

# CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT NEWSLETTER

June 2011

SINCE 1991



## HB CERT HIGHLIGHTS

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CLASS 1



### President's Message

By Peter Petrelis

[pjpgworks@verizon.net](mailto:pjpgworks@verizon.net)

The March earthquake and tsunami in Japan along with the Disaster EXPO held at the Huntington Beach library increased interest in disaster preparedness. Over 200 students attended the April Save-a-Life-Saturday (SALS) class. The May SALS class had over 135 continuing students. Thanks to Erika's Catering at 7351 Heil Ave # E, Huntington Beach, (714) 596-3797, for donating cookies and Earthquake Management [www.earthquake-management.com](http://www.earthquake-management.com) for donating door prizes to the May SALS class.

Please make it a point to attend the June 18, 2011 SALS class, if you have attended both the April and the May classes. The June class, **Light Search and Rescue/Fire Suppression**, will be held at the Gothard Fire Training Center, located at 18301 Gothard Street, Huntington Beach. **As a matter of safety, long pants, closed toe and heel shoes, and t-shirts (no tank tops please) must be worn.**

My wife Virginia, Anna Pinter, Art Weiland, and I spent mid-April to mid-May touring the Southern states in a motorhome and safely observed the power of Mother Nature. During our trip, we avoided potential tornados by stopping 75 miles clear of the area. We had signed up for free text message weather alerts at [www.weather.com/mobile/textmessaging.html](http://www.weather.com/mobile/textmessaging.html). Early, accurate communication is key to survival. Public officials in Mississippi and Louisiana held meetings and notified the public of impending flooding, stressing evacuation to high ground a week before flooding began. We observed the mighty Mississippi River flooding low lying areas of Memphis five days before it reached peak level. We met a woman in Alabama, working at the visitor center, who survived Katrina and said, "If given a warning now, we would run!"

Disasters seem to be all around us in Huntington Beach, but we have been spared so far. Natural disasters can occur in an instant (earthquakes), or with very short warning (tornadoes, tsunami), or with timely warning (tsunamis, hurricanes, floods). Think about how you would respond during and after each of these events. Make sure your equipment and supplies

are adequate and available. The article "Emergency Preparedness for Persons with Special Needs" by Anna Pinter, in the May 2011 CERT Newsletter is a good tutorial even if you do not have special needs.

I have read the book "The Unthinkable" by Amanda Ripley recommended by Brevyn Mettler, Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) in the April 2011 CERT newsletter. I urge everyone to read and improve your training from the lessons learned in actual disasters.

### The President's Preparedness Challenge for this month is:

The challenge for June is to continue to review your preparedness and accelerate your stockpiling of supplies. Consider how you will respond to different disasters. The following websites provide valuable information on disaster response:

- <http://www.oes.ca.gov/>
- <http://www.fema.gov/plan/>
- [www.ocready.org/](http://www.ocready.org/)
- [www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert](http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert)

### Upcoming Events

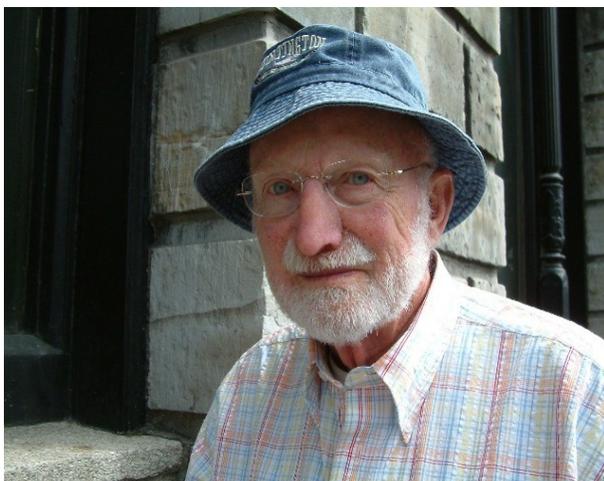
- June 2, 2011 - 6:00pm: Management Meeting in the EOC open to all HB CERT Members
- June 18, 2011 Third *Save-a-Life Saturday* Class, 7:45am to 2:30pm
- July 7, 2011 - 6:00pm: Management Meeting in the EOC open to all HB CERT Members
- July 16, 2011—Fourth *Save-a-Life Saturday* Class, 7:45am to 2:30pm

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

Saturday, June 4, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30p.m.  
Wednesday, June 15, 6 to 9 p.m.  
Wednesday, July 13, 6 to 9 p.m.  
Wednesday, Aug 10, 6 to 9 p.m.

