

# CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT NEWSLETTER

February 2012

SINCE 1991



## HB CERT HIGHLIGHTS

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- President's Message Page 1
- Upcoming Events Page 1
- CERT Database Page 1
- CPR Classes Page 2
- Disaster Preparedness Speakers Available Page 2
- Volunteers, Donations Saved Joplin \$17.7M Page 2
- Calling All Hams Page 2
- Downed Power Lines Page 3
- Huntington Beach Flood Hazard Information Page 3
- Mission Accomplished Photos Page 4
- Callout Photos, Page 5
- Save -A-Life Saturday Class Schedule Pages 6-7
- March 17 EXPO Flyer, Page 8
- Mission Statement, Request for Volunteer Hours, Newsletter Staff Page 9



CLASS 1



### President's Message

By Peter Petrelis  
[pgpworks@verizon.net](mailto:pgpworks@verizon.net)

A surprise CERT callout drill was conducted Saturday, January 14 to test the phone, e-mail emergency notification system and to determine the on-the-spot availability of CERT. The notification went out at 8:00 am with a request to report to the Civic Center parking lot (Lake Avenue side) at 9:00, 10:00, or 11:00 am. Thirteen members from the CERT Executive and Management Teams staffed the callout, and 34 CERT members responded to the callout drill. Drill training consisted of sandbag placement and command post organization. An added bonus was observing and participating in command post activation to deploy 12 CERT volunteers to distribute safety information packets to two mobile home parks. **Thank you for responding and supporting the callout drill!**

In January, CERT volunteers completed distribution of 3000 safety information packets to the 17 Huntington Beach mobile home parks. The effort was initiated by Huntington Beach City Council Member Devin Dwyer, HBFD Chief Patrick McIntosh, HB Council on Aging, and Manufactured Housing Educational Trust, following a fatality due to smoke inhalation in a mobile home. CERT activity started in August 2011 when Clerical Team Leader Anna Pinter led her team in assembling 3000 packets for distribution. Mike Reyes, CERT DSW Manager, recruited CERT members and organized distribution during 11 Saturday mornings. This was a very big CERT volunteer effort, totaling 435 hours contributed by 41 CERT members. **A big thank you for a job well done!**

We are again holding the Disaster Preparedness EXPO at the Central Library on March 17, 2012. If you'd like to help, please contact Peter Petrelis at [pgpworks@verizon.net](mailto:pgpworks@verizon.net)

The 2012 Save-A-Life Saturday four class schedule begins on Saturday, April 21. If you missed some of the classes last year, you can make it up this year. When you complete all four classes, you will receive a completion certificate signed by the mayor and you'll be better prepared to help your family and neighborhood in the event of a disaster. With completion of more training,

you can become a CERT Fire Department Volunteer and participate in city wide CERT activities outside your neighborhood. Once you become a Fire Department Volunteer, by taking Red Cross Shelter training, you can become a CERT Mutual Aid Program (CMAP) Volunteer.

### Current Requirements for CERT Member Certification:

**Certificate of CERT class completion** — Basic three SALS classes (Disaster Living Class not required but highly recommended.)

**Fire Department Volunteer** — Certificate of CERT class completion. HB Police Department Live Scan (\$35 cost to you), complete ICS 100 and ICS 200 on-line or attend the Responder Class to be taught later in the year. The requirement for First Aid Class is waived, see note below.

**CMAP (CERT Mutual Aid Program)** — Certificate of CERT class completion. Fire Department Volunteer requirements and American Red Cross Shelter Manager Class.

Note: Since First Aid Classes have become so expensive, Brevyn has decided to waive the first aid class requirement to become a Fire Department Volunteer until he becomes certified to teach first aid classes.

### Upcoming Events

- **February 2, 2012** - 6:00pm: Management Meeting in the EOC open to all HB CERT Members.
- **March 1, 2012** - 6:00pm: Management Meeting in the EOC open to all HB CERT Members
- **March 17, 2012** - Disaster Preparedness EXPO (see attached flyer)

### CERT Database

Fire Department Volunteers (CERT members) have the opportunity to be added to the new CERT database by contacting me to update their information. **E-mail Peter Petrelis at [pgpworks@verizon.net](mailto:pgpworks@verizon.net)**

## 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, Feb 11, 10:00am to 1:00pm
- Wednesday, Feb 27, 6 to 9 pm
- Saturday, March 17, 10:00am to 1:00pm
- Wednesday, March 28, 6 to 9 pm
- Wednesday, April 11, 6 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.

