

CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT NEWSLETTER

April 2009

SINCE 1991



HB CERT HIGHLIGHTS

CERT 2009
Save--A- Life
Saturday Classes

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CLASS 1

Earthquakes are Making a Comeback

By: Brevyn Mettler, MPA
Assistant Emergency Services Coordinator



Since September 11th the focus of emergency management has been on terrorism because of the increased threat, and because the Department of Homeland Security has made grants available to local government agencies. These grants

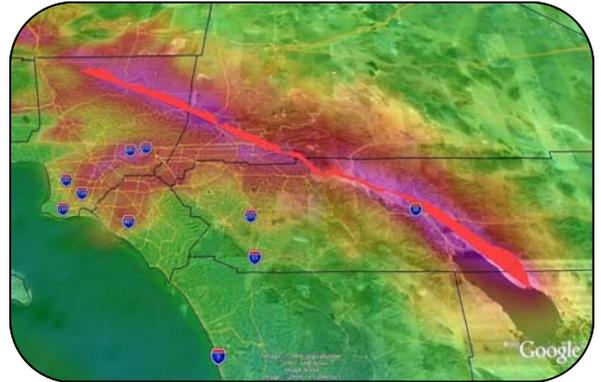
have provided funds for new equipment, interoperable communications, region-wide exercises, etc. Somewhere along the line an even greater threat to California has been placed on the back burner. The recent earthquake in Italy is a reminder that ***Al Qaeda is no match to Mother Nature!***

In November 2008 we had the Great Southern California ShakeOut exercise, which simulated a catastrophic 7.8 earthquake on the Southern San Andreas Fault. The scenario is said to be the most advanced and accurate scenario for an earthquake in Southern California. The San Andreas Fault sits between the Pacific Plate on the west and the North American Plate to the east. It is the master fault line in an intricate fault network that extends over 800 miles long. The Fault is a right-lateral strike-slip fault, meaning that land masses on opposite sides move horizontally. If you were on one side of the fault during an earthquake you would move horizontally to the right. For example, many fence lines and roads after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake were offset by several yards.

The fault is broken into three segments: northern, central, and southern. These segments are "locked" and never release at the same time. Tension builds in one section then releases (in an earthquake) which in turn builds tension at another point along the fault. In the past, a major earthquake of a magnitude 7.0 to 8.0 occurred in the central segment every 150 years, plus or minus 20, with the last one occurring in 1857 on the Tejon Pass. This has always been the fault segment of most concern for the greater Los

Angeles basin. However, new research has shown that the San Andrea's most southern segment is primed and ready to go.

Major earthquakes have occurred in San Francisco in 1906 (northern segment), the Tejon Pass in 1857 (central segment), but no activity has occurred on the southern segment in over 300 years. The 100 mile segment that cuts through Palm Springs, San Bernardino, Riverside and many other populated areas was the lesser known of the three segments until the scenario came out last in year's ShakeOut study.



On March 31, 2009, at 4:55 AM, a series of earthquakes occurred in the Salton Sea area beginning with a magnitude 4.8. This was just miles from where the ShakeOut Scenario predicted an earthquake would start. This series of earthquakes prompted the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) to issue an earthquake advisory. The "earthquake swarm" ended on April 8, 2009 but it is a reminder that we do live in earthquake country.

The recent 6.9 earthquake in Italy demonstrates the devastating effects that can happen. At the time of writing this article, the death toll was 275, 1500 injured, with thousands homeless. Tent cities have been set up throughout the area. The Los Angeles Times, in an editorial, notes that the earthquake in Italy is a wake up call for Californians. The editorial stated Californians are unprepared to deal with the financial impacts of a similar-size quake. A major problem, according to the Times, is that only 14% of home owners have earthquake insurance. In addition, they reported the California Earthquake Authority is considering mechanisms to lower deductibles.

