CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

CERT NEWSLETTER

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HB CERT

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CLASS 1

President's Message

By Peter Petrelis

July Events:

Annual participation in the 4th of July Parade was the start of a very busy July for CERT. Paul LaGreek coordinated this year's event. Marchers in the parade included: Melisse Bridges, Stephanie Deagle, Brad and Cheryl Matsunaga, Susan McClaran, Heidi and Eric Ross and their two daughters, Raji Shunmugavel, Pat Smith, Linda Vollmer and her son. As part of an expanding activity for CERT, Richard Batistelli, 1st Vice-President, and Mike Reyes, DSW Manager, staffed a First Aid Booth at the end of the parade.

Staffing of the First Aid Booth at the US Open of Surfing by CERT members was again coordinated by Mike Reyes, DSW Manager. The event started Saturday, July 20. My wife, Virginia, and I covered a shift Monday, July 22 and it was a pleasant experience. Cert again did a spectacular job attending to more than 500 injuries. Many attendees stopped by our first aid station to inquire about our activity and to thank us for our service. Thank you Mike and team! Photos are included in this issue of the newsletter.

We deviated from our 2013 monthly General Membership Training Meeting format to hold a General Membership Planning Meeting July 11. This was necessary due to the upcoming US Open and events in September, since we did not hold a membership meeting in August.

The July 11 General Membership Planning Meeting helped staff the nine days of the CERT First Aid Booth, and kick started the "Map Your Neighborhood" planning effort led by Mike Depin, 2nd CERT Vice-President. Booth and logistic support volunteers were solicited for the September 7 Senior Saturday Pier Plaza event and for the September 21 annual Disaster Preparedness EXPO at the Central Library. Membership support was excellent for these events.

August Events:

The National Night Out Against Crime event was held at the Huntington Beach Target Brookhurst store on August 6, 2013. Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of this event were the Huntington Beach Police Department, Police Department's mascot, Officer McGruff, the Police Department's RSVPs, VIPS and Neighborhood Watch. CERT and RACES had a joint booth and handed out about 175 packets of information. It was a fun and informative evening for all the family.

Upcoming Events:

September 7, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Be sure to join the fun at the Silver Anniversary of HBCOA's (Huntington Beach Council On Aging) annual Senior Saturday Community Festival. at beautiful Pier Plaza. They will have 75 booths for your enjoyment and will once again be offering a continental breakfast for $2 and a hot dog lunch for $2. This is a great way to see what is available for seniors here in Huntington Beach. There will be free entertainment all day and shuttle service to and from Rodgers Seniors' Center and City Hall. Look for the HBCOA booth and pick-up an important brochure on scams and identity theft.

The new meeting format introduced in April this year placed emphasis on training using guest speakers and has been very successful in bringing out the membership. In the past, we found planning meetings were important to the CERT organization. Beginning with the September 12 General Membership Meeting, the Agenda will commence at 6:30pm in B8. Brevyn Mettler, Emergency Services Coordinator, will present five to ten minutes of newsworthy items, followed by a guest speaker or training for 60 to 75 minutes. If required, there will be an additional 30 minutes of planning and volunteering for future events.

September 12, 2013, 6:30 pm The General Membership Meeting will feature guest speakers from NOAA presenting information on weather monitoring, tsunamis and issues. This meeting will be very interesting and educational. Please plan on attending.

September 21, 2013, 10 am to 2 pm Disaster Preparedness Expo at the Huntington Beach Library. See attached flyer for details.

November 9, **2013** Disaster Living and Drill Your Skills refresher training. (Note the change of date from November 16.) The current 2013 basic CERT training did not include some of the previous years' Disaster Living topics. We expect new 2013 class members and existing members will gain new skills by attending this class.