---

## Disaster Preparedness Speakers Available

It is time to schedule a Disaster Preparedness Presentation for your neighborhood, business, school, civic organization or church. This is a perfect way to introduce our "Save-A-Life" Saturday Classes to the residents of Huntington Beach. It is easy and it is FREE!

### Five Simple Steps:

1. Find a place to host an hour-long presentation given by a trained Hbfd CERT Volunteer Speaker.
2. Choose a convenient date and time for your group.
3. Call the CERT Message Line (714-536-5974) or log on the CERT website at [www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert](http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert) (click on left column "schedule disaster presentation"). Please give us at least three weeks notice and we will do our best to accommodate your group.
4. CERT will provide a flyer to distribute to your neighborhood or group.
5. Host to provide simple refreshments to be enjoyed at the end of the meeting. Our CERT Speaker will provide all printed material and even bring a door prize for your guests.

6.

---

## Volunteers, Donations Saved City \$17.7 Million

By Debby Woodin [news@joplinglobe.com](mailto:news@joplinglobe.com) [The Joplin Globe](http://TheJoplinGlobe) Tue Jan 17, 2012, 09:54 PM CST

JOPLIN, Mo. — Joplin may not bear any cost in the long run for tornado cleanup and repair because the city was able to count \$17.7 million worth of donated resources and volunteer hours toward its share of the expense to be paid by the federal and state governments. The city finance director, Leslie Jones, told the City Council on Tuesday night that those donations of materials and labor were the largest in the history of a Missouri disaster, and the largest ever tabulated in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Region 7 territory, which encompasses Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska.

The work of 102,000 volunteers who contributed 610,300 hours, along with donated goods and materials worth \$8.5 million, and 12,000 hours of donated equipment use, is being counted by FEMA toward the city's share of expenses.

Costs for damage to city property and for cleanup of the tornado zone will be paid by insurance, FEMA, the State Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Highway Administration, Jones said. Damage costs except the cleanup of debris amounted to \$24 million. The debris cleanup cost \$94 million. Of that, \$82 million was incurred during the first 90 days after the May 22 tornado, when President Barack Obama agreed that the federal government would pay an increased share of 90 percent. FEMA normally pays 75 percent of the expense. After that agreement expired, the remaining debris clearance cost \$3 million inside the "expedited debris removal zone" and \$9 million in the lesser damaged areas. Jones said the numbers are estimates prepared with the help of FEMA and city departments, and if they hold true after everything is repaired, the disaster may leave the city with about \$103,000 more in reimbursements than the storm repairs cost.

City Manager Mark Rohr said that after rescue and recovery efforts were done, and residents had found temporary shelter, the costs the city would incur for permanent recovery caused him to become "truly concerned for the financial health of the city." He said the city staff then began to prepare for the best way to limit those costs. He said "a lot of people helped get us to this point," including the volunteers, FEMA, SEMA, residents and the city staff. He described those efforts as "truly remarkable."

In other business related to the tornado, the council approved an agreement to allow social service agencies to place modular offices on city-owned land in the airport industrial park. About 530 storm-displaced families are living in FEMA mobile homes near the airport. Cookie Estrada, of the Joplin Family YMCA, said the project would be done at no cost to the city because the Heart of Missouri United Way in Columbia donated the money to pay for the costs of installing the modular offices. He said 25 agencies — such as Rebuild Joplin, Access Family Care, the United Way and others — can use the offices so that residents do not have to travel across the city to obtain services they need or assistance with finding permanent housing.

---

## Calling All Hams

By Tara Fort

The FCC (Federal Communications Commission) wants to remind you to update their database as quickly as possible whenever the following occurs:

- License name correction
- Change of address
- License within 90 days of expiration date
- Replacement certificate (lost or misplaced)
- Reinstatement if license expired within last two years
- Spelling corrections to your existing license
- Reciprocal operating permit (non-USA residents)

### **Downed Power Line Safety**

The following instructions were sent out with the Edison electricity bills.

#### **Stay Away From Power Lines and Call 9-1-1 Immediately if You See a Downed Wire**

Anyone who sees a downed wire should call 9-1-1 immediately. Nobody should ever go near or touch a downed power line; contact could be dangerous or even life threatening.

The following guidelines will help you stay safe around power lines.

