground cloth
- Dust mask
- Crow bar (may need to remove debris)
- Drinking water – store in a separate place (minimum one gallon per person)
- Food
- Snacks (granola bars, trail mix, peanut butter)



Seniors or Disabled Bag

These items are in addition to the Adult Grab 'n Go Bag.

- Food for special diet needs
- Batteries for hearing aids, wheelchair, etc.
- List of style and serial # of medical devices
- Special supplies: oxygen, catheters, etc.
- Prescriptions for eyeglasses (not older than one year)
- Personal sanitary items (Depends, disposable bags, ties, wipes)
- For guide dogs see Pet Grab 'n Go Bag.



Infant and Toddler Bags

These items are in addition to the Adult Grab 'n Go Bag.

- Formula, disposable bottles, nipples
- Diapers and wipes
- Instant baby cereal
- Bowl and spoon
- Sunscreen
- At least two changes of clothes
- Light jacket
- Thermometer
- Medicine dropper
- Pedialite, electrolyte replacement solution
- Tylenol, Triaminic and other medications
- Firm soled slippers or shoes
- Toys, books, stuffed animals
- Authorization to Consent to Treatment of Minor Form, completed

Pet Grab 'n Go Bag

Keep your Pet Grab 'n Go Bag in an easily accessible location near your own emergency supplies.



- Food, water – 3-day supply for each pet
- Bowls - non-spillable
- Collar and leash -for dogs and cats
- Muzzle
- Poop scooper, bags
- Treats, toy
- Blanket, towel, or newspaper for warmth
- ID tag should always be on pet
- Extra name tag
- License number
- Pet carrier or crate for each pet labeled with pet and owner's information (keep near your bag).
- Name, address and phone number of veterinarian, animal control agency and shelters.
- People to contact to take care of the animal
- Vaccination and medical records. Keep inoculations current. In an emergency, pets may come in contact with diseased animals.
- Allergy or other special instructions

Pet First Aid Kit

- Scissors
- Gauze pads
- Wipes
- Instant cold pack
- Adhesive tape
- Tweezers
- Soap
- Antiseptic cream
- Eye drops

Car Emergency Kit

- Water
- Food (canned, dehydrated, snacks)
- Sweater or jacket, extra clothing
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Money (coins and bills)
- Flashlight (extra batteries)
- Blanket
- First Aid Kit (bandages, gauze, etc.)
- Pocket knife
- Matches (waterproof)
- Flares
- Fire extinguisher
- Work gloves
- Jumper cables
- Pencil and paper
- Tools (screwdriver, pliers, wire, crowbar, rope, etc.)
- Emergency phone numbers, including your contact person
- Maps of your most often traveled routes
- Personal items – eyeglasses, toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, tissues, hand wipes, toilet tissue, etc.
- Special needs – medication, diapers, infant formula, etc.
- Favorite book, crossword puzzles or games





Huntington Beach 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 21, 2012 7:45AM to 3:30PM 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 19, 2012 7:45AM to 3:30PM 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. *Bring Bag Lunch*

Class 3: Disaster Living

June 16, 2012 7:45AM to 3:30PM 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*

Class 4: Light Search & Rescue/Fire Suppression

July 21, 2012 7:45AM to 4PM 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. *Bring Bag Lunch*

Civic Center Address: 2000 Main Street Huntington Beach, 92648

Fire Training Center Address: 18301 Gothard Street



Neighbor Helping Neighbor

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 *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



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.

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, May 5, 10:00am to 1 pm
- Wednesday, May 23rd - 6 PM to 9 PM
- Saturday, June 16th - 10 AM to 1 PM
- Wednesday, June 27th - 6 PM to 9 PM
- Saturday, July 21st - 10 AM to 1 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

- **May 3, 2012** - 6:00pm: Management Meeting at the **Fire Training Center**, 18301 Gothard Street, HB open to all HB CERT Members.
- **May 19, 2012** - Second Save-A-Life Saturday CERT Class (attended prior SALS class, see attached flyer)
- **June 7, 2012** - 6:00pm: Management Meeting in the EOC open to all HB CERT Members.
- **June 16, 2012** - Third Save-A-Life Saturday CERT Class (attended prior SALS classes, see attached flyer)
- **July 4, 2012**— CERT to march in 4th July parade
- **July 12, 2012** - 6:00pm: Management Meeting in the EOC open to all HB CERT Members.

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 Peter Petrelis at pgpworks@verizon.net**

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



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!)