



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT NEWSLETTER

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HB CERT HIGHLIGHTS

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CLASS 1

Live Scans

By Carol Burtis

I am pleased to announce to our CERT volunteers that you are now able to have your Live Scan for CERT done here in Huntington Beach. To do your Live Scan, contact me at carol.burtis@surfcity-hb.org so I can email you the form and then you can call and schedule an appointment for the Live Scan. The cost of the Live Scan is \$32.00 payable (by check only) at your appointment. Once your Live Scan is processed, I will email you to set up an appointment to make your CERT ID badge. I am so pleased to be able to offer this service to you at the lowest cost out there with the added convenience of it being in Huntington Beach!

CERT in Action

By Jeanie Berman

One day in mid-February I came home from work to find my neighbor on the floor. She had passed out and was on the floor next to her bed and had been there since 6 am. Well, my CERT training went into gear. After examining her using ABC triage, checking for any broken bones and confirming that she was breathing, she and I jointly determined she did not need 911 and did not want to call for help.

There is a CERT storage room where we live to keep things "just in case." I went there and got a walker. Using that, I was able to help her up and get her to the bathroom to clean up. Then she called her family to come help - her grandson is a fireman.

Oh, did I mention she turned 93 just a couple of days later? Anyway, it was a potentially serious situation but with CERT first aid training and triage skills I was able to quickly assess the situation and render appropriate assistance to this wonderful lady.

(Editor's note: Anyone can call 911 at any time and the patient has the right to refuse treatment. Sometimes, depending on the incident, paramedic treatment could involve a cost, so if the patient does not want to spend money, they can ask first. Transport does cost but often insurance will cover it. The HB FireMed service (a \$5/mo fee) will cover transport and we encourage people to enroll in that service. And again, if the patient does not want to spend money, they can

also refuse transport. In any event, if you feel the situation warrants a 911 call, it is better to err on the side of safety and make the call. You will not be held liable assuming the situation clearly warrants the call.

California's Tsunami Preparedness Week is March 26 - 30, 2018!

https://www.tsunamizone.org/california/?utm_source=Great+California+ShakeOut&utm_campaign=a3be6d9331-02%2F13%2F2018+Tsunami+%2F+Retrofit+EBB+%2F

2018 marks the 10th anniversary of *Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills*. To kick off an exciting year commemorating a decade of earthquake preparedness and safety, here are a few activities you can join now to enhance your level of earthquake and tsunami safety

You can participate and register your activities at www.TsunamiZone.org.

EARTHQUAKE BRACE+BOLT®

\$3K grants for seismic retrofits

Registration open now
EarthquakeBraceBolt.com

The [Earthquake Brace and Bolt Program](#) offers retrofit grants, up to \$3,000, to qualified homeowners in certain zip codes. Check to see [if you are eligible!](#)

Get Ready to Shake Out.

October 18, 2018

www.ShakeOut.org



Got a question? Need help?
Visit ShakeOut.org/resources

From the Red Cross Desk
By Richard Batistelli

As any large organization must do to remain relevant in today's fast paced world, making changes to old engrained practices and policies may be difficult. Such is the case with the American Red Cross (ARC). As you most likely viewed on TV or with the drive-by media, the ARC was in the crosshairs at Hurricane Katrina regarding the prohibition of family pets in their evacuation shelters. Horror stories of pets left behind in harm's way or of people refusing to leave because of their beloved pets could be found in the nighttime news coverage of this national disaster.

The ARC "no pets in the shelter policy" needed a redo, and quickly. This longstanding policy was required for the "health and safety" of other shelter clients, for obvious reasons. Your untrained outside pet could not be sequestered inside a large shelter with clients afraid of such pets. Examples are unnecessary.

The ARC quickly learned from this negative press and has since partnered with, and trained beside, such pet groups capable of caring for and managing a stand-alone pet shelter on site or near the clients' evacuation shelter. So now, as soon as the ARC shelter is requested, a partner agency will also be requested to assist with the intake of pets. To be clear, the policy has not changed regarding pets inside client shelters. Only properly controlled "comfort pets" in cages, and/or service animals for those clients with disabilities will be found in our client shelters.

A more recent change or adjustment in ARC policy to cross my desk focuses on the acceptability of unsolicited donations. And, of course, it has a fancy title, "Unsolicited Donation Management" or "UDM." At a very recent evacuation drill exercise, I was assigned the leadership for this new task. Those of you who attended the January CERT general meeting may remember my photographs of this new protocol while I was deployed to Sacramento during the devastating October fires in the wine country.

