

# CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT NEWSLETTER

February 2011

SINCE 1991



HB CERT  
HIGHLIGHTS

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CLASS 1



### President's Message

By Peter Petrelis  
[pgpworks@verizon.net](mailto:pgpworks@verizon.net)

CERT has created a new database of active Fire Department CERT volunteers. Over the past several months, attempts were made to contact Disaster Service Workers (DSW) members by e-mail and phone to determine their status and update their database information. The new database contains 265 active CERT members. These members are eligible to participate in CERT activities and to join one or more of the CERT teams.

Past DSW members who did not use the on-line "survey monkey" sign-up are not included in the new database. The on-line "survey monkey" is now closed. However, past DSW members have the opportunity to be added to the CERT new database by e-mailing or calling me to update their database information.

E-mail me at [pgpworks@verizon.net](mailto:pgpworks@verizon.net) or call 714-842-6136.

Current Fire Department CERT volunteers and past DSW members are urged to attend the upcoming "Introduction to CERT Teams" meeting on Thursday, February 17, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in the Huntington Beach City Council Chambers.

**Past DSW members will also be able to update their database information and be added to the new database at this meeting.**

Teams are a very important element of CERT. Participating as a team member is a very good way to stay active in CERT and to develop a broad range of advanced volunteer skills used during an emergency. Team members are essential to the operation of CERT. Members of teams prepare and teach survival skills at the CERT Save-A-Life-Saturday (SALS) classes, at neighborhood outreach programs and respond to community needs during a disaster. CERT teams also promote fellowship and a sense of CERT community. All CERT members are urged to join one or more teams.

All past and current CERT members are invited to the: **"Introduction to CERT Teams"** meeting on Thursday, February 17, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in the Huntington Beach City Council

### The Importance of CERT Teams

By: Judy Ann Morris

It is important to understand the reasons for HB CERT to maintain active teams. The team program is what keeps us active between disaster callouts. Team members are important for teaching our Save-A-Life Saturday Classes, the Neighborhood Outreach Programs, Public Education events, CERT Advanced Training and practicing your personal skills. Many CERT members are on several teams because when there is an official call out, you will be asked to serve where you are needed. As an example, you might have trained on Light Search and Rescue but will be assigned to be a transport person or to work a station at the Command Post when reporting for service to the City after a disaster. You must have qualified as a Fire Department Volunteer or a Disaster Service Worker in order to work on any team.

There are four categories of teams that can be used in our CERT program. They are teaching, response, public education, and support teams. Some teams will fall into all four categories; others are teaching teams, except when the skills would be used in your own neighborhood, business, school, etc. when a disaster strikes.

### CERT Teams – Primary functions

The following is a brief description of our CERT Teams. For a more in depth description of the teams and their duties we are holding a class on **February 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers.** You will be able to meet the Team Leaders and discuss the roles of each team.

**Clerical Team** – non physical/support team  
Clerical Team meets when the CERT organization or the City needs help. The team does not meet on a set schedule. They would cross train with Registration, Command Post, Marketing and Booth Teams.

## CERT TEAMS

**Newsletter Team** – non physical/public education

Newsletter Team meets once a month to create and edit the monthly CERT Newsletter

**Marketing Team** – non physical/public education

The Marketing Team works to increase public awareness of free CERT classes, recruits and follows up on new students.

**Booth Team** – light physical/public education

The Booth Team serves to promote and spread awareness of the CERT mission and its supporting events.

**Registration Team** – light physical/response

The Registration Team tracks attendance at the Save-a-Life Saturday classes.

**Speaker's Bureau** – non physical/public education

**Command Post Team** – light physical/teaching and response

The Command Post Team teaches the Incident Command System (ICS) and responds to CERT callouts.

**Communications Team** – non physical/training/response

This team consists of trained HAM radio operators who support classes, drills and CERT activation.

**Shelter Team** – medium physical/teaching

The Shelter Team takes the lead in teaching the CERT SALS Disaster Living Class and supports the Neighborhood Outreach Programs.

**Cooking Team (subset of Shelter Team)** – Medium physical/teaching

The Cooking Team teaches and prepares food during the SALS Disaster Living Class and supports the Neighborhood Outreach Program.

**First Aid Team** – physical/teaching/response

The First Aid Team takes the lead in teaching the CERT SALS Medical Ops class, supports the Outreach Program and could be directed to work under medical and paramedics during a disaster.

