

CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT NEWSLETTER

August 2008

SINCE 1991

Southern California Gets a 5.4 Wake Up Call

By Brevyn Mettler

On July 29, 2008, at 11:42, the ground shook throughout Southern California as we experienced a 5.4 earthquake on the Peralta Hills Fault in Chino Hills. After the shaking stopped, the Civic Center was immediately evacuated until it was determined safe by the City Engineer. In the aftermath of the earthquake, City employees went into response mode.



Before evacuating the EOC you could hear the radios come to life ordering all Engine and Truck Companies to initiate their windshield surveys. Windshield surveys are designated routes that responders travel to check on key city infrastructure. A police lieutenant, who was walking by the EOC, contacted HB-1 informing them of the events that had just unfolded and ordering them to look for any obvious damage. In addition, Public Works and Utilities personnel began checking the cities water and sewer systems, reservoirs, transmission lines, bridges, and lift stations for any damage.

Shortly after the earthquake, many discovered that phones and cell phones did not work for almost an hour. Almost immediately, RACES personnel began checking in on the net and reporting their status. This was crucial, because if the phones had stayed down much longer they would have been needed to check on schools, and city facilities to determine their status. Within a few hours, responders completed their assessments and normal operations resumed.

The response was well coordinated as if it was a training exercise and fortunately there was no damage or injuries. However, this earthquake serves as a great reminder that we should be prepared for every type of disaster. We live in an earthquake prone area and it or any other major disaster can happen at any time.

To ensure that your family is prepared for such an

emergency, you should do the following:

- Have a family disaster plan
- 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

TsunamiReady

Glorria Morrison, Emergency Services Coordinator

On Tuesday, June 17, the Orange County Board of Supervisors recognized the Emergency Managers from the County and all six coastal cities in Orange County for the achievement in completing the National Weather Service *StormReady* and *TsunamiReady* programs. Orange County has become the first countywide effort in the nation to earn the Weather Service honor.

Orange County and its coastal cities have completed NOAA's National Weather Service *StormReady* and *TsunamiReady* programs, better equipping the county to handle severe weather and



tsunamis. The Emergency Managers fulfilled a rigorous set of warning and evacuation criteria, including the development of formal plans. "Orange County is vulnerable to tsunamis and severe weather due to its location on the coast," said Jim Purpura, meteorologist-in-charge of the weather forecast office in San Diego. "As the second most populous county in the state of California, and the fifth most populous in the United States, the likelihood of the public encountering a tsunami or severe weather is greatly increased. Public awareness and preparedness are essential."



HB CERT HIGHLIGHTS

CERT Graduation
October 11, 2008

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CLASS 1



“On a busy summer day, Huntington Beach can have upwards of 150,000 people on the beaches and there are 60,000 residents living in the tsunami inundation zone. Due to the large numbers, warning and evacuating those in danger is a difficult task. In 2007, when the City completed its Tsunami Response Plan, I trained more than 120 employees to manage the response to a tsunami.

We have several important systems in place that all residents and visitors to the city should be aware of including:

- Warning Siren System – there are sirens located at seven of the eight fire stations (we are working towards getting one at the Edwards Fire Station). Sirens are tested the first Friday of each month at noon. When the sirens are sounded, it tells you to turn on your AM/FM radio.
- The Emergency Alerting System – you should tune your AM/FM radio to KWVE at 107.9 FM. This is the primary station for Orange County. They will announce the emergency and instructions that the public should take.
- Connect-CTY/RapidNotify – The County of Orange has purchased a mass notification system that is being implemented over the next several months. This system will phone residents with a recorded instruction message.

Orange County cities that completed the TsunamiReady program are Huntington Beach, Dana Point, San Clemente, Newport Beach, Seal Beach and Laguna Beach.

To be recognized as TsunamiReady and StormReady, a community must:

- Establish a 24-hour warning point (the HBPD) and an Emergency Operations Center
- Have more than one way to receive tsunami and severe weather warnings and forecasts to alert the public
- Create a system that monitors local weather conditions
- Promote the importance of disaster preparedness and readiness through

- community education
- Develop formal flood and tsunami plans which include training severe weather spotters
- Hold emergency exercises

Response to disasters is everyone's responsibility. Educating yourself and your family on the hazards, maintaining a Grab 'n Go Bag and having an emergency plan in place, are all proactive ways you can be better prepared. Make sure your children's school is prepared to respond to an emergency.

The TsunamiReady and StormReady programs are part of NOAA National Weather Service's working partnership with the International Association of Emergency Managers, the National Emergency Management Association and the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program.

The President's Message

By Ron Roth



I know that you have heard the old saying, "How time flies when you are having fun." This is certainly true this summer as I look at the calendar and see that we are in the month of August. For some, school will begin in a few weeks, which may be too soon. Hopefully, you have

had an opportunity to take a vacation and enjoy the time with family and friends, even though the price of gas and most other essentials are much higher than last year.

