



CERT NEWSLETTER

SINCE 1991

March 2014

HB CERT HIGHLIGHTS

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President's Message By Mike Reyes

Congratulations to the class of 2013 CERT Graduates and all of the CERT Fire Department Volunteers recognized at the 2014 Volunteer Recognition Awards Ceremony held on Thursday, February 13, 2014, at the Huntington Beach Council Chambers.

To the graduates, there's no better time than now to put your newly acquired skills into practice. Disaster prepare your households by mitigating potential hazards. Secure or remove elevated items that can fall during an earthquake causing injuries. Separate chemicals that have adverse effects when combined. Develop a household emergency action plan that addresses fire safety, communication resources and evacuation procedures. Keep in mind, a plan is only as good as the people who are applying it.

Next, "Map Your Neighborhood" and teach these skills to your families, friends and neighbors. There's power in numbers, and in the time of crisis we will have to depend on each other for basic survival. Once that mission is complete, you can consider helping the CERT Fire Department Volunteers with their never ending endeavor to educate the public on disaster preparedness. Good luck, and I look forward to working with each of you.

To the CERT Fire Department Volunteers who were honored for exemplary service, you're just finding out what we already knew. Your dedication is deeply appreciated, so keep up the good work. However, each CERT member, no matter how involved, deserves a pat on the back. You've taken the steps to help make this community a safer place to live. Drive On!

It is important to read the activity calendar for upcoming events and to find out how to become more involved in serving your community.

The EOC and CERT Welcomes Erin Concas By Brevyn Mettler, Emergency Services Coordinator

It is my pleasure to introduce our new Emergency Management & Homeland Security Office team member, Erin Concas. Erin received her B.S. in Emergency Management from the University of North Texas and her M.S. in

Emergency Management from the University of Richmond. She was on the first CERT at her university and immediately became interested in working with community members in preparedness and response. She began her career working for the Red Cross in Texas and deployed to several national and local disasters where she oversaw mass care and donations management operations.

In November of 2005, Erin deployed to Baton Rouge as a FEMA employee and provided technical assistance to local jurisdictions in completing their plans and applications for post-disaster grant funds. Upon completing her assignment, Erin spent the next three years abroad teaching English in Japan, continued to utilize her emergency management skills through planning and facilitating drills and earthquake education for the students and staff. Before returning to the States she met her Italian husband and spent another year abroad in Belgium where she had her daughter.

Since returning to the U.S., she completed her postgraduate degree, interned at UCLA Emergency Management and has been a Disaster Program Specialist with Los Angeles Region Red Cross. Her duties have included managing the training and development of 850 volunteers, coordinating response efforts to local emergencies and Hurricane Sandy. Erin currently resides in Redondo Beach with her husband Alessandro, daughter Stella and their dog, Andy.

Please join us in welcoming Erin.
Her email is erin.concas@surfcity-hb.org



CERT Calendar March through May 2014

Thursday, March 13, 2014

Event: CERT General Meeting, Tsunami Volunteer Meeting
Time: 6:30 PM
Place: Room B8 HB Civic Center

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Event: Tsunami Drill
Place: To be announced
Time: To be announced

Saturday, April 5, 2014

Event: American Red Cross Shelter Class
Place: Emergency Operation Center (EOC)
Time: 9:00AM - 1:00PM

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Event: CERT General Meeting, "Map Your Neighborhood"
Place: Room B8 HB Civic Center
Time: 6:30 PM

Saturday, April 12, 2014

Event: First Annual HB Coordinating Council Volunteer Fair "Find Your Passion"
Place: HB Central Library Main Entrance
Time: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Sign up to work CERT booth Contact: Anna Pinter at apinter_2000@yahoo.com Three available shifts are: 10:00 AM to Noon / Noon to 2:00 PM / 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Questions: Judy Ann Morris JAMorris189@yahoo.com or call 714-536-8595

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Event: CERT General Meeting, Communications
Place: Room B8 HB Civic Center
Time: 6:30 PM

REGISTRATION FOR CERT BASIC CLASSES (For New Students)

Go to www.Huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert go to - online class registration

You will receive an application via email and it must be returned by April 02, 2014. By signing the application you are authorizing the Huntington Beach Police Department to conduct a summary background check. You will receive the class locations once your application is approved.

