

CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2008

SINCE 1991



HB CERT HIGHLIGHTS

- Check Out the CERT Page on the City Website at Surfcity-hb.org/CERT
- Register On Line for the First CERT Disaster & Terrorism Preparedness Class
- Red Cross CPR Saturday April 12

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CLASS 1

CERT General Membership Meeting

By Glorria Morrison,
Emergency Services Coordinator

On February 7, 2008 the Huntington Beach Fire Department and CERT held its first General Membership Meeting. Starting in 2008 a CERT General Membership Meeting will be held quarterly. The future dates for 2008 are tentatively set for:

May 8, and
August 14,

Please put these dates on your calendar and plan to join us in the Huntington Beach City Council Chambers from 7 – 9 PM.



Wintersburg Flood Channel

At our first General Membership Meeting, we held a CERT Flood Response Exercise. Our scenario was a failure of the Wintersburg Flood Channel. We activated five teams and each team had scenarios led by their Team Leaders: EOC CERT Representatives - Ron Roth and Cecil Wright, Sandbag Team – Anna Pinter, Senior Response Team – Judy Ann Morris and Richard Batistelli, Communications – John Fort and Brevyn Mettler, and Roving Teams – Bill Worth.

Each team worked their way through their flood scenarios. Bill Worth and his Roving Teams had to figure out how to pick up food and deliver it to police and firefighters who were stationed at numerous sites throughout the city. They then assisted the city Public Information Officer by setting up a room, food, handouts, and provided security for a press conference.

The Senior Response Team worked on scenarios responding to the frail and elderly in the community. The Sandbag Team ran scenarios discussing how they would deliver sandbags to

the elderly and disabled, and the Communications Team discussed how they would send observers to the Santa Ana River and the Wintersburg Flood Channel to observe and report the water levels.

The participants really enjoyed the evening as it was referenced as “educational and stimulating”.

Thanks to all 40 CERT personnel who attended and a *special thanks* to our CERT Team Leaders.

Please plan on joining us for the three future General Membership Meetings in 2008. The meetings give CERT a chance to learn, interact and have fun.

CPR Training

CERT Volunteers will need CPR to graduate from the CERT program and become Disaster Service Workers. Huntington Beach Fire Department is providing CPR classes. The cost is free if you are a Huntington Beach resident and you subscribe to the FireMed Program. If you do not belong to the FireMed program or are not a resident of Huntington Beach, you may take the Fire Department CPR class for \$30.00. You may also consider the Red Cross CPR class. On April 12, the Red Cross will have CPR Super Saturday. It will be held at Edison Field (Anaheim, Angeles Stadium). The cost is \$10.00.

Please take advantage of one of these programs to get your CPR certification or to renew your certificate.



The President's Message

Ron Roth



Are you prepared in the event of an earthquake or flooding due to heavy rain? While Disaster Service Workers have been briefed and informed on the precautions taken to prepare for events such as these, others may not be. Things to consider: Do you have food and water stored in a safe place in your home or an outside storage area for three to seven days? What do you have in your vehicle in the event a disaster strikes while you are away from home? Are you and your family ready and able to take care of yourself and each other if necessary, in the event a major disaster occurs tomorrow or next week or month? These questions can be used as a guideline to help prepare for a disaster.

I have a request for all Huntington Beach CERT Disaster Service Workers. In CERT, active participation is the key to our success. HB CERT has fifteen active teams that provide training and support

to our city, which includes *Save- A- Life* classes on the third Saturday of the month, beginning April 19, 2008. A list of the teams and Team Leaders are:

Booth Team: Bill Worth
Marketing Team: Open
Clerical Team: Anna Pinter
Neighbor Hood Team: Judy Ann Morris
Command Post Team: Bill Worth
Newsletter: Robin Templin
Communications Team: John Fort
Registration Team: Kim Louie
Cooking Team: Billie Brandon
Sand Bag Team: Janet & Carlton Cook
First Aid Team Open
Senior At Risk Team: Richard Batistelli
Light Search/Rescue: Al Collins
Shelter Team: Tara Twitty
Logistics Team: Ron Roth

If you would like to speak with one or more of the Team Leaders to determine how you can participate on their team, please call 714-536-5974. Leave a detailed message of which leaders you would like to speak with and your name, phone number and when you can be reached.

At Risk Senior Tabletop Drill

Anna Pinter

On Thursday morning, January 10, 2008 Michael E. Rogers Seniors' Center, Huntington Beach Fire Department, Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Team (RACES), joined together in training the Senior Command Post at Michael E. Rogers Seniors' Center. The goal was to implement an Emergency Plan to be activated in case of a disaster for pre identified *At Risk Seniors* in Huntington Beach. The tabletop was a success due to the hard work and dedication of every participant. Following the drill the Huntington Beach Council on Aging provided lunch.



