



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT NEWSLETTER

SINCE 1991

September 2015

HB CERT HIGHLIGHTS

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CLASS 1

West Nile Virus Update: Virus is active in Orange County

From the City of Huntington Beach News
<http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/announcements/announcement.cfm?id=890>

The Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District (OCMVCD) would like to make residents aware, in portions of Northeastern Orange County, that mosquito and dead bird samples have tested positive for West Nile virus.

In 2014, Orange County reported the highest number of human infections of West Nile virus in the nation with 280, including nine deaths. OCMVCD uses more than 10 years of sampling data collected during routine monitoring and testing of mosquitoes, dead birds, and human infections to determine areas of greater risk throughout the county.

To date in 2015, OCMVCD confirmed West Nile virus-positive test results from the City of Anaheim, City of Cypress, City of Fullerton, City of Huntington Beach, City of Orange, City of San Juan Capistrano, City of Santa Ana, City of Tustin, and City of Yorba Linda. So far this year, OCMVCD has reported a total of 81 positive mosquito samples and ten dead birds. There are no reported human cases at this time. A total list of all positives can be found at www.ocvcd.org

Mosquitoes acquire the virus when they feed on infected birds, and subsequently pass the virus along when they bite humans. There is no cure for West Nile virus.

Partnership to Protect Your Community:

All mosquitoes need standing water to complete their life cycle. Even though OCMVCD Inspectors are conducting investigations to find mosquito breeding in communities all over Orange County, standing water sources remain unidentified. These unidentified sources are maintaining mosquito populations and threaten your quality of life. We are asking for your help to find and eliminate hidden sources.

It takes just two minutes of your time to help prevent future outbreaks of West Nile virus. Simply inspect your property and dump or drain any water found, and take the necessary steps to prevent the source from refilling. In addition to common breeding sources, above and

underground remnants of our agricultural past (standpipes, well heads, irrigation channels) may be present on your property and can breed mosquitoes. This easy practice is the most effective method of controlling mosquitoes. If you observe any standing water not on your property, alert OCMVCD. An inspector will be dispatched to catalogue and treat the source with mosquito control products.

Residents can take an active role in reducing the threat of West Nile virus by taking the following steps:

- Eliminate any standing water around your home.
- Ensure that swimming pools, spas, and ponds are properly maintained.
- Change the water in pet dishes, birdbaths, and other small containers weekly.
- Request FREE mosquito fish for placement in ornamental ponds.
- Make sure all window and door screens on your house are in good repair.
- Wear a repellent containing DEET®, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, or IR 3535.
- Contact the Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District to report dead birds or neglected ponds.

www.ocvcd.org

Ham Radio Class

By Peter Petrelis

In August 2015, Peter Petrelis, Jim Hanson, Bob Dow and Richard Batistelli tutored eleven students preparing to take the Ham Radio Technician test. The seven who took the test all passed to become licensed ham radio operators.

In April 2015, twenty six students studied for the test. All fourteen who took the April test passed. So far this year, we've had a 100% success rate.

If you're interested in becoming a ham radio operator, call Peter Petrelis at 714-842-6136 or send him an email at pgpworks@verizon.net to be put on a list for notification of future classes.

Escape Routes

By Raji Shunmugavel

During our CERT training we learned about having evacuation plans for families, neighborhoods and communities.

In case of a fire in a two-story home, the family members should be prepared to escape from a second story window using folding or chain ladders, which should be stored near a window.

If there is a tsunami warning, people who live near the ocean must immediately move inland. In Huntington Beach, tsunami escape route signs are posted. Residents should be aware of the routes and the closest safe area for them.

One major disaster was the 9/11 terrorist attack in New York City. Although so many lives were lost, 500,000 were evacuated from Manhattan by water. Many ordinary citizens brought their private boats to help along with commercial boats. See the touching YouTube about the boat lift at: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/MDOrzF7B2Kg?rel=0>

September 11, 2001 made history around the world but not many people are aware of the large number evacuated by the courageous people who provided the boatlift escape route.

Huntington Beach RACES & CERT Communicators

By Raji Shunmugavel

RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) ham radio operators (hams) are trained to assist the city, state and nation by using their ham radio skills during an emergency. Other forms of communication can fail, leaving amateur radio as the only means of communication. RACES hams hone their skills by participating in emergency drills using their own radios, power sources and antenna systems. Many hams participate in an annual "Field Day" where they demonstrate their skills to the public, contacting other hams locally and far away using their own equipment.

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) ham radio operators (communicators) are trained to assist in their neighborhoods. They could have assignments like shelter, logistics, command post or search and rescue where they would relay messages among the various groups. Communicators relay messages using a "net control system" to have organized communication. CERT communicators would also be on-call to assist RACES during a city-wide disaster.

In Huntington Beach, CERT communicators are invited to participate with RACES in community events such as the 4th of July parade and various marathons. They are posted along the routes and report incidents

or accidents if help is needed. All these activities help communicators to "Be Prepared and Ready" to help during a disaster.

