

# CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT NEWSLETTER

March 2011

SINCE 1991



HB CERT  
HIGHLIGHTS

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message  
Page 1

Upcoming Events  
Page 1

Is the Weather  
Changing?  
Page 2

20th Anniversary of  
CERT  
Page 2

What Causes a  
Tsunami  
Page 2-4

Disaster Preparedness  
Expo 2011 Flyer  
Page 5

Save -A-Life Saturday  
Class Schedule  
Page 6

Mission Statement,  
Newsletter Staff  
Page 7



CLASS 1



### President's Message

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

The second annual **Emergency Preparedness Expo** will be **March 19** at the Huntington Beach Central Library 10 am to 2 pm, sponsored by the City of Huntington Beach. This public event is an opportunity to increase awareness of risks and showcases community emergency preparedness. Many organizations are participating with booths and equipment exhibits: HB FireMed, HB Police, Red Cross, Explorer Scout Program, Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) and other disaster volunteer organizations. Attendees will be able to register for AlertOC, ReadyOC, and 2011 "Save-a-Life Saturday" classes that start April 16. In addition, several disaster preparedness vendors will display emergency supplies. Brevyn Mettler, Emergency Services Coordinator, will have the new Emergency Management Volunteer Response Unit (trailer) on display. CERT is very active in planning this important event. CERT booths will display and demonstrate *Grab n Go Bags*, 72 hour home emergency barrel, hazard mitigation and terrorism awareness information. Be prepared for unexpected events: tsunami, earthquake, flooding, fire, and terrorism.

### The President's preparedness challenge for this month is:

- Practice evacuation of your home
- Plan where you and your family will meet when all are not at home
- Establish an out of state contact
- Inventory your *grab n go bag*, update and add items
- Check the expiration date of your emergency water
- Review and rotate, if necessary, your 72 hour food supplies and find out how to keep food safe during and after an emergency by visiting the USDA website: <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/emergency/index.html>
- Keep your car gas tank at least half full at all times
- Keep an assortment of small bills as ATMs and cash registers may not work during an emergency

All past and current CERT members are invited to the: **Emergency Preparedness Expo** on **Saturday, March 19, from 10:00am to 2:00pm** at the Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, HB.

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

### Upcoming Events

- 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.huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert](http://www.huntingtonbeachca.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, 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



## Is the Weather Changing?

By: Anna Pinter

The weather started off with a bang in October 2010, as low pressure off Southern California and the Northwest Mexico coast produced numerous storms and thunder through the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October. Most storms were concentrated in the mountains and deserts. These storms moved fast enough to limit rainfall in any particular area. October ended with a brief bout of Santa Ana winds.

The weather remained very changeable until the middle of December. A strong westerly flow across the Pacific Ocean brought subtropical moisture resulting in days of moderate to heavy rainfall. During the Christmas period, the stormy pattern broke just before the Christmas holidays. Suddenly, on the December 29, 2010, a cold front swept into Southern California with moderate rainfall and snow in the mountains at 5500 feet. January 2011 came in as a very wet month and came to a chilly close.

As our California sunshine began to disappear, the colder weather brought the side effect of higher gas and electric bills. Some people blamed the changing weather for the flu season. The rain interfered with long walks, trips to the beach and our California life style. Winter storms plagued the United States with rain, snow, extremely low temperatures and ice storms. Everyone began to talk about the unusual changes in the weather.

Has our weather really changed?

Go to the following websites for interesting archived and present information on past and current weather scenarios.

[www.wrh.noaa.gov/sqx/](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/sqx/)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) also publishes a newsletter.

[www.wrh.noaa.gov/sqx/newsletter/current-newsletter.pdf](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/sqx/newsletter/current-newsletter.pdf)

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## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of HB CERT Program

By: Judy Ann Morris – jamorris189@yahoo.com

Huntington Beach CERT was formed in 1991 following a tornado that struck two of the 133 (1/2-mile square) districts in the City. The City Police and Fire Departments were heavily impacted and would have been severely stretched had damage been more widespread. It was concluded by the city that if every neighborhood, school, and business were to become self-sufficient and able to properly respond to a disaster, the overall public safety response would be faster, more efficient and allow the City disaster responders to focus on the most urgent issues.

Gloria Morrison, the Huntington Beach

Emergency Coordinator, took the challenge and started building a community of volunteers. I remember some of the first classes that were held at an elementary school on Warner Ave in the evenings. The classes were small, about 15 people, and we used one classroom for most of the training. At one particular meeting, Billie Brandon was teaching the Alternative Cooking Class (outside), and the weather was horrible, rainy, windy and cold. Many members thought that maybe another time would be better. The CERT instructor, Terry Scott, said "Who said disasters will only happen in perfect weather?" We all stayed and were rewarded by Billie's great baked potatoes and apple crisp made in the box ovens.