The fifth Save-A-Life Saturday class was a Drill Your Skills class. It was at the Fire Training Center, 18301 Gothard Street, Huntington Beach. Participation offered an opportunity to practice all the skills they had learned in the previous classes to respond to an emergency. They learned how to set up a Command Post and manage an emergency incident. This was the last class held at the Training Center this year.

In order to graduate this year, you will have had to complete all six classes by September 20 and have a current CPR certification. If you have missed one or more classes, you can take the classes you missed next year and graduate in 2009. If you need to take a CPR class, FireMed customers can take the class for free. If you are not a member of FireMed, the classes are available for a fee of \$30.

Please be extra cautious when school begins in the next few weeks. We want the school year to be a safe learning experience for our children.

In Memory of a Beloved Volunteer

By Juanita Walker, CERT Secretary



The Huntington Beach CERT Community mourns the loss of one of its finest volunteers, **Jim Hicks**.

Jim completed his CERT training in 1996 and was very active in our program for several years. He was a

member of several teams

including the Senior Response, Sandbag, Logistics, Shelter and Communications Teams. All CERT Volunteers are trained in these skills at a minimal level. Jim went to the next level taking some specialized training to belong to these teams. He was also the recipient of several awards. In 1999 he received the Good Samaritan award, in 2000 he was awarded the Most Inspirational Volunteer and, in 2001 he was an MVP.

In addition to his work with CERT, Jim was an active member of the American Red Cross for over 25 years. He volunteered with their Disaster Communications Team and also on their Disaster Action Team. He was a regular responder to small incidents both day and night. Jim had a long history with the Red Cross Blood Services division helping with blood drives and donating blood himself to help save the lives of others. Shortly before his death, Jim had participated in a May Day event where he assisted with the event set-up, parking control and communications.

Jim had a great sense of humor and was a sweet and gentle soul. He was loved by many and will be sorely missed.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jim's family and we hope they are comforted by the thought that he is now with his beloved wife whom he cared for before she preceded him into the next life.

Special Memories of Jim Hicks

I can remember working with Jim on so many projects...

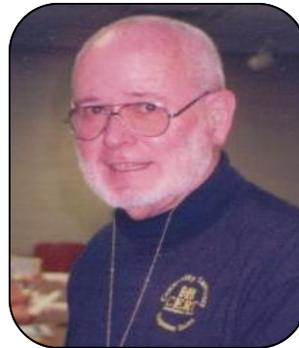
- *About 5 years ago Jim took the lead in getting his mobile home park prepared to respond to a disaster. I conducted a presentation for the neighborhood followed by First Aid and Light Search & Rescue training. Victor Lockoff, a CERT Member in the park helped Jim put together supplies. The entire neighborhood worked together to prepare under the direction of Jim.*
- *I worked with Jim, Cecil Wright and Walt White in developing the City's Flood Management Plan which met the FEMA flood criteria. Jim, a retired CalTrans employee, brought his*

expertise to the group. He represented all the mobile home parks in the city.

- *The Department of Defense put on terrorism training for the City in 2000. We had 12 classes going on for a week at the Fire Training Center and had invited city personnel and public safety personnel from all over the county. Every day for a week, Jim set up first thing in the morning, picked up food for all the instructors' lunches and cleaned up after class attendees. He worked tirelessly to help the City put on the classes.*
- *Jim was in charge of the Sanitation class at the outdoor sheltering class called Disaster Living. No one wanted to take on this subject, so Jim surprised us all and developed the best Sanitation class I had ever seen.*
- *In 1997/98 during the El Nino winter, Jim Hicks and Dick White decided to become sandbaggers for the disabled and elderly. They were both 70 years old and decided that someday they may get old and need help so they wanted to help the elderly. They used to come into the EOC and show me their muscles. Both had developed large biceps and went around flexing their muscles all winter long.*

Jim lived his life like a saint. He volunteered and volunteered and then volunteered some more. We can all learn from this beloved hero. Jim Hicks will be missed by all.

-Glorria Morrison



HAMS and the OC Fair

By Raji Shunmugavel

(KG6CCB) The Amateur Radio Booth located in the Orange County Building at the Orange County Fair was staffed by volunteers from several organizations. I signed up to work 6:30 PM-11:00 PM on two evenings. The experience was fun and rewarding. Peter Brats, Huntington Beach RACES, and I worked as a team. Peter presented an exhibition of high tech equipment, while I demonstrated Morse Code. The visitors to the booth enjoyed their hands-on experience. If you have a chance to volunteer at the fair next year and share your knowledge with others, you will find the experience enjoyable.