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

## Goodbye and Love to Dick White – “Father of CERT”



Richard Raleigh (Dick) White, age 83, of Huntington Beach died at home on April 15, 2011 after a prolonged illness.

Dick was born in the Bronx, New York to Charles Raleigh and Dorothy Margaret White, and with brothers Robert Keyes and Jon Phillip moved to the West Coast in 1942. His desire to serve his country led him to enlist in the Navy at age 17. He proudly served on the U.S.S. Midway (CV 41) as an MR3. He was accepted into the NROTC in the first class of students in the Holloway Plan following WWII. As a midshipman, he attended the University of Mississippi where he became a Mason and a member of the Sigma Nu Fraternity. Dick returned to California and joined Douglas Aircraft as a machinist in 1952. During his 37-year career with the company he worked on many important projects including Project Mohole, and various civilian and military programs. From 1977-79 he served in Germany as Logistics Support Consultant to the European Space Agency, Spacelab Project. Dick retired from McDonnell Douglas as Manager of Proposal Operations in 1989.

His civic accomplishments include founding Boy Scout Troop 560 in Fountain Valley, California. He was a founding member and considered the “Father” of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in Huntington Beach (HB); member and President of the HB Fishing Club, President of HB Council on Aging (HBCOA), and the Senior Citizens Advisory Council for Orange County. He also served as a California Senior Legislator. In recognition of his service, the Huntington Beach CERT established the annual Dick White Partners in Preparedness Award. Among his many awards he received the 1995 Good Samaritan Award presented by the HB Chamber of Commerce. Dick returned to “Ole Miss” in 1998 and received his Bachelor’s degree. Dick received the Presidential Service Award for over 50,000 hours of volunteer service in his lifetime.

He was passionate about everything he did and

very few times accepted the word “no” for an answer when he was pursuing a goal. Anyone who looked into those wonderful, bright blue eyes would also see a man on a mission.

*“Dick would always brag to people about my being the first president of CERT.*

*But I was only able to take that step because Dick said he would stay by my side. It was also with Dick’s encouragement that I felt capable to join the HBCOA.*

*He was my mentor and I will miss him dearly.”-  
Judy Ann Morris*

*“Dick White was my hero. He lived his life the way we should all live our lives. He volunteered for many different organizations, always giving of himself. He provided leadership and was always a good citizen. We can all learn from Dick.” – Gloria Morrison*

Dick is survived by a loving family including wife Barbara, brother Jon, son Keith Raleigh, daughter Valerie and her husband Mark Zentmyer, granddaughters Jada, Vicki and Michelle and their husbands, and great grandsons Mikey, Mini-Mark, and Maxon.

The family has asked that instead of flowers that donations be sent to the Huntington Beach Council on Aging at 1706 Orange Avenue, Huntington Beach, Ca. 92648. Please make the check to HBCOA and write “In Memory of Dick White” on the memo line.

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### Something Fun and Worthwhile

By Judy Ann Morris

#### **Huntington Beach Council on Aging “On Course” Golf Tournament--Friday, June 24, 2011**

The HBCOA and Huntington Beach CERT have always worked together to prepare, educate and serve the residents of Huntington Beach. We have always had a HB CERT representative on the HBCOA working with Michael E. Rodgers Senior Center and Seniors Outreach Services on disaster preparedness and response. As president of HBCOA, I am very proud that 95% of every dollar we raise goes directly back to the senior programs of Huntington Beach.

