

# CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT NEWSLETTER

June-July 2009

SINCE 1991



## HB CERT HIGHLIGHTS

CERT 2009  
Save-A-Life  
Saturday Classes

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's  
Message  
Page 1

My CERT  
Communicator  
Experience  
Page 2

Super Star  
Page 2

Bravo For  
Bravery Award  
Page 2

Alert OC  
Page 3

Job Well Done,  
Shelter Team  
Page 3

Upcoming  
Events  
Page 4



**CLASS 1**

### President's Message

By Judy Ann Morris



#### Good Samaritan Act

#### A Call to Action: Contact your State Legislature.

Many of you have asked me the status of the "Good Samaritan" Law. Here is an update:

There is a **Bill AB 90** – in committee that we would like you to read and if you agree, contact your State Representatives to tell them that we need this passed.

**AB 90, as introduced, Adams. Torts: personal liability immunity. Existing law requires that any person, who in good faith and not for compensation, renders emergency medical care at the scene of an emergency shall not be liable for any civil damages resulting from any act or omission.**

**This bill would instead require that any person, who in good faith and not for compensation, renders emergency care, medical or nonmedical, at the scene of an emergency shall not be liable for any civil damages resulting from any act or omission.**

#### A Chance to Volunteer

Do you have an hour and a half one day a week? This summer, Huntington Beach Senior Services is initiating a new volunteer opportunity to help serve lunch to seniors at Rodger's Senior Center. Volunteers are needed to commit for one day a week (Monday-Friday) from 11:00am -12:30pm to greet our luncheon guests, serve lunch, and clean up. Contact Diane Swarts, Volunteer Coordinator, Rodger's Senior Center, 714-374-1544 or [DSwarts@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:DSwarts@surfcity-hb.org) for more information.

This is a great opportunity for the CERT Senior Response Team members to get to know the staff and participants at Rodger's Senior Center. Just a personal note, I usually work at the Senior Center for any special occasion luncheons and find it a lot of fun and very rewarding. There isn't any special training involved just a friendly smile and a willingness to serve.

### Changes for the Huntington Beach Sands Magazine

Starting with the next issue of the Huntington Beach Sands Magazine, the magazine will not be mailed directly to residents. It will still be published with all our City classes and events but you will need to go to Murdy Recreation Center, Edison Recreation Center, Rodger's Senior Center, City Hall, or the Central Library to get a hard copy. You can also go to the City Website and look at it online. When you are on the website you can sign up for an email alert to be sent to you when new classes are announced.

### Emergency Preparedness Task for June/July

**Fire Prevention:** Take these summer days to check on your Fire Extinguishers (buy new ones or recharge your old ones). Also, it is time to check on your Fire/Smoke Detectors. Please take the time to test and/or replace batteries.

**Special Note:** The newsletter will be published monthly. This month's newsletter is dated June/July so that we will issue the newsletter at the beginning of each month.

### Get Your Neighborhood Disaster Prepared

#### Five Easy Steps:

1. Find a place to host an hour long presentation (Hall, Home, Recreation Room, Church, Business or School)
2. Determine a convenient date and time
3. Call the CERT Message Line with your contact information and the date and time you have determined (give us at least 3 weeks notice)
4. Distribute the reminder notice and flyer which we will provide
5. Provide simple refreshments to be enjoyed at the end of the meeting. We will even bring door prizes

#### Contact:

Judy Ann Morris  
714-536-5974 - CERT Message Line  
714-536-8595 - Home  
[jamorris189@yahoo.com](mailto:jamorris189@yahoo.com)

## My CERT Communicator Experience

By Raji Shunmugavel Reporting



I began coming to CERT Save-A-Life classes with my son's Boy Scout Troop No. 227 under Mr. James Griffin's leadership in 1999. When I was introduced to CERT, I realized the need for disaster preparedness and enrolled in Save-A-Life Saturday classes. It also increased my interest in hobbies like camping and Ham Radio as well as opening a big door to a social life for me. I joined the Communications and Shelter Teams.

My participation as a member of the CERT Communication Team is very enjoyable. Currently, most team members have three opportunities every week to practice their ham radio skills. Every Monday evening at 7:15 PM, I take part in the RACES Radio Net, on Wednesday mornings at 7:45 AM, the BEARS Boeing Radio Net, and on Wednesday evening at 7:30 PM, the CERT Radio Net. During roll call, I listen and acknowledge when I hear my call sign. I very much appreciate the net times as opportunities to improve my skills operating the radio, keep in touch with CERT members and interact with other organizations.

As a member of the CERT Communications Color Team I put my skills into practice. During Save-a-Life Saturday classes held the third Saturday of the month, we assist the leaders and participants by guiding the students to their locations and making sure the classes start and end at the planned time.

If a man-made or natural disaster occurs, I will volunteer and be ready because I have practiced by volunteering and working to keep my skills current. For instance, I was visiting my home town of Virudhunagar, India during the 2004 tsunami and the 2008 Mumbai bombing. I stayed very calm and felt almost as if it was a part of everyday life.

Anyone interested in becoming a CERT communicator should take CERT special training to obtain a HAM license.

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## SUPER STAR! RICHARD BATISTELLI

By Tara Twitty



Huntington Beach CERT would like to recognize Richard Batistelli for his outstanding contributions to our program and his pursuit of advanced training. Richard is the Team Leader for our

Senior Response Team and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the HB CERT Executive Board. The Senior Response Team's duties are to report to the Rodger's Senior Center and help the staff and the Senior Service Volunteers check on the "Frail and Elderly" in the event of a major disaster. In his position as leader, Richard, has taken many advance training classes with other agencies.

