

# CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT NEWSLETTER

March 2010

SINCE 1991

Deputy  
City  
Hi



## HB CERT HIGHLIGHTS

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**CLASS 1**



### President's Message

By Judy Ann Morris  
jamorris189@yahoo.com

Mark your calendars, our new CERT classes start on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Now is the time to invite your neighbors, friends, family, and community groups to join you in Disaster Preparedness Education. We are excited that

our new class attendees will now be able to become CERT members in only four months. We have added two hours to each class schedule but we have added a free lunch. Our wonderful CERT Cooking Team will be serving the lunches for three of the classes and preparing our lunch for the Disaster Living Class in May.

### There are rules for attending our CERT Classes:

Dress appropriately: long pants, tee shirts (no tank tops), closed toe and closed heel shoes (no flip flops, sandals, etc.)

Registration opens at 7:45am (you must sign in at every class.)

**NEW THIS YEAR: You must sign out at the end of the day. This is the only way your class time will be counted for graduation.**

### Disaster Preparedness Speakers Available:

It is time to schedule a Disaster Preparedness Talk for your Neighborhood, Business, School, Civic Organization or Church. This is a perfect way to introduce our 2010 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 email Judy Ann Morris at [jamorris189@yahoo.com](mailto:jamorris189@yahoo.com) (please put CERT in the subject line) with your contact information, the date, and time you have determined. 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. 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.

### 2010 Elected CERT Officers:

President - Judy Ann Morris  
[jamorris189@yahoo.com](mailto:jamorris189@yahoo.com)  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Peter Petrelis  
[pgpworks1@verizon.net](mailto:pgpworks1@verizon.net)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Richard Batistelli  
Secretary – Juanita Walker  
Treasurer – Esther Whitton  
DSW Manager – Kim Louie

### CERT Badges

Peter Petrelis is now making CERT badges. If you have an expired CERT badge, or you are a 2009 CERT graduate who has completed paperwork and background check, but did not receive a badge, please contact Peter Petrelis by e-mail for an appointment time.



Chief McIntosh and Mayor Cathy Green

### Welcome to Fire Chief Patrick McIntosh

“Chief McIntosh was selected from a very qualified group of candidates who were gathered from a national recruitment,” stated City Administrator Fred Wilson. “He is certainly capable of leading the Fire Department and I look forward to him joining the executive team.”

“Huntington Beach is a great community with a long history of excellent public safety services and I look forward to serving the citizens of our city,” stated Chief Patrick McIntosh. “As Fire Chief, it will be an honor to have this opportunity to serve side by side with the members of the Huntington Beach Fire Department.”

Chief Patrick McIntosh has been with the Orange County Fire Authority since 1982 when he started as a Firefighter. Prior to that, he was a Firefighter with the City of San Gabriel from 1979 to 1982.

Chief McIntosh holds a Master's Degree in Organizational Leadership from Chapman University, a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Protection Administration from Cal State University Los Angeles, and is a graduate of the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program.

## Welcome to Fire Chief Patrick McIntosh (cont.)

In 2000, he became one of the first executive fire officers in the nation to receive Chief Fire Officer Designation from the Commission on Chief Fire Officer Designation and in 2003, he completed the prestigious Harvard University Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government.

Deputy Chief McIntosh is a native of San Gabriel and resides in Laguna Niguel with his wife and two daughters, ages 11 and 15.

### January 16, 2010 Call Out By Peter G. Petrelis



Registration at the Callout

On Saturday, January 16, 2010 at 7:00 am, 475 HB CERT members received emails and calls on home telephones and cell phones. Brevyn Mettler, Emergency Service Director, announced a drill inviting all CERT Disaster Service Workers to report to the Emergency Operations Center. The rapid notification was made possible by using the Alert OC internal notification system. Ninety-one CERT members quickly reported to the EOC. The



Assembly of Callout respondents

option was given to arrive at 8 am, 9 am, 10 am, or 11 am for a one-hour 2010 Save-a-Life Saturday class orientation and sandbag training. If this was a real emergency, a significant additional number of CERT members would have reported. However, 27 of the 475 phone numbers bounced back as undeliverable. It is extremely important for CERT members to keep their phone and e-mail information current in the CERT database.

Sandbag training consisted of a ten-minute demonstration outside of the cargo container.



Sandbag Training at Cargo Container

## Sandbag Team Activated During January Storms

The sandbag training could not have been better timed. A major storm struck Southern California the following Tuesday with heavy rain and persisted through Friday. The HB CERT emergency line received numerous calls from frail and elderly persons requesting sandbags to prevent flooding of their homes and garages. The CERT sandbag team and volunteers were mobilized to fill and deliver 450 sandbags. It was a difficult task filling the bags with wet sand during the rain. The boots and rain gear suggested during the training proved to be a necessity.

