

CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT NEWSLETTER

September 2009

SINCE 1991



HB CERT HIGHLIGHTS

CERT 2009
Save-A-Life
Saturday Classes

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CLASS 1

IMPORTANT NOTICE--City of Huntington Beach and CERT are "Going Green"

For those of you who currently receive our newsletter by email, there will be little change. You will receive an email alert and there will be a hyperlink to the CERT website when the latest newsletter is available on-line.

For those who do not receive the newsletter by email, you can go to the CERT website: www.surfcity-hb.org/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.

This change in our program will allow us to direct our resources toward CERT training and public education.



President's Message
By Judy Ann Morris

I am starting my article with the PREPAREDNESS TASK FOR SEPTEMBER!

NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR is CERT's primary mission. We know that in a major disaster the first responder to come to your aid will be your neighbors or co-workers. As members of Huntington Beach CERT, we need to start a new campaign "Neighbor Telling Neighbor." In a disaster, 85% of the first

responders to help you are your neighbors. Asking your neighbors to join you for a one hour CERT meeting in your home on "personal and family preparedness" would be a giant step for our City to be disaster prepared.

The Speakers Bureau will set up a convenient time for your meeting. It generally will take an hour or so of your time to invite your neighbors. We have invitations that you can use to remind people of the date and we will bring the door prize along with printed material for everyone. The CERT Speaker Bureau leader is Carol Burtis. Please contact either Carol Burtis or myself, Judy Ann, to set up dates that will work for your neighborhood.

The CERT Speakers Bureau is trained, prepared, and ready to talk. If you need a speaker for your community group, church, business or neighborhood, please call to set a date with our team.

Contact Carol: pburtis@compuserve.com or 714-841-0204

Contact Judy Ann Morris: jamorris189@yahoo.com or 714-536-8595 (put CERT in the subject line). We have presentations for groups that can be from 30 minutes to an hour depending on your agenda.

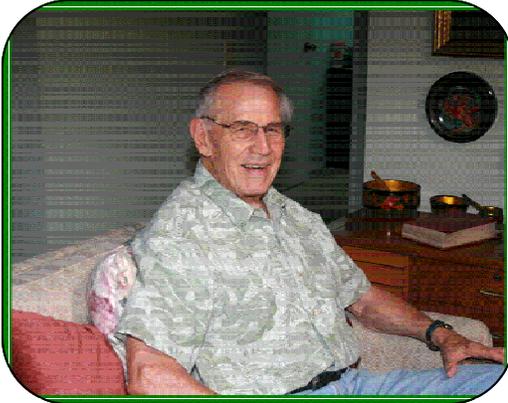
Another team requesting more work is the CERT Booth Team. The Booth Team is a wonderful group of volunteers that will go to any Huntington Beach civic event, business, or community fair, and set up an information booth for free. These dedicated volunteers with their great team leader, Roy Alzua, have handed out thousands of Disaster Preparedness Public Information packets to Huntington Beach residents. Roy has shown himself to be an energetic and dedicated leader over this past year. If you would like to talk to Roy about coming to your next event, please contact him at roy-alzua@yahoo.com or 714-964-3870

I am really looking forward to our 2009 Graduation and Awards on Saturday, September 19th. We will be issuing ID Cards, explaining how you can continue to contribute to CERT, honoring our Graduates, recognizing our outstanding CERT members and having a lunch, prepared by our cooking team. It will be a jam packed day with a lot of great food, excitement, and CERT Fun!!!

Star of the Month – Steve Belich

By Juanita Walker

The CERT Management Team has selected Steve Belich for this honor, because of his many years of service to CERT.



Steve is the leader of the group that prepares the Newsletter for mailing and has been its leader for the last 15 years.

Steve has been in CERT since shortly after its inception and on the Newsletter Team since it began.

I do not know how many newsletters were being distributed when the Newsletter was first published, but when I joined the Team some 13 years ago we were distributing 4,000 Newsletters and it took two days to get it assembled and ready for mailing.

Steve's job was to coordinate all of this, which meant calling the individuals that worked on two crews (some of us worked the Thursday shift, some the Friday shift, and some worked both days). He coordinated with the print shop, the mailroom, the EOC, and the Post Office to make sure we had all the supplies we needed to accomplish our task. For many years he even had to deliver the newsletters to the Post Office.