**Light Search and Rescue** – heavy physical/teaching

Light Search and Rescue takes the lead in teaching in SAL classes and supports the Outreach Program. The skills developed with this team would be vital to your own neighborhood.

**Logistics Team** – heavy physical

The Logistics team sets up and tears down equipment for the CERT classes and events. Members need not attend the entire event but could take an opening or closing shift.

**Senior Response Team for 'At Risk Frail & Elderly'** light & medium physical/training/response

The Senior Response Team supports the Rodgers Senior Center City Staff to check and verify the condition of pre-identified seniors after a disaster. CERT works with the city teaching Command Post and Response procedures.

**Sandbag Team** – light/heavy physical

The Sandbag Team is a seasonal team that delivers and places sandbags at senior and disabled residents' homes in Huntington Beach. The team consists of sandbaggers, drivers, phone monitors & dispatchers.

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## Upcoming Events

- February 3, 2011 - 6:00pm: Management Meeting in the EOC open to all HB CERT Members
- February 17, 2011- 6:30pm: Introduction to CERT Teams in the HB City Council Chambers
- March 3, 2011 - 6:00pm: Management Meeting in the EOC open to all HB CERT Members
- March 19, HB EXPO – details to be announced
- April 7, 2011 - 6:00pm: Management Meeting in the EOC open to all HB CERT Members
- April 16, First *Save-a-Life Saturday* Class, register on-line [www.huntingtonbeach.gov/cert](http://www.huntingtonbeach.gov/cert)

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

- Wednesday, February 9, 6 to 9 p.m.
- Saturday, February 26, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30p.m.
- Wednesday, March 9, 6 to 9 p.m.
- Saturday, March 19, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30p.m.
- Saturday, April 9, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30p.m.
- Wednesday, April 27, 6 to 9 p.m.

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

## Becoming a Fire Department Volunteer

We are continuing the successful "Save-a-Life Saturday" four-class schedule in 2011. If you missed classes in the last two years, you can make them up in 2011. When you complete all four classes, you will receive a completion certificate signed by the mayor and be trained to help your neighborhood in the event of a disaster.

After your basic (SALS) CERT classes, you can become a Huntington Beach Fire Department Volunteer with the additional requirements:

- Must have a current CPR Card
- Submit an application and pass a Live Scan with Huntington Beach Police Dept. (Approx. \$35)
- Take an approved First Aid Class (American Red Cross, American Heart, EMT, Nurses Certificate)
- Take the CERT Responder Course (IS-100 and IS-700)

Once you become a HB Fire Department Volunteer and take American Red Cross (ARC) manager class, you will be eligible to be a County Mutual Aid Program (CMAP) volunteer.

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### February Preparedness Challenge

Develop, plan and practice a family disaster plan

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### Practice Your Family Disaster Plan By Anna Pinter

The first step to family preparedness is to develop a family disaster plan. The second step is practicing the plan. Practice your plan twice a year so every member of the family knows the plan and what they need to do should a disastrous event happen. An easy reminder for practicing the plan is to set the two practice dates on the same days you change batteries in your fire alarms. Always change the fire alarm batteries when the clocks are turned back and set forward in the spring and fall.

Here are some suggestions for practicing your Family Disaster Plan:

- Practice evacuating your home and set a predetermined location for a meeting place outside.
- Establish at least two evacuation routes.
- Determine which routes you might have to walk or drive on the street to take you away from danger in your neighborhood.
- Call your out of state contact(s) to remind them of your Family Disaster Plan.

- Talk over your plan after you practice. If any part of the plan is not working, change the plan to make it better.

- Change your fire alarm batteries twice a year.

- Check your disaster supply kit and replace items that are damaged or have passed their expiration dates.

- Check your fire extinguishers and make sure they are properly charged.

- Check if flashlights and radios still work.

- Back up computer files.

- Update parts of your plan such as telephone numbers, school and work locations, insurance information, copies of documents, and medical information, etc.

- Check with your child's school to make sure the school disaster supplies are updated every September.

- Check all personal items in every family kit such as: prescriptions, eyeglasses, or contacts. Women, men, children and seniors all have different personal needs.

- Replace outgrown clothing for children in their supply kits. Make sure children's kits are updated each year.

- Sanitation supplies such as toilet paper, plastic bags of all sizes, extra undergarments, diapers and etc. are a necessity.

- Prepare a kit for your pets. Carefully think what your pets will need in a disaster. Do not forget extra water.