In the past 20 years, more than 6000 residents have taken our "Save-A-Life Saturday" classes to better prepare themselves, their families, businesses and schools. Once CERT volunteers graduate, many go on to become Fire Department Volunteers who help in the EOC, the field, and wherever help is needed in a disaster. CERT graduates are trained to care for their family, their neighborhood, and then respond to help the City recover from emergencies. Our CERT Speakers Bureau has also conducted hundreds of Disaster Preparedness Classes in neighborhoods, schools, churches and businesses.

**Do you have a memory or picture of the early days of CERT? This year we invite you to share them with us and we will publish them in the newsletter.**

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## What Causes a Tsunami?

By: Virginia Petrelis

A tsunami is a *series* of large waves generated by an underwater earthquake or landslide, volcanic eruption or meteor strike. Tsunami waves travel across the ocean at 450 to 600 miles per hour. Nearing the coast, the waves slow and begin to pile up. By the time they hit land, tsunami waves can reach great heights. The 1883 eruption of Indonesia's Krakatoa Volcano caused a 130 foot high tsunami with a deadly force at 30 to 40 miles per hour, faster than victims can run. The waves can knock down buildings, turn cars and debris into battering rams and run up bays and rivers to inundate inland areas. In harbors, tsunamis cause destructive sloshing that can last for hours. The surge and withdrawal of succeeding waves can undermine roads, foundations and even cut new channels to the sea. Waves just waist high can knock adults off their feet and sweep them away.

## What Causes a Tsunami?(continued)

By: Virginia Petrelis

Tsunamis are unpredictable. They may announce their approach by drawing water out to sea before rising up and striking the beach, or they may surge onshore without warning. Most tsunamis are associated with large underwater earthquakes with magnitudes of 7.5 or greater, though a smaller earthquake could trigger a submarine landslide to cause a tsunami. To generate a tsunami, an earthquake must violently lift or drop the sea floor and displace huge amounts of seawater to send a tsunami radiating out like ripples in a pond.

The National Weather Service operates a system of 110 buoys throughout the Pacific Ocean that detect tsunamis as they cross the ocean. These buoys transmit real-time sea level data. Once a tsunami is detected, the National Weather Service's Alaska Tsunami Warning Center will issue warnings to the West Coast.

A "distant tsunami" generated across the Pacific Ocean would give local authorities several hours to warn the public, organize evacuations and even set traffic signals to green lights for departing traffic. Given sufficient time, Huntington Beach and Newport Beach will bring in public transit busses to pick up evacuees at pre-selected pick-up points and take them to evacuation sites on high ground. Emergency management staff in the low-lying, densely populated Orange County north coast believe they can evacuate their at-risk populations in three to five hours.

A "regional tsunami" generated in mid-ocean may allow only 30 to 60 minutes warning to the public. An organized evacuation might not be possible. In fact, most cities plan to order their police, fire and lifeguard personnel out of the hazard zone for their own safety 30 to 60 minutes prior to the tsunami's predicted impact. Police helicopters, however, will continue broadcasting warnings and instructions above the beach throughout the emergency.

A "local tsunami" generated off the California coast could strike the shore in minutes, with possibly the only warning being a violent shaking of the ground. Local populations at risk should be able to recognize the signs of impending tsunami hazards such as strong, prolonged ground shaking, and seek higher ground. Most emergency managers recommend that residents avoid the use of cars and go to high ground on foot. The American Red Cross recommends that people fleeing a tsunami should try to get 100 feet above sea level or two miles inland...on foot within 15 minutes. Using bicycles or motorbikes were other possibilities mentioned to avoid traffic congestion and road blocks. If there is not enough time to leave the threatened area, emergency managers recommend "vertical evacuation," i.e., go up at least three floors in a tall, sturdy building, preferably one constructed of reinforced concrete.

As a last resort, climb up a strong tree.

It is important to note the difference between a "tsunami watch" and a "tsunami warning." A "watch" indicates that a tsunami may occur and that people should get ready to leave. A "warning" indicates that a tsunami has been detected and threatened areas should evacuate immediately. If an offshore earthquake has the potential to send a tsunami crashing ashore in two hours or less, the National Weather Service will issue a warning as a precaution.

