

CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT NEWSLETTER

July 2012

SINCE 1991



President's Message

By Peter Petrelis

pgpworks@verizon.net I hope everyone had a nice, safe 4th of July holiday. As has become our tradition, my wife, Virginia, and I walked in the parade as members of CERT. A big thank

you to this year's CERT parade walkers (who also helped decorate the Fire Department ladder truck): Roy Alzua, Mike Depin, Graciela Ennis-Becerra, Blanche Kung, Paul La Greek, Susan McClaran, Virginia Petrelis, Pat Smith, Sharira Naqshbandy, Mike Reyes, Linda Vollmar and her son, Robert Moore.

The third Save-A-Life-Saturday (SALS) Disaster Living Class held June 16 was attended by approximately 60 continuing students. This class was well received by the students thanks to the efforts of instructors Brevyn Mettler, Judy Ann Morris, Rev. Mother Barbara Benjamin, Mike Depin, Al Collins, Judy Durante, Noreen Yoshida-Peer, Paul LaGreek, Mike Reyes and Richard Batistelli. Thanks to the Radio Color Team for keeping the class on schedule. A big thank you to the Cooking Team members for preparing a super lunch of lasagna, salad and bread cooked in charcoal fueled Dutch ovens and box oven. Last, but certainly not least, thank you to the Logistics Team for setting up and taking down all our equipment.

The 2012 SALS class series consists of four sequential classes and is now closed except for those who missed a class last year and for exceptional circumstances communicated to me before class. If you attended classes last year but missed the Light Search and Rescue/Fire Suppression class last year, make sure you attend the class this year on July 21 at the Fire Training Center at 18311 Gothard Street in Huntington Beach.

At the July 21 SALS, students will learn how to do a safety size-up, lift 1000+ pounds using simple leverage techniques, shore up an unsafe structure, properly search for trapped victims and safely move the injured. They will learn fire safety and prevention, how to use a fire

extinguisher to put out a live fire, shut off utilities and secure items that may cause injuries in an earthquake. Students will also spend the afternoon participating in a disaster drill that will test their newly acquired skills. Completion certificates for the Basic CERT class will be awarded.

Announcements:

US Open, by Roy Alzua, Booth Team Leader: Many CERT Fire Department volunteers served our Huntington Beach Community by their participation in last year's U.S. Surfing Open. All indications point to this year's U.S. Surfing Open being even bigger than the 2011 record-setting event. Unfortunately, the anticipated increase in attendance and activities comes at a time when the HBFD is struggling with budgetary cutbacks and constrained resources. As a consequence, we have been advised that our volunteer role will be increased in responsibilities and effort. In turn, we are calling for more volunteers and requiring additional first aid skills/training for this year's CERT participants. The U.S. Surfing Open events start Saturday, July 28th at 7:30am daily through Sunday, August 5th at 5:00pm.

The HBFD paramedics will continue in their role as primary first responders to medical emergencies. CERT volunteers will serve under the direction of paramedics and provide assistance in: staffing the event first aid station, emergency communications for paramedic response at the first aid station, supervised hands-on assistance for minor medical incidents, dispensing of medical supplies for minor medical incidents, maintaining a first aid incident log and other supporting tasks defined as directed by the paramedics and CERT team leader. Shift leaders will receive special training. **If you wish to volunteer or need more information, please contact DSW Manager Mike Reyes (email: sp2rays@yahoo.com).**



HB CERT HIGHLIGHTS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message
Page 1

Announcements
Pages 1— 2

Current 2012
Requirements for CERT
Certifications Page 2

If Disaster Strikes —
Instructions from
Verizon page 2

Disaster Preparedness
Speakers Available
Page 3

Keep Your Cool
Page 3

About 211 Orange
County
Page 3

Important Message from
the Huntington Beach
Fire Department
Page 4

Photos from June 21
SALS Class
Pages 5-6

Photos from Preparation
of June 21 SALS Class
Lunch
Pages 6-8

Photos from July 4
Parade
Pages 8-9

Mission Statement,
CPR Classes,
Upcoming Events,
Newsletter Staff
Page 10



CLASS 1

Announcements (continued):

EXPO September 15, 2012: The rain in March caused the cancellation of the Disaster Preparedness EXPO at the library. It is now scheduled to be held at the library on September 15, 2012. Please plan to attend and bring neighbors and friends to this important event.

