



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT NEWSLETTER

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HB CERT HIGHLIGHTS

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CLASS 1

Floyd Whitton

We're so sorry to announce that long-time CERT member, Floyd Whitton, passed away on May 11, 2018 after a long illness. Floyd and his wife, Esther, were very active CERT members, with Esther being Treasurer for many years and Floyd serving wherever needed.

Floyd and his wife, Esther, moved to Hawaii a few years ago, where they enjoyed life with their family, especially their young granddaughters. We extend our sincere sympathy to Esther and her family.



In the very restricted timeframe of four hours, Carol and her team of dedicated CERT volunteers attempted to demonstrate to the invitees some degree of proficiency in first aid, use of a fire extinguisher, how to turn off a residential gas meter and light search and rescue. With the assistance of Brevyn Mettler, the City Emergency Services Coordinator, the City Fire Department provided the basics of "leverage and shoring," the ability to move heavy objects, i.e., furniture, refrigerators, or cabinets with tools found around the house.

To add to their pivotal skills was the use of a Grab and Go (Bug Out Bag). The intent of this haversack is for the collection of essential personal items and information needed maintain a lifestyle in the aftermath of a local disaster.

Some thirty locals participated in this very worthwhile exercise. A big "thank you" for this important personal training was expressed by those with whom I had a conversation. Hopefully, the information gleaned from these hands-on drills will be the motivation needed for further emergency preparedness training. When the hits the fan, that training will come in handy.

May 19, 2018 Neighborhood Training By Richard Batistelli

"It's not too late for you to pass out this flyer to your neighbors and bring them to the training! This is designed for you to invite your neighbors/friends and bring them with you to the class so they have at least some of our basic CERT training and they can help you out should we have a disaster. Hopefully they will have so much fun at the mostly 'hands-on' training they will be interested in taking our 20 Hour CERT class in the fall."

With this admonition, Carol Burtis, the HB CERT chief trainer, organizer, cheerleader and part-time City employee, with a full time responsibility to oversee some 400 volunteers, has added a new dimension to her ever expanding resume. Her new task is to reach out to the many neighborhoods of Huntington Beach and train the citizenry in very basic life-saving skills.

3rd Annual Fire Watch Symposium, 2018 By Raji Shunmugavel

In recognition of Wildfire Community Preparedness Day and California Wildfire Awareness Week, the 2018 Fire Watch Symposium was held in Irvine, California. Since CERT members, as well as the public were invited to this very informative event, my husband, Vel, and I both attended.

The main goal of the Orange County Fire Watch program is to reduce wild land fire ignition sources. This is accomplished with volunteers and staff stationed at high-risk areas of Orange County. Volunteers report suspicious or dangerous behaviors or activities and assist with early detection and reporting of ignitions. The visibility of Fire Watch volunteers in these areas is a deterrent to arson and unintentional or intentional detrimental behavior that may result in wildlife ignitions. **(continued on page 2)**

Fire Watch Symposium (continued)

The Orange County Fire Watch program was proudly delivered by the Irvine Ranch Conservancy, OC Parks, City of Irvine, City of Newport Beach, and the Orange County Fire Authority.

Also attending this event was my Technician Class HAM radio instructor, Gordon West and his wife, Sue. Bill Burbridge, a Fire Watch Volunteer, joined our table and gave us information about when CERT help will be needed. I was excited to know HAM Radio Operators will be used as reporters if they spot suspicious activity.

Interesting presenters explained weather patterns, winds, red flag warnings, remote weather stations and making our homes fire resistant. The final session was an "Ask a Firefighter: Panel Discussion."

I enjoyed the opportunity to be a Huntington Beach CERT attendee. My husband and I both feel we gained a lot of knowledge from this interesting presentation.

From My Red Cross Desk ERV and Serve

By Richard Batistelli

On a recent Friday, local American Red Cross leadership requested yours truly to drive a brand new Chapter vehicle, just arrived from Virginia, to a "Show and Tell" presentation in Newport Beach. This new Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV), is a replacement of an older version ERV scrapped in late 2017, due to lack of replacement parts.

You may remember the recent article on my journey to the Sacramento, California fires. It was necessary for me to drive an older ERV borrowed from our Riverside Chapter for this long trip. Some of these vehicles may predate me (only kidding!) But, truly, the wear and tear these machines have experienced, being driven to the many Chapter activities, have taken its toll. Some were happy trips, such as in picking up Christmas gifts for area children or helping with community events, such as "Sound the Alarm," smoke detector installations around Orange County. There have also been more stressful times, for ARC drivers and trucks, when these vehicles have been used to support fire and police agencies in very serious situations, or to assist clients forced from their homes by disasters. The ARC has stated that "in calendar year 2017, this type of vehicle has traveled some 2.5 million miles, to deliver food and relief supplies to communities across the United States affected by disasters".

