

CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT NEWSLETTER

January 2009

SINCE 1991



HB CERT HIGHLIGHTS

CERT 2009
Save--A- Life
Saturday Classes

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CLASS 1

Weather of 2008-2009

Brevyn Mettler
Asst. Emergency Service Coordinator

On December 10, 2008, I attended the National Weather Service (NWS), Winter Weather Outlook Workshop for Orange County. The NWS facilitates this workshop to discuss the year's weather and the prediction for the upcoming year. Due to the nature of the information that was shared, I feel that it is important that it be passed along to the first responders and key city staff.

Last year the LA basin, which includes Los Angeles and North Orange County, received 13.53 inches of rain fall, which is 89% of the average. The weather started strong and ended rather weak which wasn't predicted. The heavy rains and false forecasts were due to extreme weather conditions in January through May. The NWS wanted to emphasize that any prediction outside of ten days is basically an educated guess.

This year saw several weather systems that were uncharacteristic of Southern California. In May, several tornados touched down in west San Bernardino County and were seen over East Orange County. The EF-2 tornado lofted truck trailers and blew over a locomotive and several rail cars. It is believed to be the strongest tornado recorded in recent California history. The NWS wanted to point out that, unlike the Midwest, there is still very little understanding of this type of severe weather in California. Furthermore, they believe that there is a potential for this type of severe weather to impact inland Orange County and the Orange County coastal areas.

2009 Weather Outlook

The NWS declares that we are in a level D2 drought condition and that it is expected to continue throughout 2009. They believe that we will have an El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO), neutral year, which is due to neutral water temperatures around the equator. According to the prediction, we neither face an El Nino (wet weather) nor La Nina (dry weather) in 2009. The presenter stated that "there is a slightly better that average chance of below normal precipitation." They do emphasize that these are only prediction models and they do not take into consideration other factors such as Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO), which is more likely to take place in ENSO neutral years.

Recent breakthroughs in the understanding of this anomaly have allowed forecasters the ability to predict these types of weather patterns five to seven days in advance. MJO is an anomaly that occurs when weather systems in the western Indian Ocean move through the South Pacific. The interaction of this system with Pacific storm systems can result in an enhancement of rainfall on the West Coast. This type of weather pattern can cause dramatic changes in forecasting. This is what was seen in the spring of 2004, which caused the second most rainfall in recorded Southern California history. If we do experience weather related to MJO, we could expect a strong chance of debris flows in the 2007/2008 burn areas and threat of severe flooding in low lying areas.



In closing, the NWS made the point that although Southern California is perceived to have rather mild weather, this could not be further from the truth. California can experience much of the same weather as anywhere in the United States including hurricanes, tornados and severe storms. Although the severity of such weather is much less, the impacts could be much greater considering the density of the population. For example, a Category EF4 tornado (207-260 mph winds) in the mid-west may cause damage to some structures, but the impact to the population is relatively low. On the other hand, a Category EF2 tornado (73-112 mph wind) going down Main Street in Huntington Beach could cause very significant damage.



President's Message

Judy Ann Morris



Happy New Year!

Happy 2009! Your CERT Executive Board and Management Team are looking forward to a great year. First of all, I would like to thank Ron Roth for doing such an outstanding job as President for the last three years. Ron is a great leader and has represented Huntington

Beach CERT in a very dedicated and professional manner. Thank you, Mr. President!

Our 2009 Executive Board and Management Team have already met several times to plan for the new year. I am very excited about each Team Leader's goals for the year. We are looking forward to our 2009 Save a Life Classes and the Advanced Training Classes that are in the plans for this year.

I would like to share a few of the goals that our Executive Board and Management Team have highlighted for this year.

- Develop fun/team building activities
- Develop a mentoring program
- Continue Special Populations/Response Team Training
- Be consistent with our Newsletter publication
- Train with the Central Library on Volunteer Coordination
- Improve CERT's activation/communication during drills
- Establish CMAP requirements and train our Graduates
- Refine our callout system for volunteers during an activation

As we roll out different programs this year, we hope that everyone will feel like part of the program and participate. I am looking forward to a fun and innovative year.