- On June 7, 2009 he received from the Federal Communication Commission his General HAM Radio License. He will be keeping his radio sign (K16TJI) Kilo, India Six, Tango, Juliet, India, so all you hams out there, please give him a 73 (Best Wishes)
- Richard is helping to bridge the "communication network" by currently being a member of the CERT HAM Radio Communication Team. He is on the American Red Cross Communication Team and in the near future is applying to join HB RACES.
- As a member of the American Red Cross "Disaster Action Team", he helps assist displaced residents with support for housing, food and clothing. He is also a member of SAF (Serving Armed Forces). This American Red Cross Team assists Armed Services Troops before and after their deployments.
- In addition, he has taken American Red Cross classes to learn how to utilize untrained volunteers during an emergency.

Congratulations, Richard, on a SUPER STAR training program and thank you for sharing your time and talents with Huntington Beach CERT.

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## June 4, 2009—Congratulations to Walt White who was Awarded Red Cross Bravo for Bravery!

During a committee meeting at Huntington Landmark Senior Adult Community on September 12, 2008, a member displayed signs of extreme physical distress and became unresponsive. Immediately, a bystander activated emergency services and got paramedics on the way. Three individuals jumped into action and began first aid. Walt White, a Huntington Beach CERT volunteer, coordinated the initial response and retrieved and used the AED (Automatic External Defibrillator.) Bill LeBoeuf, a retired physician, assessed the victim and monitored vital signs, while a staff member Larry Stroman, performed CPR. After being connected, the AED automatically analyzed the patient's heart rhythm and administered a life-saving shock. Although CPR was then performed as required, the patient showed little response. The AED automatically delivered a second shock after which the patient became more responsive.

The paramedics arrived shortly thereafter and, after stabilizing the patient, transported him to the hospital. Both the paramedics and emergency physician stated that had an AED not been used, the patient may not have survived. Thanks to the quick actions of White, LeBoeuf and Stroman, the patient was doing well the following day.

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### Huntington Beach is now a part of County Wide Emergency Notification System

AlertOC is a mass notification system designed to keep Orange County residents and businesses informed of emergencies and certain community events. By registering with AlertOC, time-sensitive voice messages from the County or City in which you live or work may be sent to your home, cell or business phone. Text messages may also be sent to cell phones, e-mail accounts and hearing impaired receiving devices.

Based on the severity of the event, AlertOC may be used to contact residents by one or all of the following methods: home phone, work phone, cell phone, e-mail, text message. Mass Notification systems have been attributed with saving lives during the 2007 Southern California wildfires by quickly notifying residents of evacuation instructions at all hours. During an emergency incident, AlertOC has the ability to send three million 60-second voice messages, two million e-mails and 360,000 text messages per hour.

The legal authority responsible for announcing emergency notifications depends on the nature and scale of the incident. With the AlertOC partnership between the County and Cities, residents and businesses only need to provide their contact information once to receive emergency messages from either the County or City in which they live or work. The system is totally secure, and your information will only be used for communication purposes.

Registration is web-based and must be completed via the internet.

Once on the website, citizens should scroll down to the map of Orange County and click on the City of Huntington Beach. They will then be directed to a page where they can register both their home and/or business. Registration only takes a minute and is an important way to keep your family prepared. For more information and to register visit [WWW.alertOC.com](http://WWW.alertOC.com). Questions will be answered via email. The address is [alertoc@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:alertoc@surfcity-hb.org).

Reprinted from 2009 Summer Issue of HB Sands

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### JOB WELL DONE!

Congratulations to the Shelter Team for a great Disaster Living Class. Save-A-Life Saturday students who attended the May 16, 2009 Disaster Living Class had a unique experience. The Shelter Team presented its "Disaster Living" class inside the Council Chambers because of the retrofitting construction

outside the City Hall steps and lawn.

The CERT Cooking Team premiered our new cooking team aprons. The Huntington Beach company called "Embroidme," located at 7162 Edinger, HB, made our aprons with the CERT embroidered logo in a 3-day rush with great quality and affordable prices.

The actual cooking portion of the Disaster Living Class was postponed to September 2009 (provided the grounds are safe) since we could not cook inside Council Chambers. Don't miss the good food in September!

### A special thanks to our instructors and speakers:

- Alternative Cooking Methods: Rev. Barbara Benjamin, Phyllis Gelinas, Virginia Petrelis, Cathleen Sliney
- Outdoor Sleeping and Tenting: Richard Batistelli, Paul LaGreek
- Pet Preparedness: Karin Reed
- Family Grab & Go Bags: Phil and Justin Burtis
- Emergency Water Supplies--Storage and Purification: Al Collins, Jim Russell
- Disaster Mental Health: Valerie Jordan

Thanks to our timekeeper, Nelly Dow, the Logistics and Registration Teams and **Tara Twitty, Disaster Living Class Coordinator EXTRAORDINARE!**



## Upcoming Events

- **July 2, 2009-6:00PM: Management Meeting, open to all HB Disaster Service Workers in EOC**
- **July 18, 2009 7:45 AM –noon Fire Suppression/Fire Extinguishing Save-A-Life Class at the Fire Training Center**
- **August 15, 2009 7:45 AM –noon Drill Your Skills Save-A-Life Class at the Fire Training Center**

\*To register for classes call 714-536-5974 or online at [www.surfcity-hb.org/CERT](http://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. Dates are listed below. To enroll in CPR classes, call 800-400-4277.

Wednesday, July 8 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm  
Saturday, August 21, from 9:30am to 12:30pm  
Wednesday, September 9, 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](mailto:bmettler@surfcity-hb.org)

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



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### 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.