

CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT NEWSLETTER

July 2011

SINCE 1991



HB CERT HIGHLIGHTS

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CLASS 1



President's Message

By Peter Petrelis
pgpworks@verizon.net

Congratulations to those students who have attended the three (April, May, and June) Save-a-Life Saturday (SALS) classes. You have completed the basic CERT program and are better prepared to help yourself, your family, your neighborhood, and your community in the event of an emergency. At the July 16 Disaster Living Class you will receive a Certificate of Completion. You will also see demonstrations of alternate cooking methods, emergency water, outdoor tenting, *grab and go bags*, and radio communications. These are essential skills in the event that your home is not available during a disaster and I urge you to attend.

Current members of CERT are also invited to attend the July 18 class to refresh your knowledge and renew friendships. Past Graduates please email pgpworks@verizon.net to register to attend the Disaster Living Class so that we can provide for lunch.

There are three levels of CERT Training:

1. **Basic CERT Training:** Receipt of a Basic Certificate of Completion
2. **CERT Fire Department Volunteer:** Basic CERT Certificate, plus participation in additional training to become a Fire Department Volunteer. This will enable you to join CERT teams, teach and help with CERT classes and respond to CERT callouts. This requires the completion of:
 - Recommended Disaster Living SALS class (held July 16, 2011)
 - A Live Scan (background check) by Huntington Beach Police Department
 - A Responder Class – held Saturday August 13, 9 AM to 5 PM, [CMAP Registration Form](#) at North Net Training Center 2100 East Orangewood Avenue, Anaheim, CA
 - American Red Cross First Aid Class see: www.redcross.org/engtakeaclass or any other accredited First Aid Class with a certificate
 - Completion of a Certified CPR Class

If you were a DSW CERT member with ID prior to 2010, you are automatically a CERT Fire Department Volunteer.

As Fire Department Volunteers, we do not self activate. Fire Department Volunteers are activated by the HB Emergency Operation Center (EOC) and directed where to report.

3. **County Mutual Aid Program (CMAP) Responder:** (Respond to callouts outside of Huntington Beach such as wildfires within Orange County and volunteer in performing support functions.

- Requires completion of Orange County 9 hour American Red Cross Shelter Manager Class (see Orange County American Red Cross website for dates.)

If you missed any of the required classes by this year's deadline, you can make them up by completing the missed classes within a two year period.

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Upcoming Events

- July 7, 2011 - 6:00pm: Management Meeting in the EOC open to all HB CERT Members
- July 16, 2011 Fourth *Save-a-Life Saturday* Class, 7:45am to 2:30pm
- August 4, 2011 - 6:00pm: Management Meeting in the EOC open to all HB CERT Members
- August 13, 2011—Responder Class *Saturday* 9-5 in Anaheim

Fire Med customers can take CPR classes for free and non-FireMed customers can take classes for a fee. Dates are listed below:

Wednesday, July 13, 6 to 9 p.m.
Wednesday, Aug 10, 6 to 9 p.m.
Saturday, Aug 20, 9:30am to 12:30pm
Wednesday, Aug 31, 6 to 9 p.m.

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

How to Organize a Neighborhood, Church, School or Business CERT

By Judy Ann Morris – Neighborhood Team Leader

We are realizing that after a major earthquake we may not be able to travel throughout the city. Depending on how widespread the disaster, the professional rescuers might not be able to get to all areas for at least three days to two weeks. How do you survive? Your neighbors, school, or business must rely on each other. Why not develop a plan before the disaster happens?

Commonly asked questions:

Question #1: How do I know if there is a CERT Team in my neighborhood?

Answer: If no one has knocked on your door to invite you to a meeting, then you need to start the process. Some neighborhood CERTs are just a few homes, some are several blocks, others have organized large areas such as gated communities and mobile home parks. There isn't a standard size CERT.

Question #2: Do all my neighbors/friends/employees need to have taken the city CERT classes before we organize?

Answer: No! It would be great, but Neighborhood CERTs are just "Neighbors Helping Neighbors". If you were to wait for everyone in the neighborhood, business or church to get trained by the standard CERT classes, it will never happen. There needs to be one person to make a difference by starting the process.

Question #3: How do I get our organization informed and trained?

Answer: HB CERT's Speaker Bureau will conduct the first meeting introducing personal and family preparedness. The speaker will introduce the CERT Team concept to your group. If the group decides they would like to take the step to organize, we offer CERT Outreach Teams to teach the skills needed. You can have classes (approximately one hour) in your neighborhood, church or business on:

- How to Register Your Neighborhood
- How to Organize Your Team – Intro to "Start Where You Stand" concept
- Command Post Team positions and duties
- Emergency First Aid
- Light Search & Rescue
- Sheltering/Sanitation
- A "Drill Your Skills" event

The HB CERT Speakers Bureau and our Outreach Teams are prepared to help any group develop their own plan. Please see the information in the newsletter on how to contact the CERT Speakers Bureau.

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 "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 (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.

CERT Database

Fire Department Volunteers (CERT members) have the opportunity to be added to the new CERT database by contacting me to update their information. **E-mail Peter Petrelis at pgpworks@verizon.net**

CERT Volunteer Hours

By Virginia Petrelis

In these days of dwindling City budgets, it's especially important that our City realize the value of the resources invested in CERT volunteers and the need to continue supporting our program. CERT is really about public education and volunteers give up many hours working information booths at local businesses and schools, at the Disaster Preparedness Expo, teaching our Save-A-Life Saturday classes and all the behind scene support for the various activities. Many more hours are spent in training to reinforce the basic skills and to learn new skills.