Chemical Emergency Preparedness
By Virginia Petrelis

Remember, earthquakes in California are not the only disaster that we might encounter. Chemicals are a part of our everyday life and make it possible to live more enjoyable lives by keeping our food fresh, our bodies clean, our plants growing and our cars fueled. However, under certain conditions, chemicals can be poisonous or have harmful effects on our health. Accidents do happen at home and in the community. Even though we may not see or smell anything unusual, we could be exposed to a chemical in three ways:

- Breathing the chemical
- Swallowing contaminated food, water, or medication
- Touching the chemical or coming in contact with clothing or items that have touched the chemical

Chemicals can be found in our kitchens, medicine cabinets, basements and garages. In fact, most chemical accidents occur in our homes. A chemical accident could occur by not following instructions, adding one substance to another, improper storage or disposal of a chemical. A few precautions can help you avoid many chemical emergencies.

Avoid mixing chemicals, even common household products. Ammonia and bleach mixed together can cause a toxic gas.

Always follow instructions when touching the product by wearing gloves, using eye protection and avoiding the use of a chemical in a confined space.

Store products safely, tightly sealed in the original containers so you can identify the product and how to use it properly. Better yet, don't store chemicals in the home, only buy the amount you think you will use. (See below for proper disposal)

Beware of fire. Never smoke while using household chemicals. Don't use hairspray, cleaning solutions, paint products, or pesticides near the open flame of an appliance or the pilot light. Don't use chemicals near a lighted candle, fireplace, wood burning stove, etc. Although you may not be able to see or smell them, vapor particles in the air could catch fire or explode.

Clean up spills immediately with rags, being careful to protect your eyes and skin. Allow the fumes from the rags to evaporate outdoors in a safe place then wrap them in newspaper and place the bundle in a sealed plastic bag. Dispose of the materials with your trash. If you don't already have one, purchase a fire extinguisher labeled for A, B, and C Class fires, and keep it handy.

The most common home chemical emergencies involve small children eating medicine. Keep all medicines, cosmetics, cleaning products, and other household chemicals out of sight and out of reach of children. Experts suggest that doing so could eliminate up to 75% of all poisoning of small children.

If someone in your home does eat or drink a non-food substance, find the container it came in and take it with you to the phone. Call the Poison Control Center (1-800-222-1222), or 9-1-1, or call the operator and tell them exactly what your child ingested. Follow their instructions carefully. Be aware that the first aid instructions found on the product package may not be appropriate so do not give anything by mouth until you have talked to a professional.

Dispose of unused chemicals properly. Improper disposal can result in harm to yourself or members of your family, accidentally contaminate our local water supply, or harm other people or wildlife.

Many household chemicals can be taken to a local household hazardous waste collection facility. Many facilities accept pesticides, fertilizers, household cleaners, oil based paints, drain and pool cleaners, antifreeze and brake fluid. Some products can be recycled which is better for our environment. In Huntington Beach, Rainbow Environmental Services operates a hazardous waste facility located at 17121 Nichols Lane, Gate 6. They are open Tuesday through Saturday 9 am to 3 pm. The Huntington Beach Police Department also has a bin in their lobby where you can dispose of unused medicines.

Community Chemical Emergency

If an accident involving hazardous materials occurs, you will be notified by the authorities as to what steps to take. You may hear a siren, be called by telephone, or emergency personnel may drive by and give instructions over a loudspeaker. Officials may even come to your door. If you hear a warning siren, you should go indoors and listen to a local Emergency Alert System (EAS) radio or TV station for emergency instructions from county or state officials. In Orange County, 107.9 KWVE is the primary broadcast station for all EAS messages. Follow the instructions of the authorities carefully. They know best how to protect you and your family.

If you are to "Shelter in Place," go inside, close all windows and vents and turn off all fans, heating or cooling systems. Take family members and pets to a safe room, seal windows and doors, and listen to emergency broadcast stations for instructions.

If you are told to evacuate immediately, follow your *Family Disaster Plan.* Take your "*Grab-n-Go" bag* packed with essentials such as medicines, and leave your home quickly. Follow the traffic route authorities recommend. Don't take short cuts on the way to the shelter.