Technician Radio License Class: Tentative plans are to schedule the class over a weekend in late September. RACES will again be preparing students to take the FCC Technician License Exam. This three-day weekend class schedule worked successfully last year. The dates will be October 12, 13 and 14. This training is open to all CERT members and to the 2012 graduates of the basic classes. Many 2012 class members have expressed high interest in the radio class. As CERT Communication Team leader, I am coordinating signup, collection of funds and distribution of the class book. If interested contact me (Peter Petrelis) at pgpworks@verizon.net

Current 2012 Requirements for CERT Member Certifications:

Certificate of CERT class completion -- Basic three SALS classes (Disaster Living Class not required, but desirable.)

Fire Department Volunteer – Certificate of CERT class completion, HB Police Department Live Scan (\$35 cost to you), complete ICS 100 and ICS 200 on-line or attend the Responder Class to be taught later in the year. The First Aid Class is again a requirement since Brevyn Mettler is now certified to teach it. Date to be announced. In the meantime, First-Aid classes may be taken through the Red Cross or American Heart Association.

CMAP – Certificate of CERT class completion, Fire Department Volunteer requirements and American Red Cross Shelter Manager Class.

If a Disaster Strikes.....Instructions from Verizon

Following a disaster, especially earthquakes, there's usually a high volume of telephone calls. This can cause extreme congestion on the telephone network causing Verizon and/or other long-distance companies to block calls to prevent an overload. Some calls may be diverted to recordings, so others can be completed.

...here's the best way to use your phone.

Limit calls to emergencies only. Don't call 911, the police or fire department for general information about the disaster. Listen to the radio or a local TV station instead.

Help reduce calling into and out of the area. Ask someone outside the area to be an information clearinghouse for you and your family. Since it will

probably be easier to call out of the disaster area, let that person know how and where you are, so they can let your friends and relatives know.

Practice sending text messages from your cellular phone. Text messaging requires only short bursts of transmission, which can often get through when voice service cannot.

If you need to make an emergency call:

Make sure all extension phone receivers are on the hook.

If you don't hear dial tone right away, stay on the line. Dial tone could be delayed a minute or more.

Don't repeatedly push the switch hook down. This will further delay your call.

If you get a "fast busy" or "all circuits busy" recording, hang up and try again.

If there's damage to our equipment or facilities or your wiring, it may not be possible to complete your call.

Do not text 911, as text messages cannot be accepted by 911 call centers.

Be prepared:

If you have a land line, have a corded phone on hand – most cordless phones won't work during a power outage.

Keep a universal power supply unit fully charged.

Register with your local emergency notification call program. When registering, include your cellular phone numbers.

This information is also included in your Verizon Directory.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT 911

If human life or property is threatened and immediate attention is required, call 911 for fire, police, sheriff, highway patrol, ambulance, paramedics, Coast Guard and/or search and rescue. Do not text 911 as 911 call centers cannot accept text messages. If you're deaf, hard-of-hearing or have a speech impairment and you use a Teletypewriter (TTY), you can also make emergency calls by dialing 911. All 911 call centers are equipped to respond immediately to all TTY calls as well as trace their origination.

Don't call 911 for non-emergencies; this causes delays in the handling of real emergencies. For non-emergency calls, call the non-emergency numbers listed in your directory for the agencies you're trying to reach.

