

CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT NEWSLETTER

February 2009

SINCE 1991



HB CERT HIGHLIGHTS

CERT 2009
Save--A- Life
Saturday Classes

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CLASS 1

Freeway Complex Fire

Mary Jo Flynn, Anaheim FD

On November 15, 2008 at approximately 10:30 a.m., the Anaheim EOC was activated for what became known as the Triangle Complex Fire.

Anaheim RACES volunteers were in the middle of their annual exercise which was suddenly halted and efforts redirected to support EOC operations. EOC personnel began arriving at the EOC at 11:25 a.m. for a Level I activation. Within an hour the fires jumped the freeway from Yorba Linda into Anaheim. The activation status of the EOC was raised to a Level II. Forty-two EOC personnel were now on site at the EOC.



By 1:24 p.m. multiple fires were burning in Anaheim Hills triggering the EOC activation status to a Level III. Mandatory evacuation orders were issued for 2,600 residences, about 8,000 people. In response to the evacuations, Katella High School was opened as a shelter site. By 5:00 p.m., 3,500 homes had been evacuated accounting for approximately 9,500 people who were affected by the fires. Eighty-seven EOC personnel had now reported to the EOC.

The 91 and 57 freeways were closed in addition to multiple road closures in the hills and canyon area due to heavy smoke and fire. Hundreds of motorists were stuck on the freeways, some fleeing from the fires. Calls were coming into the city's information hotlines from the public inquiring about freeway closures and evacuations. CERT and fire reserve volunteers were called in to assist with answering the public information hotlines. Volunteers provided

information received from the city's Public Information Officer (PIO) to the public throughout the activation.

The majority of damages to private property in Anaheim was to the Cascades Luxury Apartments Homes. Eight additional residences located on Morningstar and Laurel Tree were completely destroyed. Most of these residents evacuated to Katella High School shelter and waited anxiously for news of their homes. Gov. Schwarzenegger visited the shelter on Sunday morning to reassure displaced residents that relief assistance would be provided. Residents were later allowed to return to their residences to assess damages and were escorted by firefighters to gather belongings.

Extensive damages were sustained to the Anaheim Wetlands, the city's 7-acre wildlife refuge located at La Palma and Weir Canyon Road. Vegetation surrounding the wetlands was scorched, post signs and irrigation pipes were destroyed. The wetlands contain 3 ponds and home to the Gnatcatcher and Least Bell's Vireo, which are considered 2 species of endangered birds.

Total losses (for Yorba Linda, Brea and Anaheim) included 30,305 acres burned, 192 residential structures destroyed (includes multi-family residences), 123 residential structures damaged, 2 commercial property destroyed, 3 commercial property damaged, 21 outbuildings/other destroyed, 35 outbuildings/other damaged. Fourteen firefighters sustained minor injuries. Total Public Assistance damage and emergency expenses for this disaster are estimated at \$114 Million



President's Message

Judy Ann Morris



The Classes are Coming! The Classes are Coming!

It is that time of year again and we need everyone to get involved with spreading the word! Our Save-a-Life Classes will start on March 21st. We need you to tell your neighbors, community groups, clubs, Churches, fellow employees and family. Please

feel free to come to the EOC and pick up flyers and give them to your groups. If you have already graduated but need a refresher course, don't hesitate to join us. I know that I learn something new every time I retake a class.

We are again taking requests for CERT speakers to come out to Huntington Beach neighborhoods, organizations that need programs, schools, Churches, or any group who will give us at least one ½ hour to one hour for the program. Please email me directly at jamorris189@yahoo.com (put CERT in the subject line).

Every month we are going to try and give you a "preparedness" task. This month it is your water supply. When we participated in the Great Southern California Shake Out, we learned that water is going to be our most precious resource. The suggestion is that we have a two-week supply at each of our homes. That sounds like an overwhelming amount unless you break it down. If you purchase a 55 gallon water barrel, that is enough for a family of four for a two-week period. The great advantage to the water barrel is that you fill it and then forget about it for five years. When the water needs to be changed, the only thing that you will need to buy is the liquid purifier and you can use the old water for your plants and yard. No waste!!

Please look around and compare prices. Earthquake Management at 15156 Golden West Circle, Westminster carries the barrels in 55 gallon or 30 gallon sizes at a very reasonable price. Ask for Sue Bonner, she is so easy to work with and is very supportive of all CERT programs. Whether you buy your water at the grocery store in gallon containers or just need to check and replace the water you already have stored, please use this month to make sure your family is water prepared.

CERT Thank You to Billie Brandon By: Judy Ann Morris

Billie Brandon held a Disaster First Aid Outreach Class at Skandia Mobile Home Park. At the class, which was very hands on, Billie demonstrated slings, ankle wraps, pressure bandages and discussed how to handle shock. She had everyone participating with each procedure. The class was about an hour long and very informative. Thank you Billie!

Team Announcements:

WANTED: New CERT Communications Team Leader

By: John Fort – Communications Leader

Duties include: (1) Teaching classes to prepare students for FCC ham radio technician class license; how to operate and program radios; how to establish communications in neighborhood CERTs using FRS and HT radios. (2) Maintenance of the Communicators' phone/address list, preparation of periodic Net rosters including Net Control Officer and distribution of rosters to all communicators via e-mail and/or regular mail.

If you are interested or have questions, please contact: John Fort at: jefort1@earthlink.net

SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM – ADVANCED CLASS/TRAINING/PRACTICE

BY: Al Collins, S & R Team Leader

DATE: Saturday, April 25, 2009

TIME: 9AM – 12 Noon (registration at 8:30AM)

PLACE: Community United Methodist Church
66852 Heil Ave
Huntington Beach, Ca. 926

Our Advanced Search and Rescue Training and Practice Class on April 25, 2009 will be treated as if we had just experienced an earthquake. Please bring your personal safety equipment and search and rescue tools. When you arrive at the site, please register at the Registration Table. You will receive a packet of Search and Rescue Information. Then go to the Command Post Area for instructions. While you are waiting, please look over this information and then put it in your car for safekeeping before the class begins. This packet is for your personal files. The Mentor at each station will have duplicate packets for you at their stations to help everyone be on the same page with their skills.

