

CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT NEWSLETTER

November-December 2011

SINCE 1991



HB CERT HIGHLIGHTS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- President's Message
Page 1
- Upcoming Events
Page 1
- CERT Database
Page 1
- CPR Classes
Page 2
- Disaster Preparedness
Speakers Available
Page 2
- Tracking CERT
Volunteer Hours
Page 2
- In Memoriam, Stef
Stefferd Page 2
- Emergency Alert
System Nationwide
Test Page 3
- Alert OC Regional Test
Page 3
- CERT Booth team at
Ocean View High
School Faire
Page 3
- CERT at Work
Distributing Packets
Page 4
- Fire Prevention Week
Page 5
- Harbor View
Elementary School
Page 5
- Photos of Activities
Pages 5 -6
- Mission Statement,
Newsletter Staff
Page 7



CLASS 1



President's Message

By Peter Petrelis
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Since this is the November-December 2011 issue of the CERT newsletter, I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season. This is also time to reflect on the CERT events of this past year and plan for next year. I thank all the CERT volunteers and teams who worked very hard this year teaching and supporting the Save-a-Life-Saturday (SALS) classes, the Disaster Expo, 4th of July parade, Senior Saturday, Fire Department Open House, numerous drills, sandbagging, packet distribution, and responding to several CERT callouts. Thank you to the Booth Team and Neighborhood Speakers Bureau for their efforts in educating the public.

The CERT Executive Board will meet late November to plan the 2012 CERT year. We will plan surprise callouts, the March 17, 2012 Disaster Expo at the library, and again follow the four basic Save-A-Life Saturday (SALS) training classes format of the past two years, as well as advanced training for CERT Fire Department volunteers. If you have suggestions how we can improve CERT volunteer training and efforts, drop me an e-mail at pgpworks@verizon.net.

Effort continues on the major CERT project of distributing 3000 Fire Safety Awareness information packets to the residents of the 17 Huntington Beach Mobile Home Parks. Distributions were made August 27, September 17 and 24, October 8, 22, and 29 to eight Mobile Home Parks, with more distributions planned for November. Thank you to all 34 CERT members who have worked on this important project. We need more CERT volunteers to donate a few Saturday hours. If you can help, contact Mike Reyes, DSW Manager at: sp2rays@yahoo.com.

Four members of the Executive Board attended a county-wide advanced training session October 1 in Anaheim. Useful knowledge was gained and exercises practiced in sand-bagging, command post, communications (radio), damage assessment and search and rescue techniques. This experience will help us plan for additional advanced HB CERT member training.

A Fire Department Open House was held October 15 at the Gothard Street Fire Training Center. CERT participated by providing literature,

displaying grab-and-go bags and a 72 hour barrel. CERT members were available to answer resident's questions. The Huntington Beach Fire Department demonstrated accident rescue by cutting up a car to rescue a driver victim, and fire fighting by extinguishing a demo fire.

The Great California 2011 Shakeout was held on October 20. Orange County Emergency Management tested the AlertOC phone alert system by sending out messages to 2 million residential land line and cell phone numbers at 5:00 pm. HB CERT staff consisted of Carol Burtis, Esther Whitton, Virginia and Peter Petrelis, Brevyn Mettler, HB Emergency Services Coordinator, along with CERT members and Emergency personnel from other cities. These members reported to the Orange County EOC to staff the Orange County EOC phones answering citizen's calls in response to the AlertOC. Many citizens calling in did not listen to the messages but just returned the call. In a real emergency, just returning the call before listening to the message would tie up critical phone lines and resources.

We're looking forward to members of the 2010 and 2011 Basic CERT classes joining us as Fire Department Volunteers. Please e-mail me at pgpworks@verizon.net if you have any questions on how to complete your training to become a Fire Department Volunteer.