BASIC COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) CLASSES

Wednesday, April 23, 2014

Event: CERT Class #1
Time: 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Event: CERT Class #2
Time: 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Event: CERT Class #3
Time: 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Wednesday, May 14, 2014

Event: CERT Class #4
Time: 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Saturday, May 17, 2014

Event: CERT Class #5
Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00PM

SAVE THE DATE SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2014

Event: Alternative Cooking in Central Park (CERT members and families)
Time: 9:00AM - 4:00PM
Place: HB Central Park, Talbert Meadow
Updated information will be sent to CERT members

California Drought

By Anna Pinter

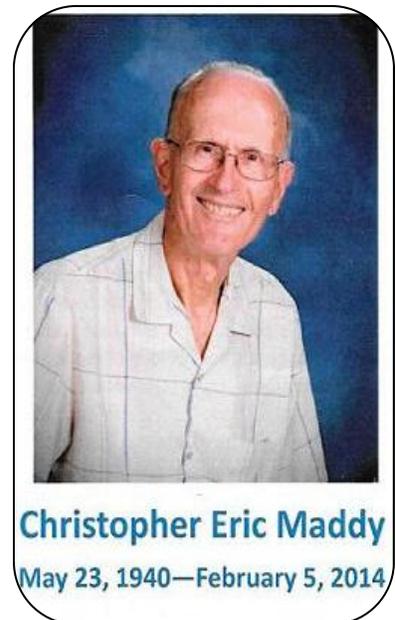
California isn't getting much rain. The state is moving through the middle of California's wet season and the entire state is very dry. California is in the midst of another drought.

The main reason California is not receiving rain is due to a persistent high pressure ridge locked into place along the west coast for most of the fall and winter. Pacific storms were deflected to the north and east by this high pressure ridge. The storms which have brought rain to the west have swept down from Canada and brought a small amount of rain.

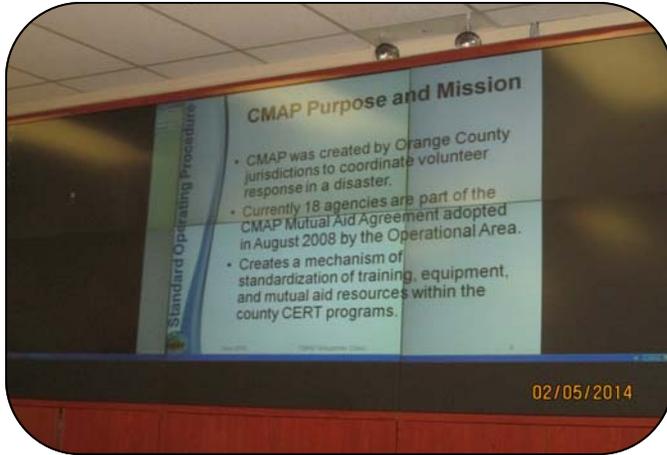
The drought of 2012 which impacted much of the central United States has eased. Drought conditions have intensified in the far west. 2014 has not brought any relief to the west, and California seems to be headed for a third dry winter because storms have not deepened the snow pack in the Sierra Nevada.

There is still time for the weather to change in February and March, but the stubborn dry ridge pattern shows no signs of leaving. California's climate normally turns off the water tap in spring so time is running out. Governor Jerry Brown declared a drought emergency for California on January 17, 2014.

IN MEMORY OF LONG TIME CERT MEMBER CHRIS MADDY



FEBRUARY 5 RESPONDER CLASS



On February 5, 2014 the following CERT volunteers attended a Responder Class: Brittany Beisner, Heidi Ross, John Mayer, Susan McClaran, Melisse Bridges, Mimi Irvin, Holly Payne, Brenda Welsh, Stephanie Deagle, Blanche Kung, Peter Petrelis, Art Weiland, Anna Pinter, Cecil Wright, Chad Hicks-Beech, Ron Roth and and Virginia Petrelis (not pictured).

**FEBRUARY 13, 2014 CERT AWARDS MEETING
(CERT CLASS OF 2013 SHOWN BELOW)**



Congratulations to our new Fire Department Volunteers! On February 13, 2014, Brevyn Mettler opened the awards program with the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced Huntington Beach Mayor Matthew Harper and Fire Department Division Chief Eric Engberg who presented the graduates with the official CERT vests and response backpacks. Fire Department Chief Patrick McIntosh administered the CERT Volunteer Loyalty Oath of Affirmation to the following graduates: Crystal Griffin, Holly Payne, Brittany Beisner, Mimi Irvin, Jon Mayer, Frank Griffin, Franklin Horton, Melisse Bridges and Stephanie Deagle. Graduates Juan Puentes, Brenda Welsh, Shelley Wilbert and Kamarr Wilmington- Richee were unable to attend.

The Dick White Partners in Preparedness Award is named for a Founding Member of CERT, Dick White. We call him the “Father of CERT”. This award was established 19 years ago to honor our CERT members who remember the reason CERT was formed.

The individuals who have been honored with this award are not only here to be of service to the City of Huntington Beach, but to teach neighborhoods the necessary skills to survive on their own until professionals can reach them.

Those awarded this honor are now joined by CERT member Michael Reyes

(Photos on following page)

FEBRUARY 13, 2014 CERT AWARDS MEETING
(CERT CLASS OF 2013 SHOWN BELOW)



Outstanding CERT members received the following awards for 2013:

The **Rising Star Award** is given to individuals who try to do it all and manage to rise up and say "I can do more".

Heidi Ross

Above and Beyond Award is given to CERT members who have been in CERT for several years and have stepped up and participated in many events and have seldom said "no" when asked if they could participate. Their efforts have always been above and beyond.