Election of CERT 2009 Officers

Ron Roth and Cecil Worth
2008 Nominating Committee

In mid October approximately 400 ballots were sent to the CERT voting members for election of the 2009 officers.

It was concluded by the Nominating Committee that those individuals' names that had been placed on the ballot were accepted by the CERT voting members to be officers for the year 2009. They are:

- Judy Ann Morris, President
- Peter Petrelis 1st Vice President
- Richard Batistelli, 2nd Vice President

- Juanita Walker, Secretary
- Esther Whitton, Treasure
- Bill Worth, DSW Manager

Thank you and congratulations to the above for stepping forward to manage our great program for 2009.

2009 CPR Classes

Free CPR classes are available to Huntington Beach residents who are members of the Huntington Beach Fire Department [FireMed Program](#). These classes follow the guidelines of the American Heart Association, and a two-year Heartsaver certification is issued to each student. Information provided by the classes includes: Adult and Infant CPR, Heimlich Maneuver, and General First Aid and Earthquake Preparedness

FireMed membership allows every person in your household to attend these classes for free under the one-time annual cost of just \$60 (or \$5 per month if you receive a water bill.) The class cost for Huntington Beach residents who are not members of FireMed is just \$60, and includes a household membership in the FireMed Program.

The fee for a person not wishing to join the FireMed Program is \$35 per class. Registration is required for these classes, which are three hours in length and taught in the Huntington Beach area. The exact location of the class is given at the time of enrollment confirmation. This procedure allows us to accommodate the class with enough instructors and mannequins for the benefit of the students who are learning this important lifesaving skill. To enroll in one of these CPR classes, call the CPR Enrollment Hotline at (800) 400-4277 or (714) 556-4277.

CERT – FIED Thank You!

By Judy Ann Morris

At our October CERT Banquet we recognized and said thanks to two very special people, Glorria Morrison and Dick White. Without Glorria and Dick, our HB CERT Program would not be the high caliber, professional volunteer program that it is today. It is unusual to combine the words professional and volunteer to an organization but through the direction, dedication, and leadership of Glorria and Dick, HB CERT can be described in such a way.

I like to think of Glorria and Dick as talent scouts and cheerleaders. Anyone who has worked with them knows that they both have a way of giving you confidence in yourself to learn, then teach, and then lead. That is the heart of HB CERT.

HUNTINGTON BEACH "CERT - ified"
SURF CITY "CERT- ificate" OF APPRECIATION

Richard R. White

SURF CITY CERT CO-FOUNDER

Whereas, Richard, known to us as Dick, a native of New York, migrated to Huntington Beach, California in 1963; and

Whereas, Dick has served on the Huntington Beach Council on Aging since 1994, serving as Vice-President, President, Past President and was involved in legislative action; has been a member of the Senior Citizen's Advisory Council (SCAC) since 1999, serving as Vice-Chair, Chair and Past Chair, and has served as the CERT Senior Advocate since 1994; and

Whereas, Dick was one of the founders of the Huntington Beach CERT program, the CERT Newsletter, and the Speakers' Bureau; was CERT Director in 1991; was the driving force behind the creation of the CERT Constitution and By-laws; and has continually served on the CERT Executive Board since 1991; and

Whereas, Dick was the CERT Volunteer of the Year in 1993; received the Huntington Beach Public Safety Good Samaritan Award in 1995; and was the CERT "Most Inspirational" award recipient in 2007; and

Whereas, Dick was the inspiration for the "Dick White Partners in Preparedness Award" created by CERT in 1994 as their most prestigious award, which, on a yearly basis, is given to the CERT volunteer who exemplifies the dedication to community service in which Dick has set the standard; and

Whereas, Dick received the Life-Time Presidential Volunteer Service Award in 2007; and

Whereas, Dick White exemplifies the true heart of a volunteer, leader and motivator,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Huntington Beach Fire Department and Huntington Beach CERT recognize and congratulate Richard R. White on his outstanding contributions, through his dedicated volunteer work, to improving the quality of life for all citizens of Huntington Beach.