In a nutshell, the new donation policy is: "While the ARC does not encourage unsolicited donations, it will kindly accept unsolicited donations that arrive at the shelter, except homemade food." Therefore, water, clothes, toys, household items, etc. will be accepted. This change was initiated due to the fact that Americans are very giving people; how could donations of necessary supplies be refused. If we have something and you've lost everything, the giving general public just wants to help make you whole again. This is the "American way." The ARC will again partner with other community organizations to help utilize all of these generous gifts.

And so, as the ARC transitions to be more relevant to the needs of the American public, your patience would be much appreciated.

CERT Volunteers at the Huntington Beach Marathon on February 4, 2018

Raji's Shunmugavel's View

In preparation for participation in the marathon, two mandatory meetings were held by RACES. Seven CERT members attended. When volunteering for these events, communicators need to make extra preparations. They need to make sure their radios function for almost ten hours a day by fully charging their batteries and bringing extra batteries and personal supplies that may be needed during the day.

My assignment was on the full marathon side of the bike path at water station 13 and the u-turn that was made at Warner Avenue. This year the weather was beautiful, sunny and nice.

Bikes were allowed on the bike path and the runners were challenged by having to run along with the bikes. Our communicators' jobs were to report any injuries and seek medical assistance from net control.

Phil Burtis' View

Several of our CERT volunteers supported RACES during the HB Marathon. I was stationed at the finish line. I was near some First Aid people supplied by the event organizer, and there were quite a few runners who needed help after crossing the finish line. Fortunately, none were serious enough to require a call for paramedics, which was essentially my task. So, other than routine radio check-ins, I am happy to report I did not need to key my radio. And it also seemed like relatively little radio traffic from the rest of the course, which again is a very good thing. We want to be there "in case," but we really don't want to have to call for help. Thanks to all the CERT and RACES volunteers who supported the event.

Richard Batistelli's view from the SAG Wagon

As in years past, Huntington Beach CERT Communicators have assisted Huntington Beach RACES at the annual marathon with assignments at strategic locations along the ocean view race course. My CERT teammates were Phil Burtis at the Start/Finish line, Ed Klotz at Pacific Coast Highway and Warner, Ken Mailman at Goldenwest near the library, Donald and Rebecca Mabe at Central Park and Raji Shunmugavel on the bike path. All did a great job.

Some of their assigned tasks included assisting the medical tent staff with calls for evacuation of runners for medical or fatigue, updating race course staff with runner locations and miscellaneous requests for water or staffing changes.

(continued on page 3)

CERT Volunteers at the Huntington Beach Marathon on February 4, 2018 (continued)

Unlike prior years, this year's 26.5 mile event was luckily quite "uneventful." From my perspective, as a Support and Gear (SAG) Wagon radio operator, this race was quiet, to the point of boring. My primary purpose was to ride shotgun in a passenger van driven by Jeff Turlis, a RACES volunteer. He knows this event well, working it for several years. We were there to respond to calls for emergency pickups of runners, replenishment of water, etc. I received only five calls for medical transport. It was a good day for the runners.

In my travels up and down the course, I enjoyed the cooling winds, the musical entertainment provided on the roadway, and the excitement of the hundreds of young water station volunteers.

There was little time for feedback from my fellow CERT communication volunteers on race day but later discussions provided proof that most of us enjoyed our long day at the beach and would return to the races next year.

Ken Mailman's view of the marathon

This marathon was interesting in that there was no police presence on Goldenwest at 'Water 4', my post. At Slater Avenue and the library exit there were 'A' frame barricades with yellow tape across the road and one city truck. Last year water tables were set up on both sides of south bound Goldenwest with the runners in each direction going by between them. The water was supplied by cartons of gallon bottles of Arrowhead Water which kept the young high school volunteers very busy. These kids stood in the road holding cups of water for the runners and getting wet while other young people formed lines at the turning point. They all cheered the runners on.

This year Dave and Randy Kuntz, who have been setting up this station and 'Water 5' for many years, came up with a new idea! The supply truck was in the middle of the road with tables behind it, and a large tank of water with two hoses to fill the cups, so the runners could run on both sides of the truck. There were also readable signs and many orange cones with the young volunteers cheering them on. The groups of happy runners came by here at mile six, and some waved at the kids and their RACES Communicator, glad to see us on the job and supporting them.

