

CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT NEWSLETTER

October 2011

SINCE 1991



HB CERT HIGHLIGHTS

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CLASS 1



President's Message

By Peter Petrelis
pgpworks@verizon.net

I thought August was a busy CERT month, but September was even busier! A major CERT project was collating and starting the distribution of 3000 Fire Safety Awareness information packets to the residents of the 17 Huntington Beach Mobile Home Parks. Distributions were made August 27, September 17 and September 24, to six Mobile Home Parks with more distributions planned for October. We need CERT volunteers to donate a few Saturday hours. If you can help, contact Michael Reyes, DSW Manager, at sp2rays@yahoo.com to schedule a time.

CERT members provided logistic support for the Huntington Beach Council on Aging Senior Saturday Festival on September 10 at the HB Pier entrance area. The Logistics Team set up and tore down tables and chairs for the 78 vender booths and the dining area. The Booth Team staffed the CERT information booth. The morning was off to an exciting start with thunder, lightning, rain and hail, but the weather cleared for a successful event. Thanks for another job well done by these CERT volunteers.

Congratulations to the six members from the 2011 Basic CERT graduation class who studied for their amateur radio technician licenses and passed! I hope they will become CERT radio communicators. CERT communicators will be providing traffic control at the Huntington Beach Hospital free drive-through flu shot clinic on Saturday morning November 5. This will be a great opportunity to practice our radio communications skills.

On September 15, an Emergency Flood Fighting Methods Course was taught by the California Department of Water Resources to interested CERT members.

On September 24 2011, many of our friends and neighbors attended the Disaster Preparedness Seminar held in the City Council Chambers. Our Huntington Beach Fire Chief, Patrick McIntosh, discussed how the City responds to emergencies and the need for CERT volunteers. Sirens at the eight fire stations are tested at noon on the last Friday of each month. If you hear sirens on any other date or time, tune

in to FM107.9 KWVE for emergency instructions. Brevyn Mettler, Huntington Beach Emergency Services Coordinator, showed a power point presentation on the many hazards we face right here in Huntington Beach from natural disasters and terrorism. Vicki Osborn, Orange County's Assistant Emergency Manager, discussed Alert OC and Ready OC. Carol Burtis, HB CERT Speakers Bureau Coordinator, discussed home and family preparedness. She emphasized the need for securing heavy objects such as TVs and tall bookcases so they don't fall over in an earthquake and the importance of storing heavy pots, pans, crock pots or other heavy objects in lower cabinets. Child locks were recommended for use on cabinets that store glass and breakables. She also talked about the need to have grab-and-go bags in your home, car and office.

After the presentations, the attendees walked through the displays of grab-and-go bags, 72 hour emergency supply barrel, water storage, gas safety, and products available through Sunset Survival and First Aid <http://www.sunsetssurvival.com>.

We're looking forward to members of the 2010 and 2011 Basic CERT classes joining us as Fire Department Volunteers. Please e-mail me at pgpworks@verizon.net if you have any questions on how to complete your training to become a volunteer.

Please note that the October CERT management meeting will be held on October 13, (instead of October 6) at 6:00pm in the EOC.

Upcoming Events

- **October 13, 2011** - 6:00pm: Management Meeting in the EOC open to all HB CERT Members. **NOTE: the date change.**
- **October 15, 2011** 10am to 3pm, Huntington Beach Fire Department Gothard Fire Station Open House,
- **November 3, 2011** - 6:00pm: Management Meeting in the EOC open to all HB CERT Members.
- **November 5, 2011** Morning, Free Drive-Through Flu Shots, Huntington Beach Hospital

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:

- Wednesday, Oct 12, 6 to 9 p.m
- Saturday, Oct 29, 9:30am to 12:30pm
- Wednesday, Nov 9, 6 to 9 p.m
- Saturday, Nov 19, 9:30am to 12:30pm
- Saturday, Dec 10, 9:30am to 12:30pm

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

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 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.

Tracking CERT Volunteer Hours Reminder

By Virginia Petrelis, CERT Secretary

At the July 7, 2011 Executive Board meeting, it was decided to change the CERT year from the current September 1 to August 31 to January 1 to December 31. However, the 2011 CERT hours will cover September 1, 2010 through December 31, 2011. It is important to keep a record of all CERT volunteer hours. Please record all hours (including driving time) no matter how few. Every hour counts! Please send your hours to me at vapworks@yahoo.com

In these days of dwindling City budgets, it's especially important that our City realize the value of the resources invested in CERT volunteers and the need to continue supporting our program.