CERT members who participated over the five day period were: Graciela Beccera, Jesse Beccera, John Beeson, Reverend Mother Barbara Benjamin, Pat Brotherton, Gerrard Charles, Dr. Julia Heng, Judy Ann Morris, Peter Petrelis, Ron Roth, Mike Reyes, Bill Siegele, Cherie Smith, John Sliney, Judy Vizinho, Manny Vizinho, Pat Willis, and Steve Wright. Other volunteers who participated were: Ryan Fitzpatrick, Sean Fitzpatrick, and Joshua Robins.

### 2010 Disaster Preparedness Expo By Brevyn Mettler, Emergency Services Coordinator



On Saturday, February 2, 2010, the city hosted a Disaster Preparedness Expo at the Central Library and fortunately

Mother Nature was on our side and the skies stayed clear, even though there were some close calls. This first annual event was a great success with over 1300 community members turning out to learn about what they can do to prepare for themselves, their family, neighborhood, school and business for a disaster. Attendees had the opportunity to view static displays, review disaster preparedness literature from the ReadyOC outreach program, learn how and use a fire extinguisher, sign up for AlertOC, and view disaster preparedness supplies from local vendors Earthquake Management and Sunset Survival.

Some of the highlights were fire extinguisher demonstrations from the Huntington Beach Fire Department (HBFD), HB Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), disaster animal preparedness from Surf City Animal Response Team (SCART), and HAM radio auxiliary communications from HB Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES). On display was the city's Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) apparatus

## 2010 Disaster Preparedness Expo (cont.)

and crew. This newly formed Cal Emergency Agency (EMA) certified team brings a new capability to Hbfd. Other displays included a Hbfd ambulance presented by FireMed, an Hbfd police cruiser manned by the Retired Seniors Volunteers in Policing (RSVP's), the HB Search and Rescue Explorers and their equipment, and an American Red Cross response vehicle.

The Mayor and City Council Members who were in attendance, take disaster preparedness seriously and hopefully this event will get bigger as time goes on. The city would like to thank all in attendance for making this an extremely successful event.

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### Thank You to CERT Volunteers

The Huntington Beach Fire Department Disaster Preparedness EXPO was a huge success. We thank all of the 90 CERT volunteers who participated in the event.

The event featured displays at eight CERT booths. Well-trained CERT volunteers explained the displays and answered questions from the public. CERT booths included:

- Library Book Drop and CERT Member Sign-in/out
- CERT Information (Marketing and Booth teams)
- First Aid Treatment Demonstration of the three killers: bleeding, airway restriction, and shock
- HB Potential Hazards display
- Terrorism Potential Hazards display
- CERT Class Registration (where over 60 registered for the first class)
- CERT 72 hour Grab-and-Go Bag essentials
- Light Search and Rescue



## Huntington Beach Volunteers Honored By Tara Twitty



The December 2009 issue of "DOG FANCY" Magazine printed a feature story about our Huntington Beach CERT and SCART (Surf City Animal Response Team) Volunteer Lois Abrams and her dog, Duke.

Lois Abrams, PhD, trained her Cavalier King Charles Spaniel to be a psychotherapy assistance dog. Cavaliers are empathetic comfort dogs. Unlike some breeds, they aren't threatened by direct eye contact. Canine Duke and Lois are a Certified "Pet Therapy Team" with the Delta Society, a leading pet therapy organization. Trained in crisis-response work, Duke also helped Lois counsel victims of the 2003, 2007 & 2008 California wildfires and worked the Ground Zero memorial site in New York in 2002.

Duke and his canine nephew, Romeo, impact the most lives when they comfort people at Lois' psychotherapy clinic in Los Alamitos, California. In the dogs' daily workplace, Romeo helps with Duke's heavy workload. Each dog has his own niche. Duke specializes in adolescents and children. Romeo loves toddlers. Therapists aren't supposed to touch their clients, but because clients pet the dogs, clients feel more nurtured and safe in the office. Duke has a special way to tell Lois the patients' feelings. Duke sits at the feet of anxious patients. With people who are depressed, he jumps up on the couch and sits next to them. When Romeo rolls over and offers his belly, that's a sign of trust, and means a lot to some of Lois' clients.

JOB WELL DONE Lois, Duke, and Romeo!

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## Chili Cook-Off Contest January 17 By Tara Twitty

CERT Cooking Team members Reverend Mother Barbara Benjamin, Virginia and Peter Petrelis, Anna Pinter, Art Weiland, Tara Twitty, and John Fort wanted extra practice time cooking together.