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**

Upcoming Events

- **November 3, 2011** - 6:00pm: Management Meeting in the EOC open to all HB CERT Members.
- **November 5, 2011** Morning, Free Drive-Through Flu Shots, Huntington Beach Hospital
- **Management meeting will not be held in December**
- **January 5, 2012** - 6:00pm: Management Meeting in the EOC open to all HB CERT Members.

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:

- Wednesday, Nov 9, 6 to 9 p.m
- Saturday, Nov 19, 9:30am to 12:30pm
- Saturday, Dec 10, 9:30am to 12:30pm

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

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:

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 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.
4. CERT will provide a flyer to distribute to your neighborhood or group.
5. 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.

Tracking CERT Volunteer Hours Reminder

By Virginia Petrelis, CERT Secretary

At the July 7, 2011 Executive Board meeting, it was decided to change the CERT year from the current September 1 to August 31 to January 1 to December 31. However, the 2011 CERT hours will cover September 1, 2010 through December 31, 2011. It is important to keep a record of all CERT volunteer hours. Please record all hours (including driving time) no matter how few. Every hour counts! Please send your hours to me at yapworks@yahoo.com **BY YEAR END.**

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.

In Memoriam, Einar "Stef" Stefferud

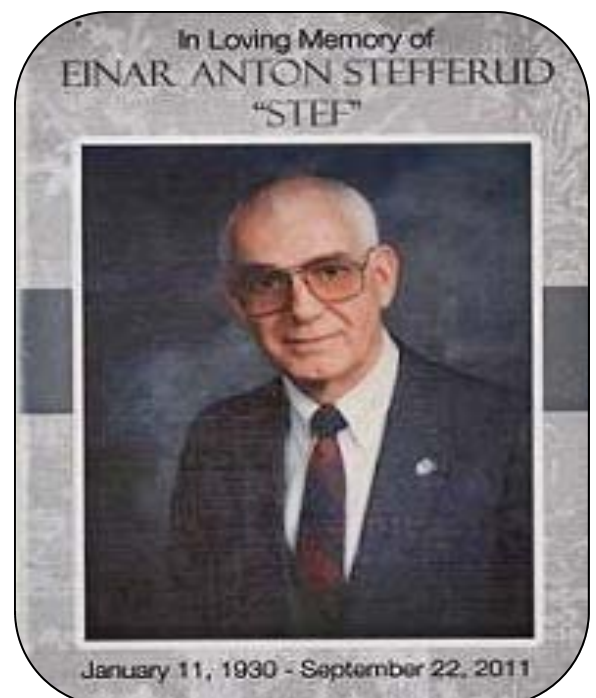
We are sad to report that another of our brilliant, long-time, CERT members, Einar "Stef" Stefferud passed away on September 22, 2011. Stef was born and raised in Wausau, Wisconsin. In high school he enjoyed electronics, and during the 1940's served in the Air Force.

In the 1950's he worked abroad mapping the country of Iran. Stef married Donna Kirkpatrick, a nursing student, while completing a MBA at UCLA. His experiences in school began a lifelong love of computers.

He was a leader in Internet standard efforts, and Founder/President of Network Management Assoc., Inc. which provided strategic management services on Internet environments until 2000. He lectured worldwide. Stef established one of the first mailing lists (Msg Group) on the ARPA net. He was a retired Adjunct Professor of Information and Computer Sciences at the University of California, Irvine. In the 1990's he was named by Communications Week Magazine as one of its "Top 10 Industry Visionaries." He was a Co-Founder/Chief Visionary Officer of First Virtual Holdings, called "the first cyberbank" by the Smithsonian Institute.

Stef graduated from the CERT program in 1997 and served with his wife, Donna, on Huntington Beach's Community Response Team. He participated in home-schooling his grandchildren. Donna and Stef celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2008.

Stef is survived by a loving family, including his wife Donna, his daughter Kristi and her husband, Michael, grandchildren Heather, Hayden, and Jonathan. Our condolences to Donna and her family.