Friday's trip was for one of those happy events. The ARC of Orange County was going to Pacific Life Insurance Company in Newport Beach to thank the good folks at their headquarters for their very generous financial support in purchasing a new ERV to replace the vehicle lost last year. This "Show and Tell" was our way of saying, "Thank You!"

Through the many donations of their employees and management, a New Generation "NEWGEN" ERV will be able to serve the various needs of our Community. Refreshments were served and our Red Cross Regional CEO, Linda Voss, presented Pacific Life management with a beautiful crystal plaque.

Some of the features of this new vehicle include:

- The new design is easier and smoother to drive and maneuver. ERV Drivers (we volunteers) find there is less fatigue on long distance driving to national disasters.
- Less movement of items in ERVs in transit, allowing for better quality of product upon arrival.
- Lower to ground, which is less stressful on ERV drivers to serve clients food and resources from the service windows.
- Two large windows to serve clients, vs. one in the older ERVs. Volunteers can serve clients more efficiently.
- New ability to do client processing and case work inside the ERV in poor weather.
- Each ERV can serve 300-400 meals depending on the menu.
- The addition of LED lighting is user friendly for volunteers to work with and more welcoming for clients approaching the ERV.

Shelter Dogs to First Responders

By Anna Pinter

When disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, train derailments or building collapses occur, we are very thankful for first responders and their valuable services.

Founded in 1996, the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation (SDF) based in Santa Paula, California was created by retired school teacher, Wilma Melville, after she and her search dog were deployed to the Oklahoma City bombing site. She became aware there were not enough search dogs to meet emergency demands. In 1996, there were only 15 teams nationally that were certified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Melville had an idea and SDF was created. Her idea was not only to create more canine teams, but shelter dogs would be rescued from an uncertain fate.

The SDF's National Training Center sits on a 125 acre campus, 90 minutes north of Los Angeles. Over a course of eight to ten months, trainers teach dogs to comb through the rubble of natural and man-made disasters. There is a specially designed "Search City" on campus. The city has an "Earthquake House" and "Industrial Park" which contains derailed train cars. **(continued on page 3)**

Shelter Dogs to First Responders (continued)

Most dogs recruited are unlikely to be adopted because of their exuberant personalities. What is seen by others as bad behavior the foundation sees as talent and potential. Volunteer recruiters visit shelters around the county looking for rescues. Many of the dogs are sporting and hunting dogs like labradors, golden retrievers, shepherds, border collies and mixed breeds. All rescue dogs need to have bold personalities, be fearless, focused and with a super-high drive and energy to match.

Their training is rigorous and each dog is treated as a competitive athlete. The rescue dogs undergo obedience and agility training; have individualized diets and supplements so they perform at peak level. When working with their handler they must pass many tests. They must be able to find their trainer posing as a victim in 30 seconds or less in a 10,000-square-foot pile of rubble.

No technology can match a dog's speed and accuracy for finding victims trapped in a disaster. Their sense of smell and their ability not to be distracted when they have a task to perform is remarkable. They are able to move quickly in dangerous and unstable terrain.

Upon graduation from SDF, the dogs are placed with first responders nationwide for additional training. The foundation screens each first responder to make sure the dog will be cared for and their new handler understands the time commitment involved in continuing to train several hours a day. Finally, the first responders can seek certification by FEMA and state and other agencies such as search and rescue teams. Once certified, they can be deployed for missions.

The SDF organization is looking to continue its mission by rebuilding after losing "Search City" in the 2017 Thomas Fire, the largest wildfire in California. Their goal is to make sure SDF trained canine-human response teams are ready at all times to be deployed. SDF shares this thought with all disaster responders. We never know when the call is going to come, but we know it is not a matter of if, but when.

For more information, go to:

<https://searchdogfoundation.org>

Risk of Epidemic Diseases after a Disaster

By Anna Pinter

Long after the immediate threat of a disaster passes, a new threat in the form of contagious epidemic diseases can continue to take a toll on the victims. After hurricanes, cyclones, tsunamis, floods and earthquakes, locations affected by the event begin to experience outbreaks of infectious diseases. In developed countries these outbreaks are rare. However, in developing countries it is more common to have infectious outbreaks affecting a large percentage of the population.

Most post-disaster disease is caused by poor sanitation, lack of safe drinking water and eating contaminated food. In many disasters, response teams have been sent to areas to provide safe drinking water and disperse information to try and reduce the risk of epidemics.

Cholera may be the biggest risk because the infection can lead to severe diarrhea. People become dehydrated from loss of body fluids and can die in less than 24 hours. Cholera is spread by drinking contaminated water, eating

contaminated food or washing with contaminated water.

Typhoid fever is spread when bacteria gets into the water used for drinking and washing. Most North American cases happen to people who travel to developing countries. Typhoid fever affects about 21.5 million people a year. Symptoms are high fever, weakness and other symptoms. The most serious are intestinal bleeding or perforations.