#### **Power Lines & Your Safety**

If a person or piece of equipment comes in contact with an energized power line, or if a power line has fallen to the ground:

- Do not approach or touch the line or anything in contact with the line.
- Call 911. Inform the operator that it's an electrical emergency.
- Always assume that all wires are energized.

#### **Downed Power Lines & Vehicles**

- Beware of a downed power line touching a vehicle. Stay clear of the vehicle and the power line.
- If a power line touches your vehicle while you are inside, remain calm and follow these instructions: If you can do so safely, stay inside the vehicle until emergency assistance arrives.
- Warn others to stay away from the vehicle and have them call 9-1-1. If you have to get out of the vehicle for safety reasons, jump clear of the vehicle. Do not touch the energized vehicle and the ground at the same time. Once you are out of the vehicle, shuffle away. Be careful not to lift your feet off the ground. Only exit the vehicle if you must.
- For more information on safety around electricity, go to [www.sce.com/safety](http://www.sce.com/safety).

---

### **Huntington Beach Flood Hazard Information**

**By Tara Fort and Carol Nehls**

Huntington Beach residents should be aware of the presence of local flood hazards in the rainy season. Although flood control improvements have been and continue to be made, if your property is located in or near a floodplain, you should be aware that flooding can still occur today as a result of rainfall and storm surge. Flooding may be caused by the Santa Ana River, East Garden Grove Wintersburg Channel, Talbert Channel, Huntington Beach Channel, or the Pacific Ocean. Abnormally large water surges (tsunamis) from the ocean may create flooding near the coastline.

As flooding can come with little warning, residents in flood prone areas will be warned of an actual emergency by either a phone call using the AlertOC

emergency notification system or the sounding of a steady siren tone lasting three minutes. The sounding of sirens will take place at each of the eight local fire stations. Warning and emergency procedures will be announced on local cable TV HBTB-3 (Channel 3) and local radio stations KWVE (107.9FM).

Residents may consult an actual Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) at the Planning and Building Department in City Hall to determine the actual flood zone, or they can visit FEMA's website (<http://www.fema.gov>). You may contact the Planning and Building Department at (714) 536-5271 to determine if a property is in a flood zone and also obtain flood protection advice, insurance requirements, and elevation certificates. The Public Works Department can also provide assistance regarding construction in the floodplain.

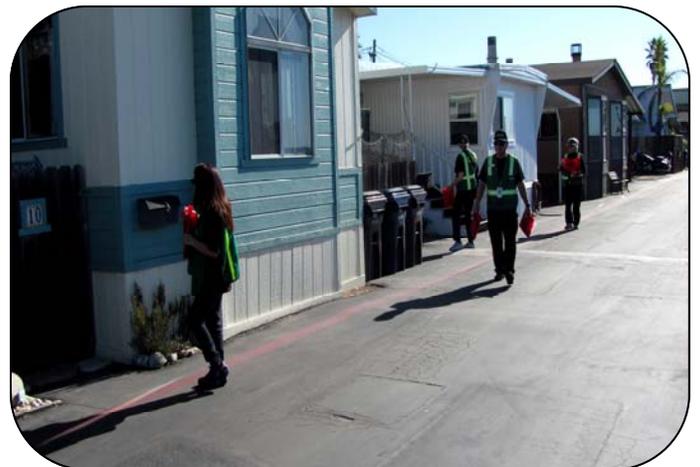
A few flood safety tips are:

- Do not walk through flowing water
- Do not drive through a flooded area
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires
- Turn off the electricity
- Be alert for gas leaks

Homeowners' insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. Because Huntington Beach participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and Community Rating System (CRS), you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy at a reduced rate. This insurance is backed by the Federal government and is available to everyone, even for properties that have been flooded. There is a 30-day waiting period before NFIP coverage takes effect. If you don't have flood insurance, talk to your insurance agent. More information about NFIP flood insurance requirements is available on the internet. Visit <http://www.fema.gov/nfip>. The site contains hazard information, a general flood map, and a frequently asked question page. Or, you may call 1-888-CALL FLOOD.



**MISSION ACCOMPLISHED! 3000 SAFETY INFORMATION PACKETS DELIVERED TO HB MOBILE HOME PARKS**



January 14, 2012 Callout



# Become a Fire Department Volunteer

## Get Your Home and Family Prepared

In most disasters, the victim or bystander is the first to respond. Do you know what to do?