If you find someone who seems to have been injured from a chemical exposure, make sure you are not in danger before administering first aid.

Lastly, remember the best way to protect yourself and your family is to be prepared.

For more information, see the American Red Cross Website at: http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/chemical-emergency

Phone Scam Alert

A New Phone Scam that is Spreading around Huntington Beach

(True story from one of our local seniors)

HERE IS THE SCAM:

"You have just won 3I7 million dollars, just call this number and let us do a back ground check on you." One of our seniors actually received this call.

DIRECTIONS:

HANG UP THE PHONE – DO NOT CALL BACK!!!

Yes, this is a scam, when you call back and give them information even a phone call will provide them with your name and phone number (caller ID) and leave you vulnerable to all kinds of fraud. It is up to you to take precautions and not give any information to someone you don't know.

Is Your Child Protected in Case of Disaster During School Hours?

By Judy Ann Morris

School Days are almost here! Does your child's (or grandchild's) school have an emergency plan? This is where one person can make a difference. Ask to see the disaster supplies, emergency plan and inquire if they practice disaster drills during the year.

Each classroom should have a large trash can or container with supplies for each child (brought from their home). We want to keep it simple, inexpensive, something that the children will like and will comfort them.

Example for a least a 72 hour kit:

FOOD & WATER

- Food bars, fruit rollups, or snack bars
- Water boxes with straws (make sure you put these in plastic bags in case of leaks)

SHELTER

- A foil blanket (space blanket)

LIGHTING & COMMUNICATION

- Light sticks, maybe a crank or solar light
- A letter from you with pictures.
- Also a reminder of your reunion plan and who will pick up the child if it isn't you.

FIRST AID

- Depending on age: bandages, dust mask, vinyl gloves and tissues
- Wet wipes
- Hand sanitizer

PACKAGING

- Try to keep the supplies small enough to fit in a lunchbox size container

Don't just stand by, make a difference! This is a great project for the school PTA.

Weather Spotters

By Anna Pinter

Weather spotters are volunteers who are trained to form a first line of defense against severe weather. These citizens add ground truth information to supplement remote sensing technology. "Ground truth" is a term used to refer to information collected on location. "Remote sensing" is the collection of information on a particular phenomenon without making any physical contact. Remote sensing is a modern term used to refer to aerial sensor technology such as signals emitted from aircraft or satellites. Doppler radar was introduced to provide more precise storm details. Weather spotter volunteers are the eyes to help what radar can't see.

Trainees attend classes taught in their communities. The classes are free and are usually taught by representatives of the National Weather Service (NWS). The classes are usually utilized by anyone who has responsibility for protecting others or individuals wanting to serve their community as volunteers.

Weather patterns, cloud formations and condition predictions are a few of the key points a trained spotter can relay by observing a specific location. The spotter will report to the local NWS office. In the midst of an event, a spotter calls or emails specific weather conditions taking place in real time. The information provides a line of sight meteorologists do not have and is badly needed. Remote sensing is very important but does not always predict accurately how an event may unfold. Spotters on the site can report the event by making contact through sight. As an example of a changing weather pattern where spotters are very important is when a deadly tornado is racing towards an area and the only warning for citizens may be a local weather spotter volunteer.

People who are afraid of severe weather can benefit from the classes. Fear of severe weather is very common because people cannot predict what's going to happen. They feel out of control and helpless. When one learns the signs of impending weather, this knowledge provides peace and gives them knowledge to control their fears.

In the future, lives will be saved with improvements on research, warning time and detection of severe weather.

www.noaa.gov

Interesting websites http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/sgx/newsletter/current-newsletter.pdf

http://www.erh.noaa.gov/iln/SkyScoop/Issue12.pdf

www.weather.gov

www.wrh.noaa.gov/sgx

25th Annual Senior Saturday Community Festival Showcases Products and Services for Seniors and Families

The Huntington Beach Council on Aging (HBCOA) is proud to announce its 25th Annual "Senior Saturday Community Festival" to be held at beautiful Pier Plaza in downtown Huntington Beach, on **Saturday, September 7, 2013,** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Senior Saturday is the largest Senior Expo in Orange County that is free to the public.