Emergency Flood Fighting Methods Course

By Virginia Petrelis

On September 15, volunteers from throughout Orange County attended the Flood Fighting Methods Course presented by Rick Burnett and Richard Willoughby of the California Department of Water Resources. The morning session was held in our Huntington Beach Emergency Operations Center. Several videos of California floods and correct sandbagging techniques were shown. We learned about structure protection using plastic and sandbags. We were shown various types of sandbags and learned the best ones were made of tightly woven burlap.

In the afternoon, the class drove to the Wintersburg Channel at the end of Slater Avenue. Once there, everyone got a chance to practice filling sandbags (only a third full). We were shown the proper method of folding the empty top of the bag at a 45 degree angle to keep sand from leaching out and how to place them, overlapping the fold. We were instructed in how to make a temporary levee and how to slow down a "boil" leak by making a u-shaped sack ring with a spillway. We learned how to use plastic to protect a levee against "wavewash." We practiced the "raincoat" and "envelope" methods which are used to protect eroding levees and hillsides. Each student was given a "plastic button" and shown how they are used to tie the plastic to stakes to anchor it to a hill.

Thank you to both Brenda Emrick, CERT Coordinator for Costa Mesa Fire Department and Brevyn Mettler, Emergency Services Coordinator for Huntington Beach, for arranging this very informative class. It was a very productive way to spend the day!

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 pqpworks@verizon.net**





CERT Booth at September 10 Senior Saturday



Flood Fight Class, September 15, 2011

Scenes from Disaster Preparedness Seminar, September 24



Where there is CERT, There is FOOD!

Disaster Preparedness Seminar



HUNTINGTON BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT

CALL
714-536-5411
FOR MORE
INFO



2011 OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, October 15 - 10am to 3pm

In recognition of National Fire Prevention Week (firepreventionweek.org)

Fire Station 1 - Gothard

18301 Gothard Street

Firefighting demonstrations at

11:00 am & 1:30 pm

Meet your local firefighters!

Tour the fire station!

Meet Sparky the Fire Dog!

See the fire engines!



Refreshments courtesy of the Huntington Beach
Firefighters' Assoc. & Fire Management Assoc.

Preparing for Power Outages

By Huntington Beach Fire Department

Southern California Edison (SCE) has informed the City of Huntington Beach there may be rotating power outages in the future. They should not exceed one-hour intervals. The Huntington Beach Emergency Management & Homeland Security has prepared a list of Safety, Security, and Health issues that you should use to prepare for a power outage.

Independent System Operator Alerts

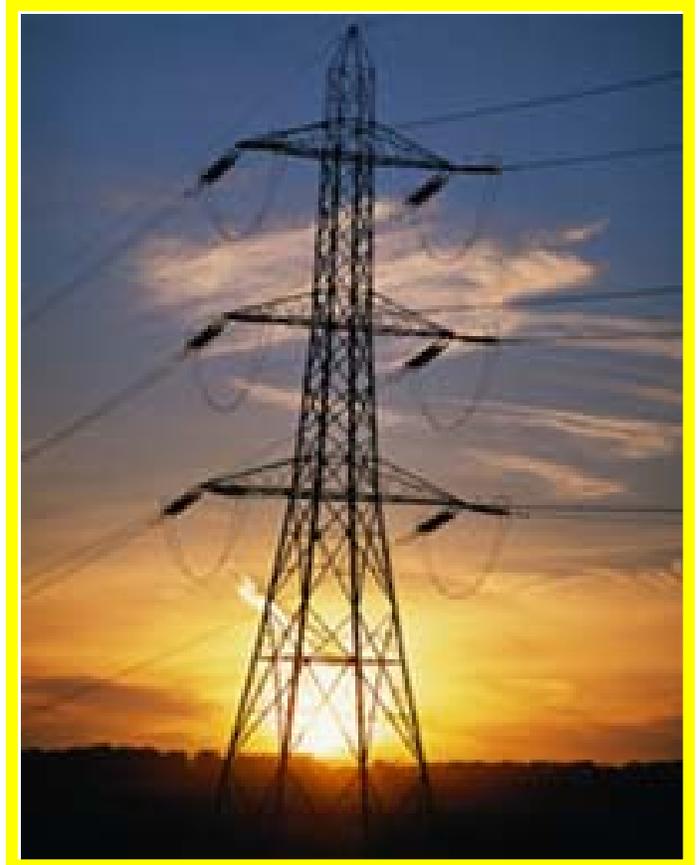
Stage I - Less than 7% operating reserves