The disease is treatable with antibiotics and there is an available vaccine to protect people. When a disaster happens in less-developed places in the world, there is a lack of access to treatment and proper health care which increases the risk of epidemic disease outbreaks. Complications from Typhoid may prove fatal.

Cholera and Typhoid are examples of diseases that kill in a disaster aftermath. Other dangerous diseases are Dysentery, Hepatitis A and E, Balantidiasis and Leptospirosis. These epidemic diseases are all caused by contaminated water, food and unsanitary living conditions or carried to humans from animal excretions.

Animal bites, arthropod bites and stings are another source of danger. Living in tropical country can put populations at risk for snake, mosquito and spider bites. Malaria and Dengue fever are spread by mosquitoes.

Those who survive the disaster and have lost their homes may seek shelter in an emergency center which sometimes adds additional risk. Diseases such as Infectious Hepatitis, Gastroenteritis, Measles and Tuberculosis are passed on to the shelter population when victims of a catastrophe are stuck in crowded, unsanitary shelters. This problem is compounded in developing countries where immunization rates are low.

The Myth About Corpses

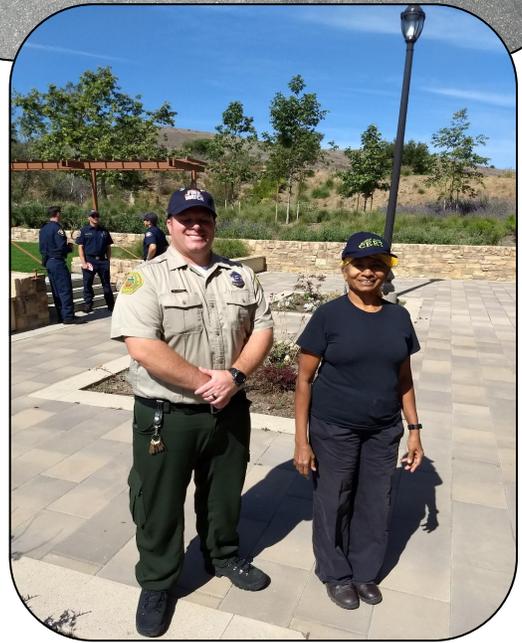
Posted May 18, 2008 by CNN News updated August 16, 2010

In major disasters, there may be a large number of unburied corpses. In a natural disaster, the vast majority of those people were killed by the trauma of the storm — not disease. While the decomposing bodies will give off a terrible smell, they will not spread epidemic infectious diseases. The decaying body of a previously healthy person is not a disease risk.

A study published in the May, 2004 edition of the Pan American Journal of Public Health found that the risk of epidemics from the bodies of people killed in natural disasters is negligible. The researchers found that epidemics resulting in mass fatalities after natural disasters have only occurred from a few diseases — such as Cholera, Typhoid, Tuberculosis, Anthrax and Smallpox. While those diseases can be highly contagious, they cannot survive for long in dead bodies. The study found that survivors are far more likely to spread disease than corpses.

The researchers noted that unfounded concerns about the infectiousness of corpses sometimes leads to the rapid, unplanned disposal of the dead — often before victims are identified, making it harder for survivors to mourn their loss. For more info: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/disaster-aftermath-the-risk-of-epidemic-diseases-1.739497>

ORANGE COUNTY FIRE WATCH SYMPOSIUM, MAY 5, 2018



THE WORK – THE OBJECTIVE

- Waste recovery and Transport
- Storage for Hazardous Waste pick up at EH



HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTED



**RED CROSS EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLE (ERV) & SERVE
NEW GEN VEHICLE DISPLAY EVENT MAY 11, 2018**



RED CROSS EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLE (ERV) & SERVE NEW GEN VEHICLE DISPLAY EVENT MAY 11, 2018 (continued)



CERT NEIGHBORHOOD TRAINING CLASS, MAY 19, 2018



CERT NEIGHBORHOOD TRAINING CLASS, MAY 19, 2018 (continued)



CERT NEIGHBORHOOD TRAINING CLASS, MAY 19, 2018 (continued)



CERT NEIGHBORHOOD TRAINING CLASS, MAY 19, 2018 (continued)



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, June 14, 2018
6:30 PM in B8 (Victor Ojeda will speak on terrorism)
- CERT General Membership Meeting, July 12, 2018 6:30
PM in B8

CPR Classes

Fire Med customers can take CPR classes for free and non-FireMed customers can take classes for a fee.

- Saturday, June 9, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Wednesday, June 20, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
- Saturday, July 14, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Wednesday, July 25, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
- Saturday, August 11, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Wednesday, August 22, 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.

CERT NEWSLETTER STAFF: Virginia Petrelis (Editor), Peter Petrelis (Publisher), Anna Pinter, Cynthia Goebel, Carol Nehls, Rajarajeswari (Raji) Shunmugavel, Barbara Scott

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!)