With an estimated 10,000 people visiting Pier Plaza every Saturday, thousands of people attend the event and take away valuable information on products and services geared to Baby Boomers and the new active aging population. Seniors and their families enjoy the morning and afternoon together amid a festive atmosphere of entertainment, food and special attractions.

"It was very helpful, it gave me an opportunity to win a TV, they have raffles here, we enjoy coming down and it's a nice day. The information is very useful, we go through it when we go home - my wife and I always come down here every year," stated visitor Bob Rivas at last year's **Senior Saturday**.

The **Senior Saturday Community Festival** is an outstanding venue for new and established businesses to reach the Baby Boomers, seniors, their friends and family, beach goers, and the general public. The mission of the HBCOA is to work with elected officials, City staff, and volunteers to respond to the evolving needs of Huntington Beach senior citizens through advocacy and direct action on their behalf. Money raised goes back directly into needed senior services, such as emergency response buttons, care management, and active aging programs at Rodgers Seniors' Center.

Alert OC

On September 24, 2013, the City of Huntington Beach will be participating in the third annual test of the County's regional mass notification system. This year more than two million Orange County residents will receive a call at 10 a.m. The test will be held in conjunction with National Preparedness Month, and will replicate a large scale, multi-jurisdictional emergency requiring thousands of numbers to be called simultaneously across 22 cities and unincorporated areas. The phone message will urge all residents to prepare for real-life emergencies by registering their contact information at www.AlertOC.com for the best chance to receive vital, timely information when away from home.

The key feature of AlertOC is the ability for residents to register more than one contact method at a specific address. This enables landlines, cell phones and e-mail addresses to be incorporated into a single notification system and increases the potential of reaching the greatest number of community members as rapidly as possible.

Emergencies can happen at any time. A wildfire could spread or a flood could close the roads to a neighborhood while residents are away from home. In these instances, AlertOC is a critical link for residents to immediately learn of any required actions. Residents are encouraged to self-register their cell phone numbers and other alternate numbers to be a part of the regional test at www.AlertOC.com.

9/11 Boatlift--Outstanding Video Clip Narrated by Actor Tom Hanks

Perhaps you have seen the video on the evacuation of Manhattan on 9/11, but if you haven't, click on the following link for the story of heroism and resilience. It's amazing that with the help from ordinary citizens and all kinds of boats, 500,000 people were evacuated from Manhattan in only nine hours. Copy and paste the link:

http://www.youtube.com/embed/MDOrzF7B2Kg?rel=0 for BOATLIFT, An Untold Tale of 9/11 Resilience

Aloha Party

CERT friends and family attended a going–away party at Don Ramon's restaurant for Esther and Floyd Whitton. Early in September Esther and Floyd are moving to Hawaii. They were all smiles and looking forward to being close to their family and spending time with their grandchildren.

Esther and Floyd joined CERT in 1991 and she has been CERT Treasurer since 2003. She has participated on many CERT teams: Cooking, First Aid, Phone, Registration, and acted as Access Database Coordinator. They participated in numerous drills over the years. Thanks to Esther and Floyd for 22 years of volunteer service.

Esther and Floyd will be missed by CERT and their friends are looking forward to the times when they return to visit Huntington Beach.

Lightning: What You Need to Know

- ***NO PLACE*** outside is safe when thunderstorms are in the area!!
- If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike you.
- When you hear thunder, *immediately* move to safe shelter.
- Safe shelter is a substantial building or inside an enclosed, metal-topped vehicle.
- Stay in safe shelter at least 30 minutes after you hear the last clap of thunder.

Indoor Lightning Safety Tips

- Stay off corded phones, computers and other electrical equipment that put you in direct contact with electricity.
- Avoid plumbing, including sinks, baths, and faucets.
- Stay away from windows and doors, and stay off porches.
- Do not lie on concrete floors, and do not lean against concrete walls.