HUNTINGTON BEACH "CERT - ified"
SURF CITY "CERT- ificate" OF APPRECIATION

Glorria J. Morrison

SURF CITY CERT FOUNDER

Whereas, Gloria began her civic career in 1977 working for the City of Huntington Beach as a part-time file clerk in the Police Department, where she quickly moved to Records staying for eight years; and

Whereas, in 1986, she moved to the Fire Department as the Assistant Civil Defense Coordinator; and was then appointed Emergency Services Coordinator in 1989 where she has served for the last twenty-two years; and

Whereas, in 1990, under the auspices of the Fire Department, she began to organize Huntington Beach neighborhoods and prepare local residents for emergencies, such as earthquakes or floods; and

Whereas, in 1991, after a tornado caused considerable damage to the City of Huntington Beach, Gloria started the first Community Emergency Response Team program in Orange County; and

Whereas, from 1991 to 1996 she built the Huntington Beach CERT program from the ground up; organizing, recruiting, developing instructional materials, and teaching classes for the CERT program on her own; graduating her 1st class in 1994; and gradually training her CERT volunteers the skills they needed to become teachers themselves; and

Whereas, to her credit, many of the original volunteers from 1994 are still active on some level in the CERT program and disaster preparedness; and

Whereas, the Huntington Beach CERT program has trained and prepared over 3,000 individual residents and over 50 neighborhood teams to take care of themselves, their families, and the neighborhoods/schools/businesses in an emergency; making the Huntington Beach CERT program the largest and most active volunteer CERT program in Orange County; and

Whereas, she has received numerous accolades and awards over the course of her career, most recently receiving the California Emergency Service Association (CESA) Diamond Award for excellence in her field and the Life-Time Presidential Volunteer Service Award for her dedication to CERT and emergency preparedness county-wide; and

Whereas, she is the "Heart" of CERT and always will be;

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE PROCLAIMED, that all of her thousands of disaster preparedness students and colleagues, particularly those of us in Huntington Beach, do hereby recognize and congratulate Gloria J. Morrison on her retirement as Emergency Operations & Homeland Security Coordinator, CERT inspiration, Life-long Friend, and Glorrious leader.





Huntington Beach Fire Department

A Class1 Fire Department

Classes are free,
but you must register

To Register

Call the CERT Message Line
714-536-5974

or

Register online at
www.SurfCity-hb.org/CERT



Save-A-Life Saturday Schedule

Class 1: Disaster & Terrorism Preparedness

March 21, 2009 7:45AM to Noon 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.

Class 2: Disaster First Aid (Medical Ops I & II)

April 18, 2009 7:45AM to Noon 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.

Class 3: Disaster Living

May 16, 2009 7:45AM to Noon Civic Center

Learn tenting, outdoor cooking and sanitation.

Class 4: Light Search & Rescue

June 20, 2009 7:45AM to Noon 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.

Class 5: Fire Suppression / Fire Extinguishing

July 18, 2009 7:45AM to Noon Fire Training Center

Bring a fire extinguisher and practice putting out a live fire. Learn home fire safety and prevention. Training includes how to shut off utilities and secure items that may cause injuries in an earthquake. Learn backup communication methods to use during an emergency.

Class 6: Drill Your Skills

Aug. 15, 2009 7:45AM to Noon Fire Training Center

Practice all the skills you have learned to respond to an emergency. Learn how to set up a Command Post and manage an emergency incident.

CERT Graduation and Awards:

Sept. 19, 2009 7:45AM to Noon Civic Center

Receive your official Fire Department Volunteer ID Card and jacket and learn about being a Huntington Beach Fire Department CERT Volunteer.

Note: All students are required to become CPR certified. FireMed customers can take classes for free and non-FireMed customers can take classes for a fee of \$30. For a schedule call 800-400-4277.



Civic Center Address: 2000 Main Street Huntington Beach, 92648

Fire Training Center Address: 18301 Gothard Street

Neighbor Helping Neighbor

Team Announcements:

Search and Rescue Team – Leader Al Collins

Mark Your Calendars:

We will be having an Advanced Search and Rescue Training Class on April 25, 2009. The class will be at The Community United Methodist Church, 6652 Heil Ave, Huntington Beach, (Heil Ave. East of Springdale and West of GoldenWest).