We will have 4 Stations on that day:

- #1 Search and Rescue room search,
- #2 Victim Assessment, Lift and Carry
- #3 Cribbing
- #4 Command Post (recording of team movement)

The Command Post will include team members that are unable to do the heavy skills like Cribbing, Lift and Carry. We are a team and have a place for all members and all their skills.

We will be practicing and reinforcing all our skills, so please make it a point to attend. I am hoping for a great turnout, so everyone will be comfortable with their skills and be able and ready to go when they are needed.

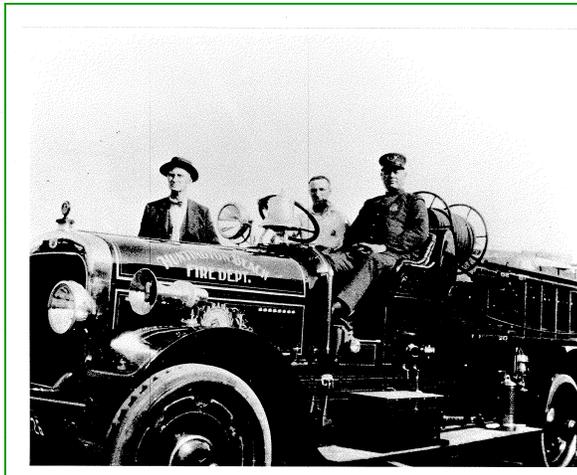
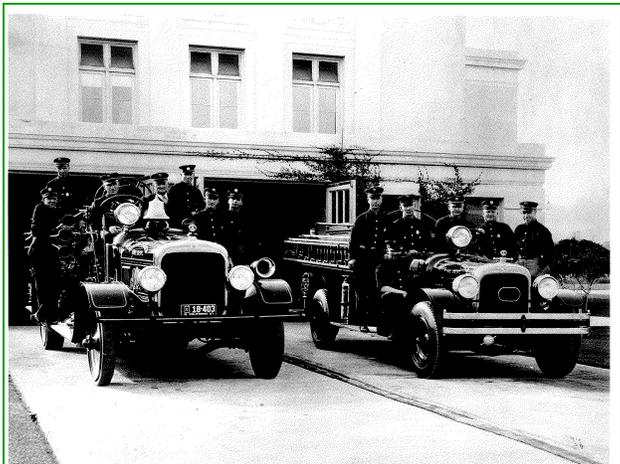
Pre-registration is required so that I will have enough training material for everyone. Email Al Collins at my CERT Email Address: alsurfcity1@aol.com

Huntington Beach Fire Department Celebrates 100 Years

By Sam Campolito and Bill Worth

This year the Huntington Beach Fire Department will celebrate its 100th anniversary. The attached pictures are of the early fire engines that were used by the Fire Department. The Chief at that time was Chief Tinsley. He was Chief of both the Police and the Fire Departments. The Fire Department has come a long way in emergency response with equipment and personnel.

The City of Huntington Beach Fire Department was surveyed by the Insurance Services offices (ISO) to determine its Public Protection Classification (PPC) and in September 2004 was awarded a Class 1 rating. This is the first time in the City's history that it has received such an excellent ISO rating. Class 1 is an exemplary fire suppression rating. There are only 47 Class 1 Fire Departments in the nation. ISO is the leading supplier of statistical, underwriting, and actuarial information to the property/casualty insurance industry and is used by most insurers to calculate the premiums for residential, commercial and industrial subscribers.



What does CERT do?

By Bill Worth

Seventeen years ago, CERT was created to train and inform the citizens about techniques that will help save the lives of their families and neighbors until the professional responders arrive. Huntington Beach Fire Department recognized that, in a major disaster, it did not have the resources to respond to every citizen's call. Each year CERT and the Fire Department conduct free Save-A-Life classes to train volunteers in Disaster and Terrorism Preparation, Fire Safety and Suppression, Disaster First Aid, Light Search and Rescue, and Disaster Living (Sheltering). Additional classes are offered in Communications, Neighborhood Teams, and Sandbagging. During a disaster, CERT would help seniors and disabled citizens and provide Logistical and Clerical support to the Emergency Operations Center. CERT volunteers also distribute literature on disaster preparedness at community events, Fire Department functions and the Farmers' Market.

Sign up for the 2009 Save-A-Life Saturday classes today. Be prepared!

Upcoming Events

March 5, 2009-7:00PM: Management Meeting

March 21, 2009 7:45 AM –noon Save-A-Life Class

*To register for classes call 714-536-5974 or online at www.surfcity-hb.org/CERT

* Fire Med customers can take CPR classes for free and non-FireMed customers can take classes for a fee of \$35. To schedule call 800-400-4277.

Saturday, February 21st from 9:30am to 12:30pm

Wednesday, March 14th from 6:00pm to 9:00pm

Saturday, March 25th from 9:30am to 12:30pm

Wednesday, April 8th from 6:00pm to 9:00pm

Saturday, April 18th from 9:30am to 12:30pm

Saturday, May 13th from 6:00pm to 9:00pm

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Attention!

If you want something placed in the Upcoming Events e-mail Brevyn at bmettler@surfcity-hb.org

Please help save postage, if you can view the newsletter via the internet at www.surfcity-hb.org/CERT
Please call (714) 536-5974 to take your name off the mailing list.



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Emergency Management & Homeland Security Office
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