Communications in Disasters, Mark Chung *By Cynthia Goebel*

The speaker for our Feb 8, 2018 CERT monthly meeting was Mark Chung, MD, Radio Communications Lead, LA Regional Red Cross. He is a retired U.S. Navy Surgeon.

He reviewed the need for disaster communications in the past (1933 Long Beach Earthquake along the Newport Inglewood fault) and the recent 2017 Napa fires and 2018 Thomas fire in Santa Barbara area. When cell phone frequencies are inadequate, ham radios have additional frequencies and can set up their own net control to communicate. Mark indicated that the Red Cross shelters and central command posts successfully communicated using ham radio in the Napa fire area.

The various radios available to us have different ranges:

- FRS radio, only a city block (no license required)
- GMRS radio, approximately one mile
- Amateur (ham) radio, 12-15 miles requires an FCC license (study and pass a written test)

Ham radio operators have a choice of three licenses:

- Technician (almost 50% of hams) has access to all ham bands above 50 MHz
- General (23%) has access to nearly all amateur frequencies
- Amateur Extra (18%) has access to all amateur band frequencies

Mark encouraged all CERT members to get involved with ham radios as a means of communicating in a disaster. He said Morse code is no longer required for a n amateur license. He left us with information on current license classes and left his contact information.

Ham Radio and Morse Code

From an article by Novel Treasure

<https://owlcation.com/humanities/morse.code> by Novel Treasure updated on December 8, 2017

A note from Raji Shunmugavel: Although Morse code is no longer a requirement to become a ham radio operator, there are still uses for it and a lot of historical significance. So, even though you may never need to learn it, this article will discuss the fascinating history of Morse code and potential usages even today.

THE BRIEF HISTORY AND IMPORTANCE OF MORSE CODE

What is Morse Code?

Basically, Morse Code was a means of early communication using dots and dashes or long and short sounds that correlated to each letter of the Latin alphabet. These messages were typically sent by telegraph (also known as straight key) or by light signals.

(continued on page 4)

Ham Radio and Morse Code (continued)

The first Morse Code is known as the American Morse Code because that is where it originated, but there are now multiple versions of Morse Code, such as the International Morse Code for languages that also use the Latin Alphabet, the Japanese version of the Wabun Code, or the SKATS which is the Korean Morse Code.

Who invented American Morse Code?

Samuel Finley Breese Morse is credited with the creation or invention of Morse Code, for whom who it is named. He was an American inventor who was also a well known painter. He was born on April 27, 1791 in Charlestown. He graduated from Yale in 1810 and began his career as a painter. Samuel Morse helped found the National Academy of Design before he pursued his passion of invention.

In the 1830's Morse began his work on the first electrical telegraph, which was a means of communicating using electricity. He received his first patent for the electrical telegraph in 1837. Morse Code was used to send messages over long distances. These messages were typically sent by electric telegraph (also known as a straight key) or by light signals.

What was the importance of Morse Code?

Before the invention of Morse Code and the telegraph, messages were still handwritten and carried by horseback. Morse code changed the way we communicated. In the time of its invention, it was the fastest long distance form of communication.

Morse code allowed for ships at sea to communicate over long distances using large lights. Morse code was especially pivotal during the Second World War because it greatly improved the speed of communication. Naval war ships were able to communicate with their bases and provide critical information to each other. War planes also used Morse code to detail locations for enemy ships, bases and troops and relay them back to headquarters.

Is Morse Code still in use today?

Morse Code is still widely recognized, even if it is not as widely used as it once was. Morse Code's still popular among amateur radio enthusiasts, although proficiency in Morse Code is no longer a requirement to obtain your amateur radio license.

Morse Code is most prevalent in Aviation and Aeronautical fields since radio navigational aids such as VOR's and NDB's still identify in Morse Code. The US Navy and Coast Guard still use signal lamps to

communicate via Morse code.

Morse Code has also been used as an alternative form of communication for people with disabilities to communicate if impaired by stroke, heart attack, or paralysis. There have been several cases where individuals have been able to use their eyelids to communicate in Morse Code by using a series of long and quick blinks to represent dots and dashes.

8010 US Army WWI Field Induction Telegraph | Source



International Morse Code

1. A dash is equal to three dots.
2. The space between parts of the same letter is equal to one dot.
3. The space between two letters is equal to three dots.
4. The space between two words is equal to seven dots.

