

CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT NEWSLETTER

December 2009

SINCE 1991



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HIGHLIGHTS

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CLASS 1



President's Message

By Judy Ann Morris
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I wish everyone a wonderful December with lots of family time, beautiful traditions, sharing and caring for others, and taking time for yourself to enjoy the season. I am looking forward to an exciting 2010 CERT year. Our new class schedule will be announced in our January newsletter. If you are a CERT graduate and would like to be involved with our 2010 activities, please plan on attending the Management Team Meeting on January 7, 2010 at 6pm in the EOC. All CERT members are welcome!

December Preparedness Challenge:

Christmas Tree Safety Rules

- Cut two to three inches off the bottom of a fresh tree and put the tree in water immediately. This prevents the sap from forming over the cut and allows the tree to absorb the water. Use a sturdy holder and fill it with water daily.

- Check lights carefully for broken sockets or frayed wires before you put them on your tree. Replace any strings that look damaged.

- Keep your tree away from heat sources, such as fireplaces and heaters, which will dry it out.

- Keep your tree out of the path of household traffic and don't let it block your exit in case you need to escape from a fire.

- Unplug the tree lights and any outdoor lights when you go to bed or leave the house.

- Avoid placing breakable ornaments with small parts on lower branches where children or pets can reach them. Ornaments and other holiday decorations should be non-combustible, or flame resistant. Do not burn wrapping paper or tree branches in the fireplace. Dispose of holiday trash and your Christmas tree safely. Do so soon after the holiday is over.

The HB CERT Executive Board and Management Team wish a safe and Happy Holiday to the Huntington Beach Community.

Advanced Training Light Search and Rescue Team

By Al Collins, Team Leader

The CERT Light Search and Rescue Team members are now a training team. It is my goal to have advanced training for CERT Disaster Service Workers (DSW) "ready to go" and proficient in search and rescue skills. If and when a man-made or natural disaster happens, members can be good neighbors and help as needed in their neighborhoods. Remember, we take care of ourselves, our family, and then our neighbors.

It is my plan to have at least two, or no more than three training sessions in the EOC. Advanced training will be after the first of the year. The dates and times will be announced. On completion of training, the team will have a drill. Training will build upon the skills learned in the "Save-a-Life Saturday" classes. The advanced training will include building safety inspection, building search, cribbing, patient assessment, and first aid.

HB Hospital Flu Clinic

By Bill Worth and Kim Louie

Huntington Beach Hospital, 17772 Beach Boulevard, hosted its annual FREE drive-through flu shot clinic for the community on Saturday, October 10, 2009. The annual seasonal flu vaccine (not H1N1) was provided by the Orange County Healthcare Agency. The event was coordinated by Julie Schowalter, Employee Health Manager and Candace Bartsch, Regional Coordinator Senior Programs.

Kim Louie recruited CERT volunteers to set up tables for the clinic, place traffic cones, direct traffic, and provide communications with hospital staff. The event was a great success with 600 flu vaccines dispensed. Thank you to all who participated: Joe Tom, Alan Hill, Mike Cohen, Pat Cohen, Esther Whitton, Judi Fagan, Raji Shunmugavel, Cecil Wright, Al Collins, Linda Vircks, Kim Louie, and Bill Worth.



Golden West College ShakeOut Exercise

By Gloria Morrison, Retired Emergency Services Coordinator

On October 15, 2009, Golden West College held a full-scale field exercise. The scenario, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake on the Southern California San Andreas Fault, was done as part of the **Southern California Great ShakeOut Exercise**. This was the college's first ever full scale exercise and HB CERT helped make the exercise a great success.

HB CERT arranged for 25 CERT victims, developed injury cards and assigned each of them to different locations on the college campus. This was organized and coordinated by CERT leader Carol Burtis.

Tara Twitty and Raji Shunmugavel moulaged or applied injury makeup to the victims making every injury look real. Then each victim acted out their injuries by yelling and screaming as if they were in actual pain. This allowed the campus employees to respond to the incident under as real of circumstances as possible.

"The victims were really good actors and it brought the reality of it home to me," said Steve Ludwig, the Bookstore Manager. "This was very realistic—almost too realistic! I generally faint at the site of blood but this helped prepare me for what could occur on our campus. I had eight victims who needed help. Some were trapped under debris and injured and many were yelling for help. It was my responsibility to request assistance and coordinate the response. I had read our plan and thought I knew my job but you have to experience it to really understand it. This exercise allowed the Golden West College employees the opportunity to experience the emotion and drama that will occur when *the Big One* strikes Huntington Beach."

After retiring in December 2008, in January of 2009 Golden West College contracted with me to: develop a Response Procedures flip-chart,

an Emergency Response Plan, to conduct training on the plans and to conduct a full-scale field exercise for the employees.



The college evacuated it's over 8,500 day time students and employees. It then set up and operated a Command Post led by Janet Houlihan, Vice President of Administrative Services and Brent Theobald, Security Manager. The college used the Incident Command System. A First Aid Station was set up by the R.N.s of the college Nursing Program using the START triage system and assisted by nursing students. Employees responded as Building Marshals for each of the 36 buildings on campus. The Police Academy involved over 50 cadets in carrying injured to the First Aid Station. Our retired Police Chief, Ron Lowenberg who is Dean of the Criminal Justice Program worked in the Command Post. Overall there were over 200 employees and volunteers who participated in the exercise.

I want to thank HB CERT and the Hbfd engine company who participated as Evaluators. This partnership allowed the campus to have a successful and educational exercise.

Golden West College ShakeOut Exercise



Partners in Preparedness!
**Golden West College, HB CERT, HB RACES and
Huntington Beach Fire Department**

Golden West College appreciates the response of the Huntington Beach Fire Department, HB CERT and HB RACES with special thanks to Carol Burtis, Tara Twitty, Raji Shunmugavel, Barbara White, JudyAnn Morris, Al Collins, and HE46.

Working together to make our community safer!

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

2010 Save-a-Life Saturday CERT Class Schedule will be available on our Website, www.surfcity-hb.org/CERT, in January and also in our January Newsletter.

Upcoming Events

- There will not be a Management Team Meeting in December
- January 7, 2010-6:00pm: Management Meeting in the EOC open to all HB CERT Members
- February 2010: Disaster Preparedness Fair—Date to be announced
- Fire Med customers can take CPR classes for free and non-FireMed customers can take classes for a fee of \$35. Dates are listed below.
To enroll in CPR classes, call 800-400-4277. Class location is in HB area and exact location given at time of enrollment.
Wednesday, December 9, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm
Wednesday, January 13, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm
Saturday, January 23, from 9:30am to 12:30pm
Saturday, February 13, from 9:30am to 12:30pm

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

For those who do not receive the newsletter by email, you can go to the CERT website: www.surfcity-hb.org/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.



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.