When calling 911, your telephone number and address may be displayed on a dispatcher's viewing screen, even if you have Caller ID Blocking. This enables the emergency agency to locate you if the call is interrupted. However, not all 911 services identify where you're dialing from, so, when you dial, be certain to first tell the emergency worker where you are. If you don't want your number and address displayed, call the non-emergency number.

Disaster Preparedness Speakers Available

It is time to schedule a Disaster Preparedness Presentation 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:

- Find a place to host an hour-long presentation given by a trained HBFD CERT Volunteer Speaker.
- Choose a convenient date and time for your group.
- Call the CERT Message Line (714-536-5974) or log on the CERT website at www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert (click on left column "schedule disaster presentation"). Please give us at least three weeks notice and we will do our best to accommodate your group.
- CERT will provide a flyer to distribute to your neighborhood or group.
- Host to 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.

Keep Your Cool!

Tsunamis! Tornadoes! Earthquakes! We are often warned to prepare for these disasters. In recent years, heat waves have caused more deaths than all other weather events. In Huntington Beach where we enjoy cool ocean breezes, many of us do not have air conditioning so we are well advised to be prepared and know how to protect ourselves when the temperatures soar.

Recommendations include:

- Dress in light colored, loose clothing
- Refrain from strenuous work or exercise
- Hydrate, drink a cup or more of water or sports drink every hour
- Swim, bathe or shower
- Cook during the cooler part of the day
- Avoid alcohol, soda or coffee
- Go to an air-conditioned place for part of the day: a shopping center, restaurant, library or community center.

Air-conditioned community centers in Huntington Beach include Edison, Murdy, and the Art Center. Fountain Valley, Westminster and Costa Mesa senior centers are air conditioned.

During a heat wave, the county will designate Heat Emergency Cooling Centers, air-conditioned public buildings, where people can go to find relief from the heat. For information about designated Heat Emergency Cooling Centers, call 2-1-1, the human

services referral information line.

The City of Huntington Beach uses multiple methods to provide information to the public, such as the Emergency Alerting System (107.9 KWVE), HDTV3 and AlertOC, a mass notification system designed to keep Orange County residents informed of emergencies. To register, visit www.alertoc.org.

About 2-1-1 Orange County

2-1-1 Orange County offers a comprehensive information and referral system linking Orange County residents to community health and human services and support. Callers seeking assistance can dial 211 (toll-free) 24 hours-a-day and be connected to trained, multilingual Information and Referral specialists. Accessing a database with information on more than 1,800 government and nonprofit agencies offering approximately 4,000 specialized services, these I&R specialists refer callers to the people who can address their particular needs.

Simply put, 2-1-1 is to health and human services what 9-1-1 is to emergency services. 2-1-1 Orange County also serves as a crucial public information system during local emergencies such as earthquake, fire or other disaster.

2-1-1 Orange County, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, is a professional membership association of more than 1,200 information and referral organizations, each supporting 28 state and regional affiliates, that brings people and services together. While every 2-1-1 organization conforms to the guidelines and standards set by the national 2-1-1 organization, each is locally organized and funded.

What they do...and whom they help

While 2-1-1 Orange County does not assist with life and death emergencies – those calls are directed to 9-1-1 – they refer callers to organizations qualified to address an incredible array of health and human services, including:

- Food
- Shelter
- Transportation
- Prenatal care
- Substance abuse
- Government assistance programs
- Workforce development
- Health insurance access programs
- Prevention and safety services
- Child development care
- Elder care
- Medical, dental and vision care

2-1-1 Orange County is available to literally every resident and visitor in Orange County – young and old, rich and poor, male and female, longtime residents and those just arriving from elsewhere. They provide multi-lingual services.

Important Message from the Huntington Beach Fire Department

By Huntington Beach Fire Department FireMed Program



The revenue generated by FireMed offsets the continuing expense of providing excellent medical care by the Huntington Beach Fire Department to our community.