Emergency Alert System Nationwide Test By Anna Pinter

The first nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) will take place on November 9, 2011 at 2:00 PM EST (Eastern Standard Time). The Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau will be joined by representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Weather Service (NOAA). This first nationwide test of the EAS may last up to three and a half minutes. The results of this nationwide test will be used to assess the reliability and effectiveness of the EAS as a public alert method.

EAS is a national alert warning system and was established to enable the President of the United States to address the American public during emergencies. NOAA, governors, states, and local emergency authorities have also used the system to issue more localized emergency alerts. The system has been in existence for 15 years and, pursuant to Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules, has been tested on a weekly basis. On November 9, 2011, the public will hear the EAS test broadcast nationally. "This is a test." The audio message will involve broadcast radios, television stations, cable television, satellite radio and television services, and wireline video service providers in all states, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and American Samoa. Participants study the data collected and collaborate to improve the effectiveness of notifying the public of emergencies and potential dangers regionally or nationwide.

Everyone should have an emergency plan and an emergency preparedness kit for themselves, their families, businesses, and community. Visit www.Ready.gov for more information about how to prepare and stay informed in the event of an emergency.

AlertOC Regional Test Exercise By Virginia Petrelis

On October 20, 2011 at 5 p.m. the City of Huntington Beach, along with 29 other Orange County cities and County unincorporated areas, sent out a test message on the county's mass notification system, AlertOC. The exercise was in conjunction with the State of California Great Shakeout Exercise. The primary objective of the exercise was to test AlertOC's capability, capacity and effectiveness to deliver emergency notification to the public in the event of a major disaster. More than 2 million messages were sent out to residential landline phone numbers that were acquired from AT&T and Verizon 911 telephone data bases, and to people who had registered their cell phones and emails with AlertOC.

Several volunteers from around the county, including Esther Whitton, Carol Burtis, Peter and

Virginia Petrelis from Huntington Beach CERT were at the Orange County EOC in Silverado to answer the Public Information Hotline. Our job was to reassure people that the call was only a test, not an emergency, and to give them information on the system and on emergency preparedness.



A

minute or so after the test message went out, the phones started ringing. Many of the calls were from people who just returned the call without listening to the message. Others spoke only Spanish and they were reassured by Spanish speaking volunteers. Interpreters for other languages were available through AT&T. Within the first hour, we had received approximately 250 calls about the system.

If you did not receive a call, please go to www.AlertOC.org to register your information.



CERT Booth Team at Ocean View High School
Roy Alzua, Carmen Villar-Allen, and Bob Allen distributed literature September 16 at the Ocean View High School Community Faire.

CERT AT WORK DISTRIBUTING PACKETS

By Mike Reyes, DSW Manager

On Saturday, October 8, 2011 members of the Huntington Beach Community Emergency Response Team delivered over 300 Fire Safety Awareness Information Packets to the residents of the Huntington Shorecliffs Mobile Home Park. On a beautiful morning, accompanied by members of the Huntington Beach Fire Department's HE45, the CERT team undauntedly set out and completed their assignment within one hour. Also on hand to show their support were Huntington Beach Councilman Devin Dwyer and Huntington Beach Fire Department Battalion Chief Dave McBride.

The scope of this program is to provide Huntington Beach's Mobile Home Park residents with information relating to Fire Safety Awareness, Disaster Preparedness and information regarding household implementation of Carbon Monoxide Alert Alarms.

Thanks to the CERT members who participated: Sherrie Wolfe, Cindy McDaniel, Ron Roth, Lori Keller, Judie Freeman, Joe Camasta, William Siegle, Brenda Low, Linda Vircks and Roy Alzua.

A special thanks to the members of the Huntington Beach Fire Department's HE45: Captain Dave Ferguson, Engineer Scott Roozen and Paramedics Kevin Shanahan and Jeff White, who were all prepared to answer any questions from mobile home park residents.