Preparation was spread over three weeks. Five CERT members cooked up a pot of their best chili and met at Art Weiland's home for chili tasting. The following week we entered our combined recipes in a Chili Cook-Off fund-raiser at my church, The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection.

CERT member, Kirk Van De Walker artistically drew our back drop sign. Virginia and Rev. Mother Barbara named our contest entry "FIREHOUSE CHILI." Virginia designed the table sign using her computer. Tara, John, Virginia, Anna and Art

## Chili Cook-Off Contest January 17 (cont.)

brought our table decorations and the team decorated our table. Peter calculated the recipe's ingredients and quantities on an Excel spreadsheet. Rev. Barbara ladled out the chili to the judges and chili tasters. CERT flyers introducing the CERT organization and its upcoming activities were available on our table.

More than 100 people attended and 30 chili recipes were entered into the contest. The fund raiser earned over \$800 for the church. We didn't win a trophy, but if you look at our picture you can see CERT FUN is priceless.

Standing left to right: John Fort, Peter & Virginia Petrelis, Anna Pinter, Art Weiland, Rev. Mother Barbara Benjamin. Tara Twitty is seated and the picture was taken by CERT member Kay Pugsley.



## CERT Training Pays Off By Tara Twitty

The Huntington Beach CERT Cooking Team was participating in a chili cooking contest on January 17, 2010. As the crowd began to arrive for the event, a lady had a seizure, took a step as if faltering, and fell over landing flat on her back. Bystanders began to call 911 on their cell phones.

Immediately a woman knelt down beside the woman's head and announced loudly, "I am a nurse." The nurse felt for a pulse and said, "I can't find a pulse." CERT volunteer, Rev. Mother Barbara Benjamin, was prepared and handed the nurse a plastic mouth-to-mouth protector. CPR was begun immediately and in a few seconds the woman began to breathe on her own. I began to stroke the lady's cheek and forehead and she showed signs of relaxation. I learned this technique from my past EMT experience.

The paramedics arrived, surveyed the situation and opened their medical cases. The first responders continued their efforts until a gentle touch on the nurse's shoulder and a voice said, "I will take it from here." The paramedics immediately started to give the lady oxygen. CERT volunteers breathed a sigh of relief as the revived patient was taken away in the ambulance. As CERT members, we were again reminded of the importance of attending CERT classes and renewing our CPR certificates every two years.

## EXPO 2010 PHOTOS (More to follow Next Month)



# 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?

Potential impact of a 7.8 earthquake on the San Andreas Fault

### What Will I Learn?

#### 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.



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
- How to use all these skills to create a Neighborhood CERT Team



## CLASS 1

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.



# Huntington Beach Fire Department

## A Class 1 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](http://www.SurfCity-hb.org/CERT)



### 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. Attend one class or all, but it is suggested you attend them in order for the greatest benefit.

#### Class 1: Disaster & Terrorism Preparedness

March 20, 2010 7:45AM to 2:00PM 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)

April 17, 2010 7:45AM to 2:30PM 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. **Lunch Provided**

#### Class 3: Disaster Living

May 15, 2010 7:45AM to 2:30PM 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

June 19, 2010 7:45AM to 2:30PM 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. **Lunch Provided**

**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. 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*

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!**

2010 Save-a-Life Saturday CERT Class Schedule is available on our Website, [www.surfcity-hb.org/CERT](http://www.surfcity-hb.org/CERT),

**Upcoming Events**

- March 4, 2010-6:00pm: Management Meeting in the EOC open to all HB CERT Members
- March 20, 2010—7:45am to 2:00pm; First Save-a-Life Saturday Class at HB Civic Center
- April 1, 2010-6:00pm: Management Meeting in the EOC open to all HB CERT Members
  
- Fire Med customers can take CPR classes for free and non-FireMed customers can take classes for a fee. Dates are listed below.  
To enroll in CPR classes, call 800-400-4277 or 714-556-4277. Class location is in HB area and exact location given at time of enrollment.
  - Wednesday, March 10 - 6 to 9 p.m.
  - Saturday, March 20 - 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
  - Wednesday, May 26 - 6 to 9 p.m.
  - Saturday, April 10 - 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
  - Wednesday, April 14 - 6 to 9 p.m.
  - Saturday, May 8 - 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**HB CERT Newsletter Staff**

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For those who do not receive the newsletter by email, you can go to the CERT website: [www.surfcity-hb.org/CERT](http://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.
- The Central Library has computer access for the public.



***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.