This is a reminder that we must prepare by doing the following things:

- Have a family disaster plan
- Get earthquake insurance
- Know the plan for your children's school
- Have sufficient food, water, medical prescription and disaster supplies to sustain your family for at least 72 hours
- Have a Grab n' Go Bag
- Eliminate hazards in your home
- Know how and when to shut off damaged or leaking utilities
- Be sure to have smoke detectors and fire extinguishers in your home
- Always have your car fueled to at least half a tank
- For information go to www.ReadyOC.org

GET READY!!!

President's Message By Judy Ann Morris



Just Do It!!!

Is anyone else as amazed, as I am, that it is already April? So much to do and so little time! As I am out talking about HBFD's CERT Program and disaster preparedness, the one question that I am asked over and over is, "When do you think the Big One will happen?" I always tell people that I can't tell them "when" but I can tell them how much time they have to prepare for it. My answer is always the same, "You have one day less than yesterday".

As you work around your house, if you see something that would be good in your disaster supplies, take it and put it in your emergency kit.

Most of us have almost everything that we need; it is just all over the place. Start collecting old clothes, shoes, flashlights, and find one place to stash them. It can be in a clean trash can, garbage bag, backpack, plastic bin, or old suitcase. **So, just do it!!**

Our first Save-A-Life Saturday Class this year was in March and I would like to thank all of our CERT Teams that made it possible. It takes a lot preparation and time to put on our classes. First of all, thank you to HBFD Chief Mark Daggett and Assistant Emergency Services Coordinator, Brevyn Mettler. Always, many thanks to our Communications Color Team (they try to keep us on time), to our Registration Team (we had so many walk-ins), and to our Search & Rescue Team for helping guide everyone through the maze of construction. Thank you to Sue Bonner of Earthquake Management in

Westminster for not only bringing such a complete display of products, but for also encouraging people to look around their houses for supplies. Last but not least, Carol Burtis, for working on our Family & Home Preparedness power point and helping teach that section with me. As we continue through the year, I am going to ask the leaders of these awesome teams to introduce themselves and their teams to you in our newsletter to give you an insight of what makes them care so much about being a volunteer. Any organization would love to have these dedicated volunteers and HB CERT is so fortunate that they decided to dedicate their time to disaster preparedness.

Each month, I have given you a "preparedness task". In February, I stressed the need for your water supply. In March, I urged you to start storing your extra food supplies. Now, in April, I want to remind you to go through your First Aid Supplies. You need to make sure that there isn't anything that is outdated and that everything is put together in one kit that is easy to carry.

See you all at the next Save-A-Life Saturday Class!

April 4, 2009 Earth Hour

By Virginia Petrelis

On Saturday night, April 4, 2009, the City of Huntington Beach observed Earth Hour, along with much of the world. From 8:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m., all the lights in City Hall and the surrounding parking lots were turned off.

Due to the major construction going on around the Civic Center, HB CERT was asked by the City to stand watch during the blackout. Jim Hansen, Richard Batistelli, Tara Twitty, John Fort, Peter and Virginia Petrelis sat out under the stars with flashlights, ready to escort visitors through the construction area, should the need arise. It was very quiet, except at the end when two police women were escorted to their cars just as the lights were turned back on.

Whenever HB CERT is called, there are always volunteers ready to respond.



Team Announcements:

Farmer's Market Booth at the HB Pier

By Roy Alzua, Booth Team Leader

Volunteers Linda Vircks and Robert McElhiney are shown spreading the word about upcoming HB CERT training and other disaster preparedness activities. Not shown are volunteers Roy Alzua, Julia Heng, Bill Worth, and Raji Shunmugavel who handed out HB CERT materials at the Huntington Beach Pier last March.

The activity enables us to inform our community about the life-saving training provided by CERT and to invite them to join us. Volunteers also enjoy a festive day greeting many of our neighbors, friends and tourists attracted to the Farmer's Market. In fact, our brightly-colored jackets seem to attract people to us so that we also serve as unofficial Surf City Greeters and provide visitor information.