Every household along the coast should have a plan for dealing with a tsunami. Have a weather radio to keep your family informed about weather and water related warnings. Our local Orange County station which will broadcast emergency information is 107.9 FM. Prepare a *Grab n Go Bags*, with necessary supplies such as food, water, medication and spare eyeglasses. No one should enter the water or attempt to ride the waves. A churning tsunami cannot be surfed. The waves will hurl debris with deadly force and swimmers and boats may be crushed against buildings.

The City of Huntington Beach has emergency sirens located at all eight of the fire stations. In addition, there are public address systems housed in every Huntington Beach lifeguard truck, police car, police helicopter and fire apparatus. These public address systems will be used in conjunction with the sirens to evacuate the beach in the event of a tsunami warning or actual event. All of the city's lifeguard towers have tsunami hazard zone signs permanently mounted on them instructing people to move inland in the event of an earthquake. There are 122 tsunami evacuation route signs posted throughout the city.

The Huntington Beach Fire Department Volunteers (CERT Booth Team) set up a booth at the base of the pier/PCH and hand out emergency preparedness and tsunami information on a regular basis. Each year they distribute thousands of tsunami pamphlets to residents and visitors to the city. These brochures provide information about tsunamis and what to do if the emergency sirens are sounded.

The 2007-2008 Orange County Grand Jury investigated the county's readiness for a tsunami. It concluded that our beach communities are probably better prepared for a tsunami than communities along any other comparable stretch of California coastline.

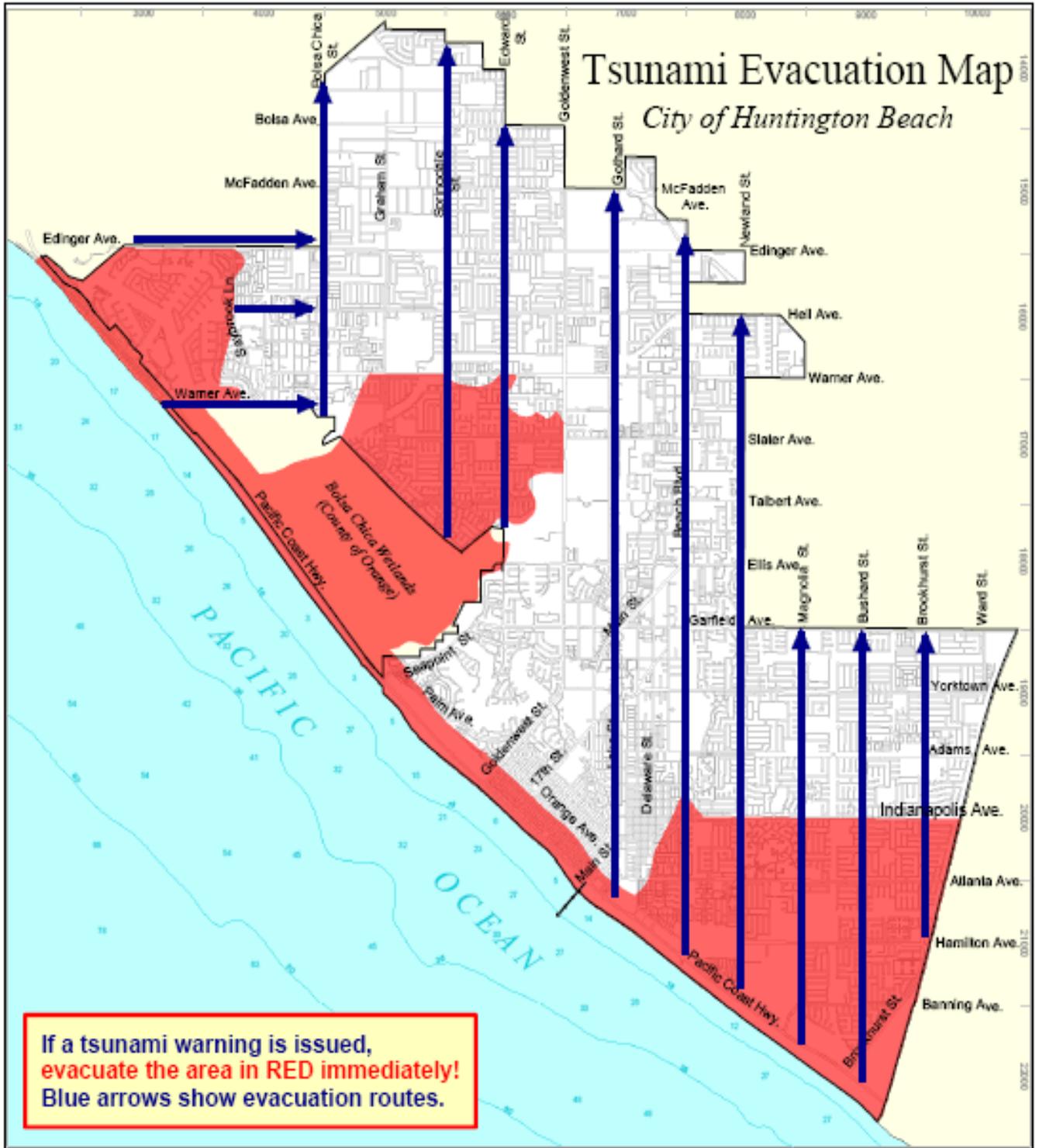
Fortunately a tsunami is a rare event. You can protect your family by evacuating promptly if a Tsunami Warning is issued.