#### **You can have a fun day of golf and support HB senior programs by joining the HBCOA Golf Tournament at Meadowlark Golf Course on Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup>.**

If you are a golfer, this is a great deal for a full day of golfing. The entry fee is \$100 per person which includes your team’s golf cart, lunch, dinner and many opportunities for fun and prizes. The tournament begins at 12:30pm with a “shotgun start.”

The Golf Tournament accepts foursomes or individuals who will be assigned to a team. Please call Cathy Meschuk at 714-968-7219 to register or if you have any questions.

## CERT Family Good News



My name is Justin Burtis and I have been a part of Huntington Beach CERT since I was five months old! My parents started in the program in May of 1993. Throughout my childhood I attended classes, meetings and eventually started helping teach at the classes and CERT training sessions that my parents did at my elementary school. Helping at the classes and teaching has given me a passion to teach.

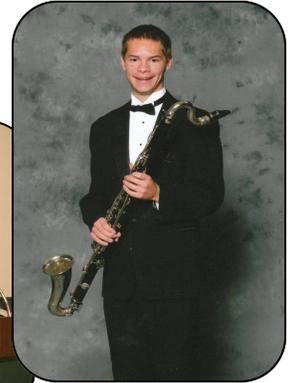
My senior year is going amazingly well!! I was captain of the varsity golf team at Brethren Christian High School this season. In the school's production of *Bye Bye Birdie*, I played bass and regular clarinet for pit band. We received great reviews from the Cappies\*, a student led play review organization, and the MACY\*\*, a national high school play judging group for regular wind symphony. I play bass clarinet, and as a group, we took first place in the large band division at the Biola Band Festival.

I have also found that I enjoy Civil War reenacting, after taking part in the Huntington Beach Reenactment at Central Park last year. I have participated in four reenactments since then and am a proud member of 18th Virginia Company F, Cavalry (though we are dismounted). Our last event was at Fairview Park in Costa Mesa mid April, and our next reenactment is in July in Long Beach.

After long hours of thinking, praying, and comparing colleges, I have decided to go to Vanguard University in Costa Mesa in the fall. I received a merit scholarship as well as a music scholarship, after I auditioned and was accepted into Vanguard's Music Program. I am looking forward to my freshman year at Vanguard, though I am also nervous. I plan to major in history and minor in music. It is my plan to go on in college to receive my teaching credential and I hope to one day teach high school or college history. CERT started my love of teaching and taught me how to be a public speaker. I want to thank all my CERT friends that have mentored me throughout my life.

\* The Cappies, "Critics and Awards Program," is a program through which high school theater and journalism students are trained as critics, attend shows at other schools, write reviews, and publish those reviews in local newspapers.

\*\*The MACY Awards, founded in 1969, is dedicated to encouraging, recognizing and rewarding achievement and excellence in high school musical theatre.



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### Disaster Preparedness Speakers Available

It is time to schedule a Disaster Preparedness Talk 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 email Judy Ann Morris at [jamorris189@yahoo.com](mailto:jamorris189@yahoo.com) (please put CERT in the subject line) with your contact information, the date, and time you have determined. 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. 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.

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### 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)**

## HUNTINGTON BEACH FIRE-MED: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

From NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER—  
March 2011

In a medical emergency, the Huntington Beach Fire Department responds quickly to provide the most advanced emergency medical services - ensuring the best possible patient care. Positive impacts are made in lives every day due to the success of FireMed, the official voluntary membership program. Since 1990, FireMed has enhanced the ability to answer the community's call for help by providing the funding that doesn't come from taxes - such as additional paramedics, advanced training, emergency transportation vehicles and lifesaving medical equipment and medication.

An option available to Huntington Beach residents is to join the FireMed Membership Program. Even though the Huntington Beach Fire Department charges for emergency medical treatment and transportation, FireMed will protect your out-of-pocket costs by accepting your insurance or Medicare payment as 'payment in full' - even if there is a co-payment, deductible or denial.