It is most important that you record every hour that you volunteer to CERT and send them to me at least quarterly. This is not just for personal recognition at the end of the year, but for City recognition. We don't want our City to say that the CERT program is not valuable and cut off our funds. Please send your hours to me at vapworks@yahoo.com. If sending via e-mail, please put "CERT hours" and your name in the subject line.

Surfing Competition Welcomes Surfers Ages 50+ for a Wave of Fun

The 2011 Huntington Beach Senior Surf Competition will take place Saturday, October 29th, on the south side of the Huntington Beach Pier beginning at 7:30am. The City of Huntington Beach and the Huntington Beach Council on Aging (HBCOA) invite all surfers ages 50+ to register through Michael E. Rodgers Seniors' Center.

Through the surfing competition, the HBCOA promotes and encourages the "active aging" lifestyle. The Huntington Beach area is home to more than 50,000 seniors age 50 and older. HBCOA supports seniors and their families through various services and events offered through the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors' Center and Seniors Outreach Services.

Athletes will compete within a five-year age group (50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75+) and will be judged on wave selection, maneuvers, fluidity and style.

Registration Deadline: October 21, 2011

Registration Fee: \$30.00 includes an event T-Shirt, Goody Bag, and Awards to 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place Winners

Advance Registration is required. For more information, please contact Rodgers Seniors' Center at 714-536-9387.

Recent Disasters Bring Awareness

By Anna Pinter

With the recent disasters that have happened all over the world more emphasis is being focused on staying informed. The disasters in the United States have made the American public more aware about being prepared for what can happen where they live.

Because some residents do not have computer expertise, it is important to inform all residents of the facts. Anyone can go to the public library and ask for help to access the following link to learn more about being informed:

<http://www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/index.html>

The following information about being informed has been written by the staff at www.ready.gov.

Be Informed

Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as making an emergency supply kit and developing a family communications plan, are the same for both a natural or man-made emergency.

However, there are important differences among potential emergencies that will impact the decisions you make and the actions you take. Learn more about the potential emergencies that could happen where you live and the appropriate way to respond to them.

In addition, learn about the emergency plans that

have been established in your area by your state and local government.

Emergency preparedness is no longer the sole concern of earthquake prone Californians and those who live in the part of the country known as "Tornado Alley." For Americans, preparedness must now account for man-made disasters as well as natural ones. Knowing what to do during an emergency is an important part of being prepared and may make all the difference when seconds count.

Enter the above website to view a full list of states and local government organizations in your area to see how you can prepare for emergencies that could happen where you live. If you enter your zip code you will get local weather information from the National Weather Service. On the left sidebar there are twenty three buttons that link you to important information.

Disaster Preparedness for Animals

By Anna Pinter

The following website has information to help prepare for disasters.

<http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/disaster-preparedness>

Remember, if a disaster occurs and you are not home, animals cannot dial 911. Keep in mind the following recommendations to provide for the needs of your pets:

- Get a Rescue Alert Sticker
- Arrange for a safe haven
- Emergency supplies and traveling kits
- Choose designated caretakers
- Evacuation plan
- Geographic and climatic considerations
- Special considerations for birds, reptiles and small animals

Post an easy-to-use sticker to let people know that pets are inside your home.

Arrange a safe haven for your pets in the event of evacuation. DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND. Remember, if it isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your pets.

Keep an evacuation pack and supplies handy for your pets. Tell others the location of supplies.

When choosing a temporary capable caregiver, take considerable time and thought.

Consider your evacuation route and call ahead to make arrangements for boarding your pet outside of the danger zone at the first sign of disaster.

Small animals have special needs.

Be aware of the area in which you live and plan accordingly for floods, earthquake or other disasters. Planning takes time and careful consideration for all members of your family, including animals.

**SCENES FROM THE MAY 21, 2011 DISASTER
FIRST AID (MEDICAL OPS I & II)
PREPAREDNESS CLASS**



**MORE SCENES FROM THE MAY 21, 2011
DISASTER FIRST AID (MEDICAL OPS I & II)
PREPAREDNESS CLASS**





Huntington Beach Fire Department

A Class1 Fire Department

**CLASSES ARE FREE
BUT YOU MUST
REGISTER ONLINE AT**

www.Huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL**

714-374-1565



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. You must attend all classes to graduate.

Class 1: Disaster & Terrorism Preparedness

April 16, 2011 7:45AM to 2:30PM 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)

May 21, 2011 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: Light Search & Rescue/Fire Suppression

June 18, 2011 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**

Class 4: Disaster Living

July 16, 2011 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**

Civic Center Address: 2000 Main Street Huntington Beach, 92648

Fire Training Center Address: 18301 Gothard Street



Neighbor Helping Neighbor

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.



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Attention! If you want something placed in the Upcoming Events, e-mail Judy Ann at jamorris189@yahoo.com

For those who do not receive the newsletter by email, you can go to the CERT website: www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/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.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

CERT Website: www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert

CERT Message line 714-536-5974, (THIS IS A MESSAGE LINE ONLY!)