See following page for Huntington Beach evacuation map.

For further information, go to:

[www.ocgrandjury.org/pdfs/tsunami/tsunami-report.pdf](http://www.ocgrandjury.org/pdfs/tsunami/tsunami-report.pdf)

[www.ocgrandjury.org/pdfs/tsunami/huntingtonbeach\\_amended.pdf](http://www.ocgrandjury.org/pdfs/tsunami/huntingtonbeach_amended.pdf)



<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <div style="width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: red; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <span>Tsunami Evacuation Area</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: blue; margin-right: 5px; clip-path: polygon(50% 0%, 61% 35%, 98% 35%, 68% 57%, 98% 57%, 79% 21%, 50% 35%, 21% 21%, 32% 57%, 2% 57%, 32% 35%);"></div> <span>Evacuation Path</span> </div> </div>	<p>0 0.5 1 Miles</p>	<p>Information Services Department</p> <p>88 03 January 2007</p> <p><b>CAUTION</b> WRONG USING THIS MAP</p> <p>Information shown herein is a compilation of data from sources of varying accuracy and is provided as a convenience to the user. The City of Huntington Beach does not guarantee its completeness or accuracy.</p> <p>It is the user's responsibility to verify all information to their own satisfaction.</p>
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# City of Huntington Beach

## Disaster Preparedness Expo 2011

March 19, 2011

Central Library

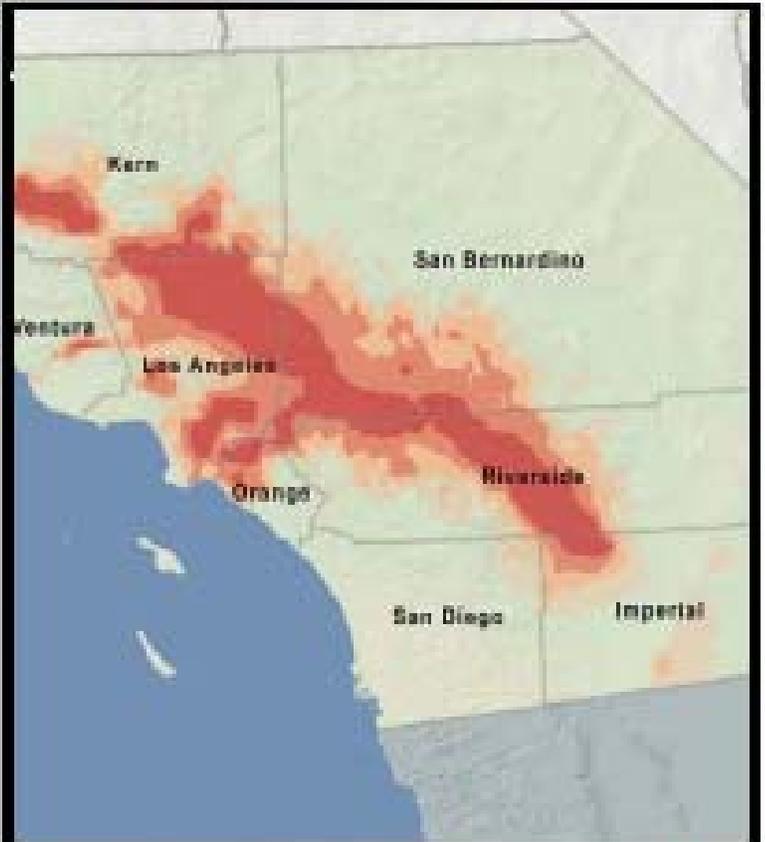
10AM to 2PM



Learn from experts at the second annual Huntington Beach Disaster Preparedness Expo

- Free admission
- Fun and Exciting Demonstrations
- Disaster Volunteer Organizations
- Disaster Preparedness Vendors
- Fire Extinguisher Training
- City Response Equipment Exhibits
- Fun for the Kids

Central Library  
7111 Talbert Ave  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648





# 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.



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**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!)**