### What is CERT?

CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) is a FEMA endorsed training program that prepares you to help yourself, your family, your neighbors and your community in the event of a disaster. During an incident, emergency response personnel could become overwhelmed and resources will be limited. By becoming CERT trained, you will gain the skills to help emergency responders save lives and property. Once you have completed the training, you have the opportunity to become a Fire Department CERT volunteer.



### What Will I Learn?

In the *Save-A-Life Saturday* series, you will learn:

- How to prepare your home and family for a disaster
- How to perform basic first aid and CPR
- How to safely search a building for trapped victims and rescue them
- How to put out small fires using a fire extinguisher
- How to survive outdoors if you cannot return to your home because it is unsafe



Emergency Management  
&  
Homeland Security Office  
2000 Main Street  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648  
714-374-1565



### What do CERT Volunteers do?

CERT volunteers are trained to prepare for and respond to a disaster until first responders arrive. You will be taught to manage a disaster in your home, work, neighborhood or school. After taking care of your home, family and neighborhood, you will help the city with duties such as, providing damage assessment information, sandbagging, sheltering, helping in the Emergency Operation Center (EOC), and providing support to the Fire Department and Police Department.



# Huntington Beach Fire Department

**CLASSES ARE FREE  
BUT YOU MUST  
REGISTER ONLINE AT**

[www.Huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert](http://www.Huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CALL**

**714-374-1565**



## Save-A-Life Saturday Schedule

The series consists of four classes that build on each other and ends with a disaster drill where you can practice what you have learned. You must attend all classes to graduate.

### **Class 1: Disaster & Terrorism Preparedness**

**April 21, 2012 7:45AM to 3:30PM Civic Center**

Learn what threats Huntington Beach residents face, how the City will respond in a disaster, and how you can get your home, family, neighborhood, school and/or business prepared to respond to emergencies. *Lunch Provided*

### **Class 2: Disaster First Aid (Medical Ops I & II)**

**May 19, 2012 7:45AM to 3:30PM Civic Center**

Learn creative first aid solutions to common injuries resulting from an earthquake, or other disasters, and the ABC's of disaster first aid. Additional topics include splints, slings, treating burns, impaled objects and shock. Learn how to triage disaster victims. *Bring Bag Lunch*

### **Class 3: Disaster Living**

**June 16, 2012 7:45AM to 3:30PM Civic Center**

Learn how and where to set up an outdoor shelter in a disaster. Whether in your yard or at a park, you will have to care for yourself and neighbors until the Red Cross establishes indoor shelters. Learn skills such as tenting, outdoor cooking and sanitation. *Lunch Provided*

### **Class 4: Light Search & Rescue/Fire Suppression**

**July 21, 2012 7:45AM to 4PM Fire Training Center**

Learn how to do a safety size-up, lift 1000+ pounds using simple leverage techniques, properly search for trapped victims, shore up an unsafe structure, and safely move the injured. Learn to use a fire extinguisher and put out a live fire, fire safety and prevention, how to shut off utilities and secure items that may cause injuries in an earthquake. Finish the class with a disaster drill that will test your newly acquired skills. *Bring Bag Lunch*

**Civic Center Address: 2000 Main Street Huntington Beach, 92648**

**Fire Training Center Address: 18301 Gothard Street**



**Neighbor Helping Neighbor**

# City of Huntington Beach

## Disaster Preparedness Expo 2012

March 17, 2012

| 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



***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.

**REQUEST FOR YOUR CERT Volunteer Hours**

*By Virginia Petrelis*

A new year has begun! It's so important to our program to track and report our volunteer hours. I personally have a calendar on which I keep all CERT activities and how many minutes or hours I spend at each activity. At the end of the month, it's easy to record the total. If everyone would send me their hours monthly, it would be much easier than trying to think back over several months to figure out what we did.

If you haven't already done so, it's not too late to report your hours from September 2010 through December 2011. We're planning an awards ceremony in April. You deserve recognition for all the time you've given to CERT and the city needs to be aware of how valuable a resource they have in CERT volunteers. **Please send your hours to me at [vapworks@yahoo.com](mailto:vapworks@yahoo.com)**

**HB CERT Newsletter Staff**

**Proof Reading / Editing Team:**

Anna Pinter  
Art Weiland

JudyAnn Morris  
Carol Nehls

Peter Petrelis  
Cynthia Goebel

Virginia Petrelis

**Attention!** If you want something placed in the Upcoming Events, e-mail Judy Ann at [jamorris189@yahoo.com](mailto:jamorris189@yahoo.com)



**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!**

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