Property taxes can't completely fund the level of emergency medical service in our community. FireMed revenue provides support to important operations such as:

- Paramedic units assigned at all eight fire stations for city-wide medical coverage
- Funding for quality medical equipment to enhance patient evaluation and treatment
- Fire Department emergency ambulance transportation services

FireMed costs less than twenty cents per day and helps protect your entire household from unexpected costs for Huntington Beach Fire Department paramedic and emergency ambulance services. As a FireMed member, you'll also receive free CPR classes and participate in our Medical Information program.

Over 23,000 households have made the choice to join FireMed, belonging to a program with exceptional value and benefit to the community that the Huntington Beach Fire Department serves.

Annual membership fee is \$60.

Join FireMed on-line at www.surfcity-hb.org/firemed/enroll

Phone # (714) 374-1598

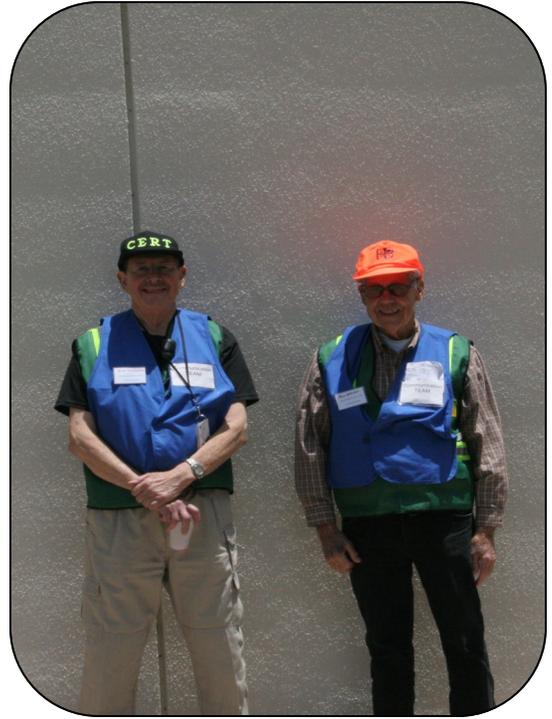


CLASS 1

PHOTOS FROM THE JUNE 16 CLASS



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PHOTOS FROM THE PREPARATION OF JUNE 16 LUNCH



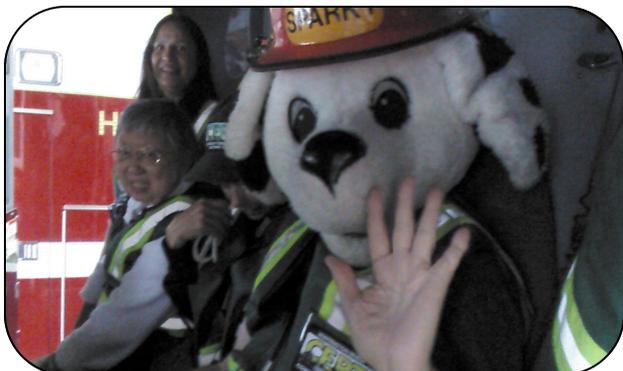
PHOTOS FROM THE PREPARATION OF JUNE 16 LUNCH



PHOTOS FROM THE 2012 4th JULY PARADE



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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.

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, July 21st - 10 AM to 1 PM
- Saturday, August 11th - 10 AM to 1 PM
- Wednesday, August 22nd - 6 PM to 9 PM
- Saturday, September 15th - 10 AM to 1 PM
- Wednesday, September 26th - 6 PM to 9 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.

Upcoming Events

- **July 21, 2012** - Fourth Save-a-Life Saturday CERT Class and Awarding of Completion Certificates at the **Fire Training Center**, 18301 Gothard Street, (attended prior SALS classes, see attached flyer)
- **NO August Management meeting in August**
- **July 28 thru August 5, 2012** - CERT support of US Surfing contest (see President's message)

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**

HB CERT Newsletter Staff

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



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!)