A	• —	U	• • —
B	— • • •	V	• • • —
C	— • — •	W	• — • —
D	— • •	X	— • • —
E	•	Y	— • — —
F	• • — •	Z	— — • •
G	— — •		
H	• • • •		
I	• •		
J	• — — —		
K	— • —	1	• — — — —
L	— • • •	2	• • — — —
M	— —	3	• • • — —
N	— •	4	• • • • —
O	— — —	5	• • • • •
P	• — — •	6	— • • • •
Q	— — • —	7	— — • • •
R	• — • •	8	— — — • •
S	• • •	9	— — — — •
T	— •	0	— — — — —

Building a Radio System to Keep the Red Cross in Touch

By Gordon Williams



When disaster strikes, nothing is more important to keeping all responders functioning as a team than solid, dependable radio communications. When a disaster threatens to disrupt conventional means of communication, such as cell phones and landlines, as a Cascadia, Oregon event might do, the need for a high-quality radio network becomes downright critical.

In preparation for a Cascadia-related quake and tsunami, or some other mega-disaster, the American Red Cross Northwest Region is putting new emphasis on building a robust radio communications system.

Spearheading that build-out is volunteer, Rowland Brasch. He is the long-time head of disaster services technology for the region's King County chapter in Seattle. But for the past year he has also been lead for radio communication for the entire Northwest region.



There are a number of communications resources to call upon. The Red Cross nationally has radio frequencies specifically assigned by the Federal Communications Commission. Most Red Cross

chapters and vehicles have radios designed to work on those frequencies. Beyond that, there are thousands of amateur radio, ham radio, operators in the region who are trained in emergency communication.

So if all the elements to a radio system already exist, why does the Red Cross need to do more?

Part of the answer can be found in the very nature of radio waves. They don't travel long distances unassisted. The Red Cross radio frequencies are in the VHF (very high frequency) range, the transmitter and receiver must literally be within sight of each other to communicate Simplex. Given the long distances between chapters, between the King County chapter in Seattle and the Greater Inland chapter in Spokane, for instance, and the mountains that divide the state, conventional radio systems just won't do.



Beyond that, Brasch says little has been done in the past to coordinate chapter radio operations into a single, integrated regional system. "It was clear we needed a system that would let everyone talk together when we needed to," he says. "I was given my new role a year ago to make that happen." Rowland Brasch

One piece of that mandate is to improve communications capabilities at each chapter. The Seattle chapter offers a model of how that might look, with a trained core of radio operators. Brasch explains that Seattle has a communications team with 60 members, mostly all volunteers and mostly all ham radio operators, equipped to provide emergency communications in a disaster. Brasch is himself a ham radio operator, holding the highest level ham license (amateur extra). (continued on page 6)

Building a Radio System to Keep the Red Cross in Touch (continued)

But even if every chapter builds its own robust radio system, they would still need to be tied together to handle a disaster big enough to involve the whole region. “Should Cascadia hit,” says Brasch, “response units from all over the country would be deployed from Spokane or Moses Lake. That means that contact between Seattle and Spokane will be critical.”



Next step is the building of what is known as a “base radio” system on Cougar Mountain, a repeater station, near Seattle. It won’t link all the Red Cross units in the field, statewide, but will improve communication among the region’s seven chapters.

Still more work lies ahead, says Brasch—including an advanced system of radio antennas. When those are in place, it should be possible for all seven chapters to stay in touch—including Spokane and Kennewick to the East and Bellingham to the far North. “I’ll be putting one of those antennas in my backyard to see if it works,” says Brasch



If there is a sense of urgency to his work, it’s understandable. Warnings that the “big one” might come at any time are common these days. A massive, area-wide drill in June, 2016 called “Cascadia Rising,” helped raise public awareness of the perils that the Cascadia subduction zone poses to the region.

“I can’t help thinking about what might happen if the big one hits,” says Brasch. “After all, a fault runs close to the Red Cross building.”

About the Author

Gordon Williams is a Red Cross volunteer who divides his time between New York City and Bremerton, Washington. He is a seasoned radio dispatcher and prolific writer for the Northwest Region Communications Team.