FireMed membership is just \$60 per year per household (a low-income membership of \$30 is available with qualification). Quite often, this membership fee is less than the co-pay or deductible that you might pay, and takes away the worries you might have about whether your insurance will even pay the pre-hospital bill. What else do you receive as a FireMed member? Your membership protects everyone who lives in your household, and the medical emergency can occur anywhere in Huntington Beach. That out-of-pocket protection is extended to your guest who has an emergency medical incident at your FireMed residence. You also receive a Medical Information Program packet, which is a vital information resource used by paramedics in an emergency. Ever take a CPR class, or maybe you need to recertify? As a FireMed member, everyone in your household can attend FREE American Heart Association CPR classes!

With these fees for service in place, what happens when you call 9-1-1 for a medical emergency? Of course, the fire department will respond as quickly as possible whenever you place a call for help. (Funding from the FireMed Program helps facilitate this quick response.) Upon arrival, the paramedics

will assess and treat the patient (using medications and lifesaving equipment funded by FireMed), and then transport the patient to the hospital (the emergency transport units are funded by FireMed). During this incident, no one will ask for proof that you are a FireMed member - after all, the medical emergency and helping the patient is much more important! After the medical emergency, membership status is checked in the FireMed office and the service and treatment fees are calculated, generating a bill for you. What should you do when you receive your bill?

**Keep your fingers crossed and hope that your health insurance will cover the entire bill.** An average paramedic and emergency ambulance bill is \$1,000 or more. Does your health insurance guarantee that they will cover the total bill, regardless of your emergency situation and just because you dialed 9-1-1? The answer is 'no' - an insurance company will never make that guarantee. They review every single claim before agreeing to provide payment.

**Pay the deductible, co-payment and denial amount.** If your insurance pays only a portion of the bill and you have a deductible, co-payment or denial, you will be responsible for the unpaid balance. Depending on your insurance plan, this could be costly.

**Breathe a sigh of relief because you are a FireMed Member!** By being a member of the FireMed Program, your entire household is protected from any out-of-pocket costs after your health insurance is billed. It doesn't matter what amount your insurance pays - you won't have to pay the deductible, co-payment or denied amount. (If you don't have insurance, you'll still receive a 20% discount.) You must be a FireMed member prior to the emergency incident for it to be covered.

By being a FireMed member, you save money and ensure that the highest quality of emergency medical care is available in the community when you need help. To join FireMed or for more information, contact the Huntington Beach Fire Department FireMed Program at (714) 374-1598 or visit [www.surfcity-hb.org/firemed](http://www.surfcity-hb.org/firemed).



# Huntington Beach Emergency Notification Systems

During an emergency, local officials and emergency managers must provide the public with life-saving information quickly. The City of Huntington Beach uses multiple methods to provide information to the public, such as the Emergency Alerting System (EAS), AlertOC, HDTV 3, etc. Once an emergency notification from public safety officials is delivered, follow the instructions provided.

## **Emergency Alert System (EAS)**

The EAS system is a national public warning system that requires AM/FM radio stations, TV and cable TV systems to provide federal, state and local authorities to deliver important emergency information. Although most stations will broadcast EAS messages, 107.9 KWVE is Orange County's primary broadcast station and will broadcast all EAS messages.

The EAS system will be activated and will provide instructions on actions to take before, during and after an emergency. If you receive an EAS message, **DO NOT call 911 for information**. This congests the 911 system and could prevent someone with a life threatening emergency from receiving services.