Thanks again to all the participating CERT team members and the public officials who attentively displayed their dedication of support to this information-based program. Several additional mobile home parks are scheduled within the next few weekends of October and November. Feel free to contact me at sp2rays@yahoo.com if you are interested in volunteering to help out.

Kudos to another job well done!

October 8 Team



Update to CERT AT WORK

On October 22 as CERT volunteers were preparing to distribute Fire Safety Awareness Information Packets to the residents of the Pacific Mobile Home Park, HB Fire Dept. Captain Dave Ferguson informed us of a response to a Huntington Shorecliffs mobile home earlier that morning. An elderly couple (very hard of hearing) were not awakened by the smoke alarms going off in their home. The home was filling with smoke and there was a fire in their furnace. Their son was in the home and awakened them and assisted them in exiting the home. No lives were lost – good outcome!

This incident validates the need for distribution of Fire Safety Awareness Information to Huntington Beach Mobile Home Parks!

CERT members at Pacific Mobile Home Park: Peter and Virginia Petrelis, Anna Pinter, Art Weiland, Tara Fort, Roy Alzua, Richard Batistelli, Maggie Reyes, Cynthia Goebel, Cindy McDaniel, Ken Mailman, Bob and Carmen Allen, Bob Dow, Ron Roth, and Mike Reyes. Members of Fire Department Company H5 (Lake Street) were Captain Dave Ferguson, Engineer Brian Gamboa, Paramedics Kevin Shanahan and Joel Whipp.

October 22 Team



Fire Prevention Week – October 9-15
By Virginia Petrelis

Fire Prevention Week was established by the Fire Marshals Association in 1911 to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 and the Peshtigo Fire in Northeast Wisconsin which also occurred in 1871. The Fire Marshals Association decided that the anniversary should be observed by continuing to keep the public informed about the importance of fire prevention.

In recognition of Fire Prevention Week, the Huntington Beach Fire Department held its annual Open House on Saturday, October 15, at Fire Station 1 on Gothard Street. There were rescue demonstrations, tours of the fire station and staging of emergency apparatus. Sparky and the firefighters were there to greet the people in attendance.

RACES members were there with their radio van and the Emergency Operations trailer. CERT was there with demonstrations of how to turn off the gas meter, grab and go bags, 72 hour barrel, and educational handouts.

Free hot dogs and refreshments were served by the Huntington Beach Firefighters' Association and Fire Management Association. It was a great family day. The children were so excited to meet real firemen and see real fire trucks.

There are several educational websites on fire safety in the home. Check out the following:

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission at: <http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PUBS/556a.html>

Underwriters Laboratory (UL) at: <http://safetyathome.com>

U.S. Fire Administration at: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/kids/flash.shtm>

Harbor View Elementary School

Harbor View Elementary School held an Olympics on October 21. There were several booths at the event along with a Fire Department truck, police car and HB CERT. Roy Alzua handed out information and Judy Ann Morris conducted a "drop, cover and hold on" drill with the 800 students. Credit goes to the Harbor View teaching staff for how well the children understood what to do in case of an earthquake. Lots of fun was had by all.

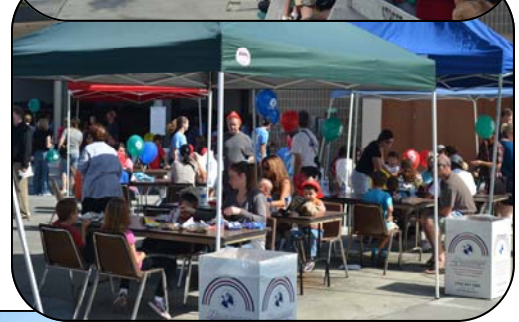
Harbor View Elementary School



October 15 Fire Department Open House



October 15 Fire Department Open House (continued)



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 Contact:** CERT@surfcity-hb.org
CERT Message line 714-536-5974, (THIS IS A MESSAGE LINE ONLY!)