The following CERT and RACES volunteers participated in the tabletop drill: Richard Bastistelli, Billie Brandon, Liz Berry, Pam Bertz, Al Collins, Tom Cooper, John Fort, Jim Hanson, Karen Martin, Brevyn Mettler, Judy Ann Morris, Gloria Morrison, Peter Petrelis, Virginia Petrelis, Anna Pinter, Ron Roth, Monica Ruzich, Judy Secor, Joe Tom, Tara Twitty, Juanita Walker, Art Weiland, Bill Worth, and Cecil Wright. Monica Ruzich represented the American Red Cross. She is also a CERT volunteer. Michael E. Rogers Seniors' Center staff participated in the tabletop drill: Susan Addond, Ray Adams, Chris Cole, Vickie Costilow, Carole Davis, Brandi Kelly- Contreras, Chuck Nelson, Randy Pesqueira, Mary Siegel, Teri Simonis, Michael Slater, Diane Swarts, and Michelle Yerke.

Search & Rescue Team

Al Collins

Support for our teams are growing as we are now up to 70 members!. There have been numerous requests for classes and demonstrations on Search and Rescue. I have acknowledged your concern and am working on setting up classes. We have already completed 3 classes and have one more coming up this month. While I have email addresses, I do not have all of them and it is proving quite difficult to communicate with those whom I cannot contact. Please be sure I have all your contact information so we can make sure you are up-to-date with the latest information on opportunities and events.

I want to thank those that are helping on March 8. I have a feeling that there will be more opportunities for classes and training coming soon. Please check your emails regularly. We encourage those who have not had a chance to participate in the drills to step fourth. We all need the practice, as it will show in an emergency.

RACES Activates for the Surf City Marathon

Brevyn Mettler

On Feb. 3, 2008, the City of Huntington Beach hosted the annual Surf City Marathon. Although it was a rainy and windy day, approximately 15,000 runners still attended the race. HB Fire Department deployed the city's state-of-the-art Mobile Command Post, an Engine Company and an Ambulance to support the racers if there were any medical emergencies. In addition to the deployment of tactical resources, the fire department activated its Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) volunteers and positioned them at various points around the course and at four first aid stations. RACES is a volunteer organization that provides auxiliary communications for the city in the event of a disaster. The group began in the late 1970s and has been activated for fires, floods, oil spills, and communication failures. They are a crucial part of the city's emergency response plans. Assisting RACES were several CERT communicators, and they really appreciated the support.



Even with the poor weather, these volunteers maintained a constant communications network and reported several injuries to paramedics. Although only one individual was transported to the hospital, there were many cases of cold weather and other running related injuries. The City of Huntington Beach would like to recognize the following individuals for their outstanding service to our community:

Steven Albert, Shell Lothringer, Roy Lothringer, Peter Shores, Peter Barbour, Jim Hansen, John Caughlan, Jim Barry, Jeff Turlis, Chris Maddy, Chris Owens, William Witt, Darrell Sullivan, Vaughn Densley, Jeff Campbell, Tim Sawyer,

Marilyn Sawyer, Gary Stuart II, Walter Glowski, Manny Vizihno, Joe Tom, Robert McElhiney, Barbara Beck, Michael Binder, Pat Cohen, Mike Cohen, Kenneth Mailman, Richard Powell, Kevin Emery, Ned Bailey.

CERT Booth Team

Bill Worth

During February the CERT Booth Team had two booths. On February 8th, At the Farmers' Market, we passed out 488 Disaster preparedness booklets. It was attended by: Richard Batistelli, Daren Croteau, Linda Virks, Minor Packham, Julia Heng, Karin Reed, and Bill Worth. On February 23, we were invited to set up a booth at the Church of Jesus Christ of Later Day Saints at McFadden and Edwards. We gave out 174 packets of Disaster preparedness information. The booth was attended by: Jim McLain, Julia Heng, Tom Cooper, Karin Reed, Cherie Smith, Tara Twitty, and Mary Rothfeld. It was great to see all of the CERT jackets at the Fair.

So far this year we have handed out 1170 packets. Last year at this time we had only distributed about 475 packets. Our next booth session will be March 14. The Clerical team will be helping to stuff the packets next in the next two weeks. Their help is one of the reasons for our improved successes this year.

CERT Page on the City's Website

Brevyn Mettler

For the past couple years, it has been a goal of mine to create a page dedicated to CERT on the city's webpage. I am excited to inform you that phase one of the project is complete. The CERT Page is located under the fire department but can be found by typing in surfcity-hb.org/cert in your web browser. The main page describes CERT and gives you the option to read about the history of HB CERT, see flyers and look at the newsletter. In addition to general information, you can now register for classes on line. This will allow people to register for the classes whether they are new attendees or have attended classes before. At each class I will have several computers available so attendees can immediately register for the next class. This will help the registration team streamline the process. You can still register for classes on the CERT message line (714-536-5974), but no longer by fax or mail. Currently our CERT webpage is still operational at hbcert.org.

Upcoming Events

- March 12, 6 to 9PM – Fire Med CPR Training
- April 9, 9:30AM to 12:30PM – Fire Med CPR Training
- April 19, 8AM to 12PM – Disaster & Terrorism Preparedness
Civic Center, 2000 Main St. HB 92648
- May 17, 8AM to 12PM –(Med Ops I & II)
Civic Center, 2000 Main St. HB 92648
- June 21, 8AM to 12PM – Light Search & Rescue Training Center

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

* Fire Med 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.

HB CERT Newsletter Staff

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Al Collins
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Anna Pinter
Bill Worth

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 surfcity-hb.org/CERT
Please call (714) 536-5974 to take your name off the mailing list.



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