## **Alert OC**

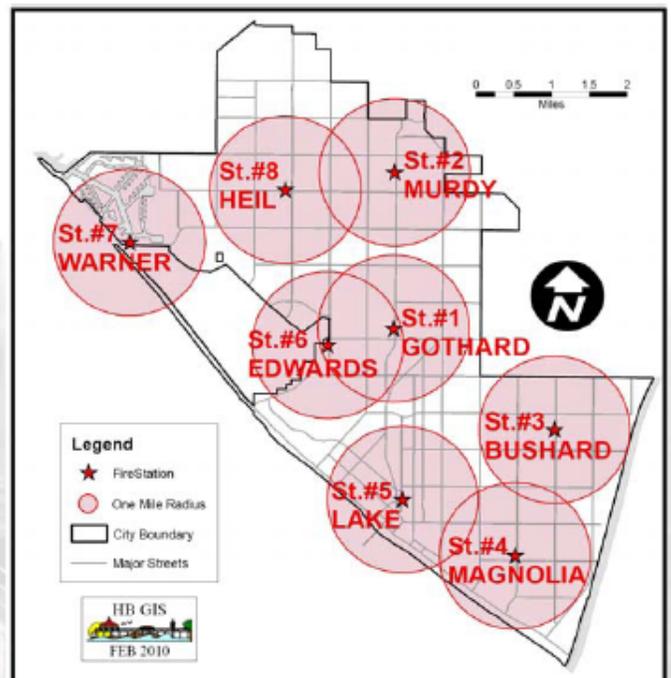
AlertOC is a mass notification system designed to keep Orange County residents and businesses informed of emergencies and certain community events. By registering with AlertOC, time-sensitive voice messages from the County or City in which you live or work, may be sent to your home, cell or business phone. Text messages may also be sent to cell phones, e-mail accounts and hearing impaired receiving devices.

To register, visit [www.AlertOC.org](http://www.AlertOC.org).

## **Siren System**

Huntington Beach has sirens located at all eight city fire stations. The sirens are tested on the **First Friday** of each month at noon. The sirens may be activated for ANY impending emergency and is NOT specific to any one emergency.

If you hear the sirens, and it is NOT the first Friday of the month, turn on your television and radio (107.9FM, KWVE) and await further instructions.



**Prepared by:**  
**Huntington Beach Fire Department**  
**Emergency Management & Homeland Security Office**  
**714-374-1565**

## CERT Volunteer Hours

By Virginia Petrelis

In these days of dwindling City budgets, it's especially important that our City realize the value of the resources invested in CERT volunteers and the need to continue supporting our program. CERT is really about public education and volunteers give up many hours working information booths at local businesses and schools, at the Disaster Preparedness Expo, teaching our Save-A-Life Saturday classes and all the behind scene support for the various activities. Many more hours are spent in training to reinforce the basic skills and to learn new skills.

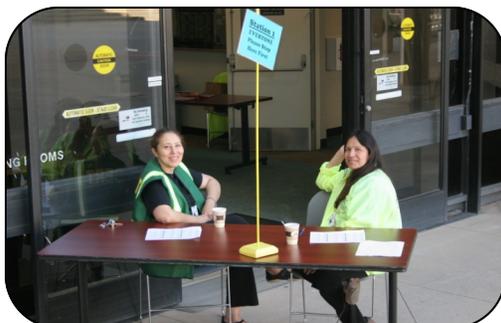
It is most important that you record every hour that you volunteer to CERT and send them to me at least quarterly. This is not just for personal recognition at the end of the year, but for City recognition. We don't want our City to say that the CERT program is not valuable and cut off our funds. Please send your hours to me at [vapworks@yahoo.com](mailto:vapworks@yahoo.com). If sending via e-mail, please put "CERT hours" and your name in the subject line.



## SCENES FROM THE APRIL 16, 2011 DISASTER & TERRORISM PREPAREDNESS CLASS



**A FULL HOUSE!**



**PRE-REGISTRATION**

SCENES FROM THE APRIL 16, 2011 DISASTER & TERRORISM PREPAREDNESS CLASS



LUNCH FOR ALL!





**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 16, 2011 7:45AM to 2:30PM 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 21, 2011 7:45AM to 2:30PM 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. *Lunch Provided*

#### **Class 3: Light Search & Rescue/Fire Suppression**

**June 18, 2011 7:45AM to 2:30PM 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. *Lunch Provided*

#### **Class 4: Disaster Living**

**July 16, 2011 7:45AM to 2:30PM 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*

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

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



*Neighbor Helping Neighbor*

***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.



**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](mailto:jamorris189@yahoo.com)

For those who do not receive the newsletter by email, you can go to the CERT website: [www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert](http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/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.

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!**

**CERT Website:** [www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert](http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert)

**CERT Message line 714-536-5974, (THIS IS A MESSAGE LINE ONLY!)**