The class will be from 9AM to Noon. If you are interested please RSVP Al Collins at alsurfcity1@aol.com. We will learn how to search for victims in a dark room. We will also learn victim assessment and moving, cribbing, and record keeping.

Booth Team – Past Leader Bill Worth

In December, the CERT booth was held at the Farmers Market at the Pier in Huntington Beach. Volunteers were: Richard Batistelli, Ron Roth, Roy Alzua, Raji Shunmugavel, Julia Heng, Joe Tom, and Bill Worth. We handed out 405 packets of information. This brings the total count for 2008 to 11,428. If just a small fraction of the recipients act on the information to save the lives of themselves and their families, we will have accomplished a significant feat. Thank you all.

Roy Alzua will now be the Booth Team Leader. I know all of CERT will continue to support this important part of your CERT organization. I know that I will be there as much as possible to help

Booth Team – Leader Roy Alzua

The Booth Team objectives for 2009 will be to continue distribution of CERT literature and information at HB's Farmers Market, the annual Seniors Saturday Festival, and to resume participation at the Surf City Nights. We plan to coordinate our informational and membership drive efforts with expanded Marketing Team activities.

Marketing Team – Leader Peter Petrelis

The CERT Marketing Team was established last summer. The team's goal is the development and implementation of ideas for attracting new students and stimulating CERT participation of past DSW graduates.

The Marketing Team contacted past DSW graduates to schedule appointments to renew expired badges. This effort will continue in 2009. Working in conjunction with the Booth Team at various events, we instituted a signup sheet for notification of 2009 classes. Marketing Team members will contact each

of the 200 potentially interested students to invite them to the classes and answer questions.

In 2009, the Marketing Team will meet monthly. If you are interested in participating in this team, please contact Peter Petrelis at 714-842-6136.

Logistics Team – Leader Ron Roth

Are you a team player? Do you like to be involved, but are not interested in the day to day responsibilities and details of preparing for a class or presentation? If you answered yes to either of these questions I have just the team for you.

My name is Ron Roth and I am the Team Leader for Logistics. This team assists in the set up for class and the return of items to the proper storage area when the class is done. If you have participated in our CERT classes, you have probably noticed the detail of each class area ready for the presenters to conduct the class. That is one of the services we perform.

CERT manages the famous Cargo Container that is located on the lawn behind City Hall. The container is used by CERT teams, city employees who work at City Hall and is available to the HB Fire Department if needed. Emergency materials used for training classes and for real emergencies are stored in this facility. Logistics oversees the removal and return of all items used by teams in CERT classes.

If you want to learn "from the ground up" what it takes to be a CERT volunteer, see me at the Save-a-Life Saturday classes beginning March 21, 2009.

Speaker Bureau Training – Leaders Carol Burtis & Judy Ann Morris

We will be having the first of our Neighborhood Speakers' Training Classes on February 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the EOC. If you are interested in helping "spread the word" to organizations and neighborhoods, you must attend this class. We will be providing a PowerPoint and outline of the Disaster Preparedness Talks. There will be follow-up meetings to be announced at a later date. Please plan on attending this meeting even if you have been one of our speakers in the past.

Please RSVP with Judy Ann at jamorris189@yahoo.com



Upcoming Events

February 5, 2009-7:30PM: Management Meeting

*To register for classes call 714-536-5974 or online at www.surfcity-hb.org/CERT

* Fire Med customers can take CPR classes for free and non-FireMed customers can take classes for a fee of \$35. To schedule call 800-400-4277.

- Wednesday, February 11th from 6:00pm to 9:00pm
- Saturday, February 21st from 9:30am to 12:30pm
- Wednesday, March 14th from 6:00pm to 9:00pm
- Saturday, March 25th from 9:30am to 12:30pm
- Wednesday, April 8th from 6:00pm to 9:00pm
- Saturday, April 18th from 9:30am to 12:30pm
- Saturday, May 13th from 6:00pm to 9:00pm

HB CERT Newsletter Staff

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Attention!

If you want something placed in the Upcoming Events e-mail Brevyn at bmettler@surfcity-hb.org

Please help save postage, if you can view the newsletter via the internet at www.surfcity-hb.org/CERT
Please call (714) 536-5974 to take your name off the mailing list.



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