- Food is a necessity. Pack prepared food that does not require extra water. Consider nonperishable foods.

Water is a necessity. Store one gallon of water per person per day for at least seven days, for drinking and sanitation.

It is recommended every person should store seven days of survival supplies.

Go to [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov) to find more information on how to better prepare your family.

### Four Helpful Hints for Practice of Family Disaster Plan

- Plan and draw a picture of your home floor plan and discuss evacuation routes from your residence

- Plan a family night without electricity (remember do not use candles due to a possible gas leak or fire hazard during a real event)

- Plan a campout in the backyard for one day

- Plan cooking without gas, electricity or any modern appliance

## 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](mailto: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.

## January 22, Saturday Morning Callout

Seventy CERT Fire Department Volunteers responded to a surprise callout drill on Saturday, January 22. The message was sent at 8 a.m. by Brevyn Mettler, Emergency Services Coordinator, using AlertOC to notify the 267 members in the new CERT data base. Messages were received on email, home phones, cell phones and text messages. Responders were requested to wear their CERT uniform and report to the City Yard on Gothard Avenue at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., or 11 a.m. for training.

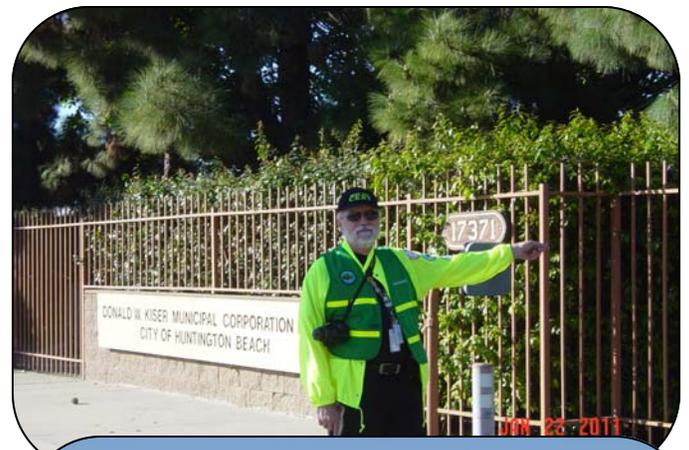
Upon arrival, the volunteers signed in at the new Emergency Management & Homeland Security Volunteer Management Response Unit (trailer) and participated in sandbag training. Michael Depin and Anna Pinter were the Registration personnel. Judy Ann Morris and Peter Petrelis explained the many volunteer positions that are needed on the sandbag team in the event of heavy rain and flooding. For those unable to do heavy lifting, they can help by volunteering as CERT message line monitors, dispatchers, or drivers.

At the sand pile, Mike Reyes, with the help of City Employee, Pete Raia, demonstrated the proper methods of filling, lifting and placing sandbags. As Sandbag Team Leader, Mike plans to have a "Ready Response Team" of several sandbaggers who would be available during the weekdays in the event of flooding, or threatened flooding at the homes of elderly or disabled residents. The "Ready Response" team would be

activated when there are only a few calls for sandbagging per day. Mike is also training volunteers who would be willing to help during larger scale activations and on the weekends. When we are activated for a major incident, the "Ready Response" team members would be the leaders of the additional sandbag teams that are requested.

Thank you to all who responded on a Saturday morning and a special thanks to those who helped with traffic control. Of those, 34 volunteered for the various positions, including 20 able-bodied people who volunteered to be sandbaggers or part of the Ready Response Team. During the period of January 2010 until January 2011 CERT has sandbagged over 50 homes because of the heavy rainfall.

If you'd like to be a member of the Sandbag Team, please contact Mike Reyes at [sp2rays@yahoo.com](mailto:sp2rays@yahoo.com).







# Huntington Beach Fire Department

## A Class1 Fire Department

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

[www.Huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert](http://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.



**HB CERT Newsletter Staff**

**Proof Reading / Editing Team:**

Anna Pinter  
Art Weiland

JudyAnn Morris  
Carol Nehls

Peter Petrelis  
Cynthia Goebel

Virginia Petrelis

**Attention!** If you want something placed in the Upcoming Events, e-mail Judy Ann at [jamorris189@yahoo.com](mailto:jamorris189@yahoo.com)

For those who do not receive the newsletter by email, you can go to the CERT website: [www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert](http://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](http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert),  
**CERT Message line 714-536-5974, (THIS IS A MESSAGE LINE ONLY!)**