Ham radio operators must be licensed by the FCC and are issued call signs. They must follow established protocols and procedures. Over the years, CERT and RACES have tutored students in preparing to take the ham radio license tests. For about ten years, John Fort (CERT) taught the classes. The past three years, Peter Petrelis (CERT) and Jim Hansen (RACES) led the classes, assisted by CERT members Bob Dow and Richard Batistelli.

Both RACES and CERT have weekly evening "nets" where members participate. Basically, these nets are a way to make sure the radios are working properly, review communication protocols, and to make announcements about upcoming events.

Ham radio is a public service and an international hobby. It can be as simple as having an inexpensive handheld radio to a huge setup at home with tall antennas and sophisticated equipment. Whatever you choose, it can be a lot of fun.

Shade Balls Touted as New Technology for Water Conservation

By Anna Pinter

Millions of balls are now covering local water reservoirs. The shade balls are four inches in diameter, hollow, polyethylene orbs and cost 36 cents each. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has dumped 96 million balls into local reservoirs. The final 20,000 black shade balls were released during a news conference held at the LA Reservoir on August 10, 2015, in Sylmar, California. The balls are designed to block sunlight, reduce water evaporation and conserve water.

Black balls block ultraviolet light and float on the surface of the water. The water inside the space ball is sealed potable water, in the ballast, to help keep the balls floating on the surface of the water. The balls are coated with a carbon black additive which helps the spheres last as long as 25 years.

In 2014 and 2015, the [Los Angeles Department of Water and Power](#) deployed millions of shade balls on its [largest reservoir](#) in response to the United States [Environmental Protection Agency's](#) surface water treatment rule, which requires large bodies of water to be covered. The balls have multi-purpose usage and are expected to save money as well as water.

Interesting information on websites:

<http://time.com/3998554/shade-balls-graphic>

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2015/08/150812-shade-balls-los-angeles-California-drought-water-environment>

Public Health Awareness

ARE YOU FLU READY?

Seasonal flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by flu viruses. Approximately 5-20% of U.S. residents get the flu each year. Each year flu season generally begins in the early fall and peaks in January and February. If you get the flu and do not take proper precautions, you can become more seriously ill than would be expected and can quickly spread the flu to others at home, at work, and in the community.

Important Actions to Take to Stay Healthy

1. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
2. Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
3. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
4. Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
5. Practice good health habits. Get plenty of sleep and exercise, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat healthy food.
6. Get vaccinated for seasonal flu.

People at higher risk for flu complications include pregnant women and people with chronic medical conditions (such as asthma, heart disease, or diabetes). If you are at higher risk for complications from the flu, talk to your doctor about what you will need to do if you get sick.

Take Steps to Be Ready

Have a personal and family preparedness plan that encompasses the needs of your family, home, school, and work environments. Review the business continuity plan for your department. Learn about the flu and what you can do.

All information has been taken from [flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov) and [fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov). To find out more about preparing for the flu or other types of emergencies go to the following sites:



<http://www.flu.gov/>



<http://www.fema.gov/>

Ham Radio August 2015 Class Studying for Technician License



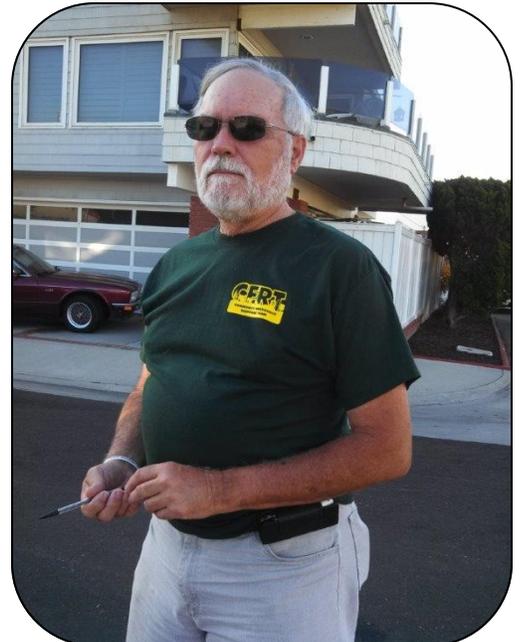
U.S. OPEN CERT STAFFING THE FIRST AID STATION



SCART EXPO
August 15, 2015



SUNSET BEACH FESTIVAL



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT

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.

Upcoming CERT Events & Activities

- CERT General Membership Meeting, 6:30 PM
September 10, 2015 in B8
- Senior Saturday, September 12th 2015
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for Logistics!
- CERT Disaster Expo, , 9:00 am to 3:00 PM
September 26, 2015, Huntington Beach Main Library
- CERT General Membership Meeting, 6:30 PM
October 8, 2015 in B8

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:

- Saturday, Sept 12, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Wednesday, Sept 23, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
- Saturday, Oct 10, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Wednesday, Oct 21, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

To enroll in CPR classes, call 800-400-4277 or 714-556-4277. Class location is in the HB area and exact location given at time of enrollment.

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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!)