Cynthia Goebel, Paul LaGreek, Susan McClaran

The **Volunteer Extraordinaire Award** is presented to those individuals who have made significant contributions to Huntington Beach CERT and have participated in other disaster related volunteer groups or businesses.

Richard Batistelli, Billie Brandon, Carol Burtis, Michael Depin, Judy Durante, Chris Merkle, Judy Ann Morris, Michael Reyes

Most Inspirational Award is given to a person who for the year of 2013, most exemplifies what CERT stands for and meets the challenge with enthusiasm, excitement and perseverance.

Stephanie Deagle

MPV- Most Valuable Person Award is awarded to the volunteer who in 2013 participated in the organization of twenty-six CERT projects or events. The CERT choice for MPV of 2013 is:

Peter Petrelis

The **CERT Volunteer of the Year Award** is presented to the individual who has charted a steady course, conscientiously performing volunteer activities over an extended period of time. She has demonstrated unusual dedication and commitment generously contributing of her time and energy.

Virginia Petrelis

FEBRUARY 13, 2014 CERT AWARDS MEETING (continued)



FEBRUARY 13, 2014 CERT AWARDS MEETING (continued)



FEBRUARY 13, 2014 CERT AWARDS MEETING (continued)



Saturday, April 12, 2014

First Annual HBCC Volunteer Fair “Find Your Passion”



Place: HB Central Library at the main entrance

Time: 10 AM – 2:00 PM

The Huntington Beach Coordinating Council supports the charitable activities of organizations within the city that provide services for those in need.

Volunteer organizations can participate and help the public become more aware of their good deeds.

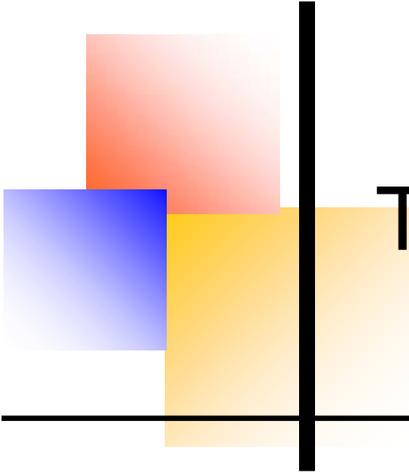
You will find your passion and add to the membership of a worthy volunteer group. Volunteer for a two hour shift and have fun telling the community about CERT

Name _____ Phone# _____
Email _____

I will volunteer in the CERT booth at the HBCC Volunteer Fair (circle one choice)
Sign up to work booth Contact: Anna Pinter apinter_2000@yahoo.com

Circle: 10:00 AM to noon noon to 2:00 PM 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Questions: Judy Ann Morris JAMorris189@yahoo.com or 714-536-8595



The Huntington Beach Fire Department Needs You!

PROJECT SHIP Senior Home Inspection Program

Would you like to be a volunteer safety inspector assisting senior citizens in making their home a safer place to live?

The Fire Department will train you to educate seniors on how to eliminate fire hazards, plan an emergency escape and other prevention tips. You will also install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

Training academy to be held on Saturday, March 15
9:00AM-1:00PM

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer inspector, contact:

Teri Simonis, Volunteer Services Coordinator
714-374-1544
tsimonis@surfcity-hb.org



This program is a coalition between the Huntington Beach Fire Department



Huntington Beach Fire Department

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

www.Huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL**

714-374-1565



The CERT Basic Series consists of several modules that will help you prepare for a culminating drill at the end of the course. The modules include the following.

Disaster & Terrorism Preparedness

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.

Disaster First Aid (Medical Ops I & II)

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.

Light Search & Rescue/Fire Suppression

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.

The Fire Department will be conducting this class series in a different format than previous classes. This is being done to try and improve the quality of the training. You will receive class locations after you register. Class size is limited to 40 students.

Class dates are as follows:

- Wednesday, April 23 - 6:30PM to 9:30PM
- Wednesday, April 30 - 6:30PM to 9:30PM
- Wednesday, May 07 - 6:30PM to 9:30PM
- Wednesday, May 14 - 6:30PM to 9:30PM
- Saturday, May 17 - 8:00AM to 4:00PM



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.

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, March 15 - 10 AM to 1 PM
- Wednesday, March 26 - 6 PM to 9 PM
- Saturday, April 12 - 10 AM to 1 PM
- Wednesday, April 23 - 6 PM to 9 PM
- Saturday, May 10 - 10 AM to 1 PM
- Wednesday, May 21 - 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

- Thursday, February 27, 2014 CERT Command Post Training, 6:30 pm to 8:30pm in EOC
- Thursday, March 13, 2014 General Membership Meeting, Tsunami Volunteer Training 6:30pm in B8 Civic Center
- Thursday, March 27, 2014 Tsunami Drill (location and time to be determined)
- Saturday, April 5, 2014 American Red Cross Shelter Class 9:00am to 1:00pm in the EOC
- Thursday April 10, 2014 General Membership Meeting "Map Your Neighborhood", 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

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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!)