Stage II - Less than 5% operating reserves

Stage III - Less than 1.5% operating reserve

Safety Issues

- Purchase needed items for your home, office and car including: flashlights, batteries, AM/FM battery powered radio, rechargeable power failure lights, and lightsticks.
- Have a 72-hour emergency kit for your family.
- Keep cash and change on hand; in power failures ATMs may not work and you may need to make a phone call at a pay phone.
- Check your home and office phones. Phones that are cordless and phones with answering machines are power dependent. Have one phone that does not require power to operate in case you need to call 9-1-1. Keep your cell phone powered up.
- Familiarize yourself with your main electrical panel. You may be required to turn off the main breaker or have to reset circuit breakers.
- Portable generators are an excellent source of backup power if operated safely. Safely stockpile fuel outside, never indoors, and not in garages. Operate generators outside. Only use fresh gasoline because old gasoline may ignite. Plug appliances directly into the generator and NEVER attach generators to the facility current.
- Use space heaters only as recommended by manufacturers. Keep them at least 3' away from combustibles and walls. Do not drape items over them and do not use with extension cords. Turn them off before going to bed.
- To save electricity use your fireplace for heating, but responsibly. Don't burn wood with paint or stain. Any time you have an open flame in your home you should observe it at all times. Make sure you close your fireplace screen to prevent sparks from flying. Do not store newspapers, kindling, or matches near the fireplace.



- Do not use candles for lighting, instead use lanterns. If you use candles, make sure you have smoke detectors in all rooms and that the batteries are operating. Have a fire extinguisher and know how to operate it. Have a fire evacuation plan and practice fire drills. More fires are caused by candles than any other source.
- If your smoke detectors are wired directly into the electrical system they will not operate during a power failure. Consider purchasing a battery detector backup. Special smoke detectors are available for the hearing impaired.
- During the power outage, unplug all small appliances to avoid a power surge. Leave one light on so you know when the power comes back on.
- When power comes back on you may have to reset your clocks, VCRs, microwave ovens, programmable thermostats, burglar and fire alarms.

Security Issues

- Have a plan for checking on and reuniting family members.
- Stay home and be safe during a power outage. Stores and gas stations may be closed. Don't add to the confusion by driving around.
- During an area-wide power outage, traffic signals may be out. If so, remember the intersection becomes a 4-way Stop.
- Watch for suspicious activity. Criminals may decide to take advantage of the power outage. Always call 9-1-1 if you notice suspicious activity.

Health Issues

- Focus on children's needs. Provide a flashlight for each child that they can keep by their bed and in their backpacks. Discuss living without electricity and how the outage is usually short term.
- Help elderly and disabled individuals who are on power-dependent medical devices arrange for back up power. Power-dependent devices include: medication pumps connected to IV's including pain control, anti-arrhythmia and chemotherapy; dialysis machines; home ventilators; and backup oxygen tanks. Anyone who utilizes a medical device should arrange for a neighbor, relative or friend come to check on him or her in an emergency.
- All hospitals are required to have backup power.
- Have a first aid kit in your home, office, and car. Take first aid and CPR training.
- Sewer pump stations have limited storage capacity. Do not flush your toilet during a power outage. Wait until after the power has been restored to flush.

Be a good neighbor and check on any elderly, disabled, and children who are home alone during a power outage. They may need your help. Try to conserve electricity between the hours of 5 – 9 AM and 4 – 7 PM. For information on the Fire Department & CERT disaster preparedness classes or literature, call 536-5974.

Prepared by
Huntington Beach Fire Department
 Emergency Management & Homeland Security Office
 714-536-5980

"Partners in Preparedness"

AUTUMN HEALTH FAIR & FLU SHOTS

FREE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2011
8:30 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M.
(While Supplies Last)

MICHAEL E. RODGERS SENIORS' CENTER
1706 ORANGE AVENUE, HUNTINGTON BEACH
714-536-9387

One shot-Double Coverage

The H1N1 strain will be included in the seasonal flu vaccine

Health Screenings



TRANSPORTATION

On bus flu shots
714-374-1742



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 Contact:** CERT@surfcity-hb.org
CERT Message line 714-536-5974, (THIS IS A MESSAGE LINE ONLY!)