All CERT members are invited to join the Booth Team in this important community awareness activity. Volunteers may select a convenient two-hour shift during the 11am-5 pm activity on the second Friday of each month. **If you are interested in**

participating, contact Roy Alzua at roy_alzua@yahoo.com

A Grandmother's Story by Deb Herriot

I was fortunate enough to be part of the Charter CERT graduation group. It was such a great program that I insisted that my husband and two children go through the training. They reluctantly agreed even though they had other plans for their Saturdays. The training paid off.

On Feb. 15 of this year, a fire broke out in the apartment building in Southeast Denver where my daughter, Rebecca, now lives with her two boys. The fire started on the first floor and rapidly reached the third floor apartment which Rebecca, Travis (11) and Jacob (6) occupied. When Travis felt the door to the hallway, he nearly burned his hand. Boy Scout training told him that they couldn't exit that way. The only other escape route was to climb over their patio and jump down to the second floor. With the occupants still in that apartment, Becky lowered Jacob down into their waiting arms. She and Travis quickly jumped over. Unfortunately, they all had to run down the inside hallway on the second floor and down to an exit on the first floor. The smoke filled both hallways but that was the only way to escape.

Later, Rebecca told me that it was the CERT Light Search and Rescue class that taught her how to save loved ones in a fire. She just wasn't expecting to have to save her own children from a fire. The training helped her keep a cool head and all three made it out safely. Their apartment was a total loss due to smoke damage and asbestos contamination, but they were all safe.

THANK YOU CERT volunteers who selflessly do the training each month!

Getting To Know Your Management Team

Peter Petrelis, CERT First Vice-President for 2009

By Virginia Petrelis



Peter Petrelis, the son of Greek immigrants, grew up on a farm in Tulare, California. He spent four years in the Navy where he learned electronics which inspired him to go to college and become an electronic engineer. He worked almost 30 years in the

aerospace industry, first at Bell Labs in New Jersey and then at TRW in El Segundo. He and his wife, Virginia, bought a home in Huntington Beach in 1966. They also purchased rental units which Virginia managed while Peter worked long hours at TRW.

Always juggling several interests in the 1980's, Peter and a friend, in their spare time, started purchasing and tearing down old Manhattan Beach houses to design and build luxury homes on the lots. He retired from TRW planning to continue speculating in the housing market. When the market went into a slump, he started a home automation business installing computer-controlled security, landscape lighting, HVAC, and phone systems in the South Bay area as well as in Beverly Hills. Always at his side, Virginia and her team of two other ladies learned how to drill holes, run low voltage wires, build electronic boards and install phone jacks while Peter and his two male technicians did the heavy work and installed the electronics.

In the 1990's, Peter went back into engineering consulting and soon began working full time for Hughes/Boeing while winding down his home automation business. He finally retired from engineering in 2003. Then, with a little more time on his hands, he and Virginia attended the first HB CERT class. They were very impressed and thought they had found an interesting niche. They graduated in 2005 and joined several teams. Peter is leader of the Marketing team which is working to increase active HB CERT membership. He is also a member of the Care and Shelter, Logistics, Clerical, Newsletter Editing, Communications, Light Search and Rescue, and Command Post teams

Virginia continues to stay by his side, preferring to work in the background. They love to travel and enjoy yearly family boating vacations at Bass Lake with their daughter, Georgia, four grandchildren and many of their friends. HB CERT has enriched their lives by keeping them very active, enabling them to learn new skills, and introducing them to several very good friends and travel buddies.



Upcoming Events

May 7, 2009-6:00PM: Management Meeting, open to all HB Disaster Service Workers

May 16, 2009 7:45 AM –noon Save-A-Life Class at Civic Center

June 20, 2009 7:45 AM –noon Save-A-Life Class at the Fire Training Center

*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. Dates are listed below. To enroll in CPR classes, call 800-400-4277.

Wednesday, May 13th from 6:00pm to 9:00PM

Saturday, May 30th from 9:30am to 12:30pm

Saturday, June 6th from 9:30am to 12:30pm

Wednesday, June 24th from 5:30pm to 9:30PM
Wednesday, July 8 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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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.