Last Resort Outdoor Risk Reduction Tips

NO PLACE outside is safe when lightning is in the area, but if you are caught outside ***with no safe shelter anywhere nearby*** the following actions *may* reduce your risk:

- Immediately get off elevated areas such as hills, mountain ridges or peaks
- NEVER lie flat on the ground
- NEVER use a tree for shelter
- NEVER use a cliff or rocky overhang for shelter
- Immediately get out and away from ponds, lakes and other bodies of water
- Stay away from objects that conduct electricity (barbed wire fences, power lines, windmills, etc.)
- UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES should ANY of the above actions be taken if a building or an all-metal vehicle is nearby

If Someone Is Struck

- Victims do not carry an electrical charge and may need immediate medical attention.
- Monitor the victim and begin CPR or AED, if necessary.
- Call 911 for help.

City of Huntington Beach

Disaster Preparedness Expo 2013

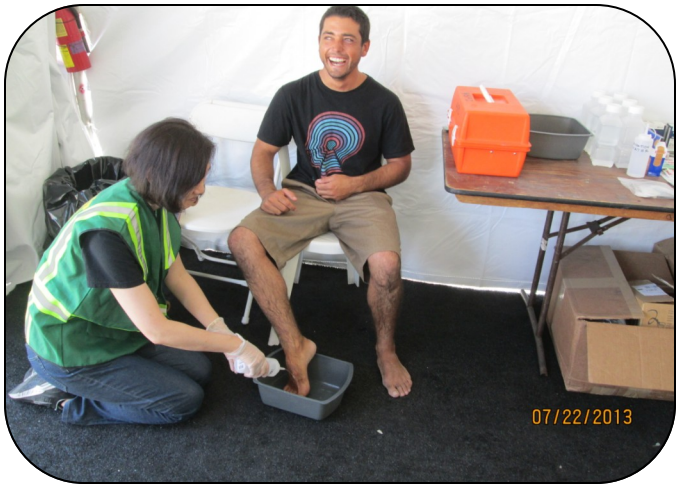
September 21, 2013 | Central Library | 10AM to 2PM

Learn from experts at the third 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

JULY 20 –28 US OPEN OF SURFING



JULY 20 –28 US OPEN OF SURFING (continued)

JULY 4 HUNTINGTON BEACH PARADE

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.

CPR Classes

Fire Med customers can take CPR classes for free and non-FireMed customers can take classes for a fee. Dates are listed below:

- Saturday, September 21st - 10 AM to 1 PM
- Wednesday, September 25th - 6 PM to 9 PM
- Saturday, October 19th - 10 AM to 1 PM
- Wednesday, October 23rd - 6 PM to 9 PM

To enroll in CPR classes, call 800-400-4277 or 714 -556-4277. Class location is in the HB area and exact location given at time of enrollment.

Upcoming Events

- September 7, 2013 Senior Saturday at Pier Plaza
- September 12, 2013 General Membership Meeting 6:30pm in B8
- September 21, 2013 Disaster Preparedness EXPO at HB Central Library
- October 10, 2013 General Membership Meeting 6:30pm in B8
- November 9, 2013 Disaster Living and Drill Your Skills Class (refresher advanced training) 8am to 3pm at the Gothard Street Fire Training Center
- November 14, 2013 General Membership Meeting 6:30pm in B8

CERT Database

Fire Department Volunteers (CERT members) have the opportunity to be added to the new CERT database by contacting Peter Petrelis at pgpworks@verizon.net to update their information.

HB CERT Newsletter Staff

Proof Reading / Editing Team:

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Attention! If you want something placed in the Upcoming Events, e-mail Judy Ann at jamorris189@yahoo.com

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

CERT Website: www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert **CERT Contact:** CERT@surfcity-hb.org
CERT Message line 714-536-5974, (THIS IS A MESSAGE LINE ONLY!)