Steve is a quiet unassuming individual and a Korean-era Vet. He is tall, slender, wears a ball cap and dark glasses, and tries to be invisible.

When I talked to him about this article, he said that he wanted to thank all of the people who have worked on the Newsletter Assembly Team over the years and in particular those who are currently working in the crew: Ray Barak (and sometimes his sister Patti from Arizona), Harvey Levin, Bruce Bailey, Billie Kennedy, Margie Warnitz, Raji Shunmugavel, Sue Watts, Juanita Foster, and myself.

The City going green and using electronic mail is a good thing for the environment, but this group will look back fondly on our efforts to spread the word of CERT's mission. I'm not sure how successful we were, but we had a good time trying.

As for Steve, he will probably be spending more time in Thailand. He has a friend (Dave) who flies airplanes there. He and Dave have been friends for 45 years and have done a lot flying together. Steve has been a certified pilot since 1969.

Congratulations Steve, and **Thanks** for all you have done for CERT and for the Newsletter Team.

GOOD NEWS!

Governor Schwarzenegger Signs "Good Samaritan" Bill

On August 6, 2009, California Governor Schwarzenegger signed Assembly Bill 83 (Feuer/Benoit.) The bill encourages individuals to act as "Good Samaritans," and voluntarily help rescue others in peril. The legislation went into effect immediately.

The legislation by Republican Sen. John Benoit of Riverside expands legal protections for providing any emergency care, not just medical care.

The second bill, by Democratic Assemblyman Mike Feuer of Los Angeles, shields anyone assisting at the scene of an emergency unless they act recklessly.

"Now Good Samaritans have no reason to hesitate to responsibly help someone in an emergency out of fear that they might be sued," Feuer said.

A big thank you to Assemblyman Feuer and all supporters for acting quickly to fix a law that threatened to penalize citizens who take action in an emergency to help others.



The Great California ShakeOut Drill 2009 400,000 to 'drop' in O.C. earthquake drill

Posted by Gary Robbins, science writer-editor,
Orange County Register.

There's going to be a sizable encore to last fall's Great Southern California ShakeOut, the largest earthquake safety drill in American history.

State and community officials are hoping that as many as 10 million people participate in the next drill, which has been expanded to include central and northern California. Participants are being asked to "drop, cover and hold on" when the exercise is held at 10:15 a.m. on October 15.

The state says that about 386,000 people in Orange County already have signed up to participate in this year's drill, which will follow last year's scenario — a magnitude 7.8 earthquake on the southern San Andreas fault. Registration is expected to soar when schools resume classes for the fall.

The drill is meant to prepare people to respond to the type of quake that seismologists say could kill hundreds in Orange County and injure thousands.

To register: Go to www.shakeout.org. Everyone can participate.

How HB CERT is participating:

We are participating in the Golden West College drill on Thursday **October 15**. Up to twenty volunteers are required to portray disabled or unconscious victims of a major earthquake at the college. The drill will take place that morning, although the exact time is yet to be determined. If you are interested, contact Carol Burtis at 714-847-0204 or email Carol at pburtis@compuserve.com.

On Saturday, **October 17** we will have a Command Post drill under the direction of Bill Worth. If interested, call Bill Worth at 714-839-5726 or email abworth1@aol.com.

Play the ShakeOut Game

A challenging computer educational game called "Play Beat the Quake" can be found at www.shakeout.org. The challenge is to secure all the objects in a room before the earthquake occurs. You will learn the proper method for securing an object to sustain an earthquake.

JOB WELL DONE!

The Fire Extinguisher and Hazard Mitigation Class was a Huge Success!

Thanks to the efforts of:

- **Fire Safety in the Home** – Captain Brian Springer, HBFD
- **Fire Extinguisher Training** – Manny Vizinho and Ron Roth
- **Hazard Mitigation** – Al Collins & Judy Ann Morris
- **Communications** – John Fort and Jim Hansen
- **Communications Color Team**
- **Registration Team**



Upcoming Events

- **September 3, 2009-6:00PM: Management Meeting in the EOC open to all HB CERT Members**
- **September 19, 2009 7:45 AM –1:00PM CERT Graduation and Awards**

*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, September 9, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm
- Saturday, October 10, from 9:30am to 12:30pm
- Wednesday, October 14, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm
- Saturday, November 21, from 9:30am to 12:30pm
- Wednesday, December 9, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm

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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Attention!

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



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Huntington Beach, CA 92648

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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.