Challenge Cup Relay Race--Baker to Vegas March 18, 2018

By Richard Batistelli

The Baker to Vegas Race is an annual interstate, strongman foot race by a variety of police, fire and other teams. It is a timed race traversing the low desert in a tag-team system. The Huntington Beach RACES organization has been assisting our Police Department for many years with real-time communications, verifying field positions of runners on the course and arrival time for each Huntington Beach runner for his handoff. The course extends from Baker, CA through Pahrump, NV and finishes in Las Vegas.

This year the Huntington Beach RACES group is testing a new system that will live stream the exchange point at leg 20 and the finish line. It will be broadcast over You Tube channels dedicated to those locations.

The You Tube channels are:

Finish Line – YouTube share link
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6oWdEY74gQfrcZg0b27t2Q>

Stage 20 – YouTube share link
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyXlxbUgCcp3PWkddPILlhw>

If you go there now there will not be any content, but it will be there come Sunday 3/18. Below are the estimated times we will be live streaming for each location.

Stage 20: 0245 - 0830

Finish Line: 0330 - 0900

We hope this test works well and you enjoy this new feature

February 4, 2018 Huntington Beach Marathon



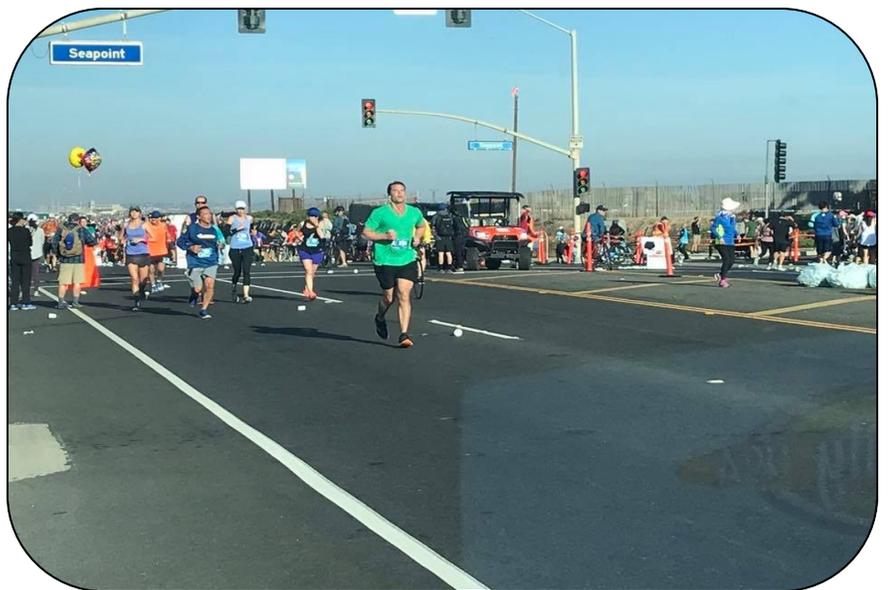
February 4, 2018 Huntington Beach Marathon (Continued)

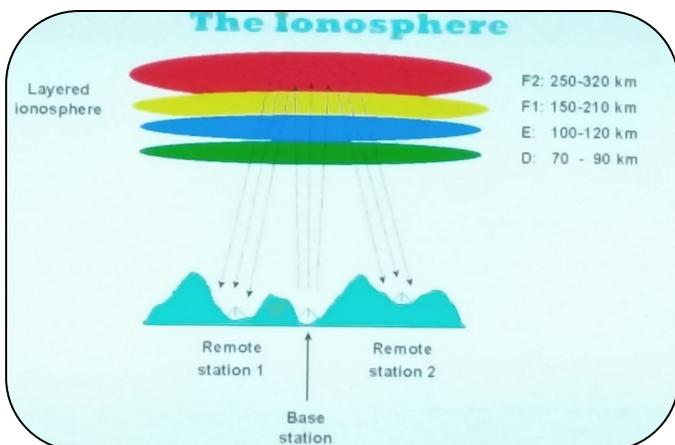


February 4, 2018 Huntington Beach Marathon (Continued)



February 4, 2018 Huntington Beach Marathon (Continued)





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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, March 8, 6:30 PM in B8
- CERT Basic Training Class, March 9, 10, and 11.
- CERT General Membership Meeting, April 12, 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, March 10, 9:30 am – 1:30 pm
- Wednesday, March 12, 5:30 pm – 9:00 pm
- Saturday, April 13, 9:30 am – 1:30 pm
- Wednesday, April 25, 5:30 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!)