Upcoming Events

- September 20, Disaster Living
- October 11, CERT Banquet
- November 13, Great Southern California Shakeout Exercise

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

* Fire Med customers can take classes for free and non-FireMed customers can take classes for a fee of \$30. For a schedule call 800-400-4277.

HB CERT Newsletter Staff

Editor: Brevyn Mettler

Contributing Writers:

Glorria Morrison

Ron Roth

Juanita Walker

Tara Twitty

Bill Worth

Raji Shunmugavel

Proof Readers:

Anna Pinter

Virginia Petrelis

Peter Petrelis

Carol Nehls

Art Weiland

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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4th of July Parade

By Bill Worth, CERT DSW Manager

CERT participation in the Huntington Beach 4th of July parade was a success. The Huntington Beach Fire Department CERT volunteers, City employees, friends and family members arrived early to decorate the trucks, wear the red, white and blue and unfurl the banners and flags.

We were in line early to celebrate the 104th year of the HB parade. CERT honored volunteers of the year: Virginia Petrelis, Peter Petrelis, and Bill Worth.

Participants were: Roy Alzua, Al Collins, Miriam Daugherty, John Fort, Ursula Hartunian, Kim Louie, Miguel Munoz, Kimberly Munoz, Kelly Munoz, Peter Petrelis, Virginia Petrelis, Anna Pinter, Art Weiland, Karin Reed, Ron Roth, Sharhira Naqshbandy, Penni Grace, Corinne Neal, Debbi Scoccia, Glorria Morrison, Taylor Groscost, Brevyn Mettler, Larysa Oprya, Joe Tom, Romona Gonzalez, Dawn Longwith, Ms. DeBussey and Bill Worth.

I urge everyone to participate in the Huntington Beach 4th of July parade in 2009. Our primary goal is to make people aware of CERT and our mission statement is to provide information, training on disaster preparedness, provide leadership and assist victims to recover from an emergency.

CERT-I-FIED thank you:

- Huntington Beach Fire Department, Chief Brown and Captain Simpson
- Bill Demarest of Delillo Chevrolet of Huntington Beach for loan of two Avalanche trucks.

OUTDOOR SHELTERING, COOKING, WATER STORAGE, CARING FOR SENIORS & PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST AID

By Tara Ann Twitty

Outdoor sheltering, cooking, water storage, caring for seniors and psychological first aid are five major elements you should know to get you through a manmade or natural disaster.

The CERT Care and Shelter Team will have Disaster Living on Saturday, September 20, 2008 at 8:00 AM in the City Council Chamber and adjoining grassy area. CERT students will learn to live and cook outdoors.

You will learn how and where to set up an outdoor shelter in a disaster. Whether in a neighborhood, local park or school yard, you will have to care for yourself, family and neighbors until the American Red Cross (ARC) sets up indoor shelters. Tips will be provided on psychological first aid for traumatized people. The CERT Cooking Team will be preparing a delicious meal and dessert on site for all participants.

Farmers' Market Report

By Bill Worth

The July CERT booth was at the Farmers' Market on July 11. We handed out 505 packets of disaster preparedness information. This brings our total packets distributed for this year to 3,294. Hopefully, people will take action on the information and save lives.

Volunteers participating were: Cherie Smith, Amie McClary, Ron Roth, Linda Vircks, Raji Shunmugavel, Roy Alzua, Richard Batistelli and Corrine Neal.

The citizens of Huntington Beach and CERT really appreciate the efforts of these CERT volunteers.

Please call Bill Worth at the CERT line if you want to volunteer at the next CERT booth. (714) 536-5974

Warren Yamashita Graduates

By Glorria Morrison

CERT would like to congratulate **Warren Yamashita** who graduated from Huntington Beach High School as a "**Scholar with Distinction.**"

We are all proud of Warren and his accomplishments. Warren started the first High School CERT Club ever. He reported to CERT that he is going to attend USC this fall and major in environmental studies. He is very excited to finally be leaving home for the first time and going out into the world.

Warren sent me the following note, "Thank you and CERT for all you have done to help me prepare for emergencies and disasters. Hopefully, my brothers will be able to go through the CERT program as well. "

Get Your Neighborhood Disaster Prepared



Five Easy Steps:

- Find a place to host an hour long presentation (Hall, Home, Recreation Room, Church, Business or School)
- Determine a convenient date and time
- Call the CERT Message Line with your contact information and the date and time you have determined (give us at least 3 weeks notice)
- Distribute the reminder notice and flyer which we will provide
- Provide simple refreshments to be enjoyed at the end of the meeting. we will even bring door prizes

Contact:

Judy Ann Morris

714-536-5974 - CERT Message Line

714-536-8595 - Home

jamorris189@yahoo.com

(Please put CERT in subject line)



CLASS 1

Presented by
Huntington Beach Fire Department
Community Emergency Response Team
(CERT)

