

October 2012



President's Message

By Peter Petrelis

Thank you to the CERT Booth Team and CERT Logistics Team for all their work September 8th supporting Senior Saturday at the Pier Plaza.

We counted over 1900 people who attended the Disaster Preparedness EXPO September 15th at the Huntington Beach Library. The event was very successful. Thank you to the 23 CERT volunteers who provided logistics setup and tear down as well as staffing most of the display booths.

CERT also participated in a Disaster Preparedness EXPO September 17th sponsored by the Huntington Beach COSTCO as part of disaster preparedness month. The CERT Booth Team is now invited by COSTCO to have a booth. The Booth Team will setup monthly either at COSTCO or the HB pier.

You are all invited to attend the Huntington Beach Fire Department open House October 13th, 10 am to 2 pm at the Gothard Fire Station/ Training Center. CERT Booth Team will support the event.

Huntington Beach Hospital press release:

"Huntington Beach Hospital will be holding a community-based drive through Flu Clinic on Saturday November 3rd 8 am to Noon. Enter using the Beach Blvd entrance at 17772 Beach Blvd. Look for the signs. The vaccine will be provided by the County of Orange Health Care Agency.

It is provided by the State for those Orange County residents who are without other resources for flu immunization (no health insurance; no Medicare Part B; low income.)

It will be free of charge and open to those persons 18 years and older.

**If there are vaccine supply issues, vaccine will be prioritized for persons ages 60 and older first and then other groups designated as high-risk by the Orange County Health Care Agency.

Flu shots will be provided by hospital employees and nursing students who volunteer their time for this event. Additional volunteers are Circle of Friends members, Silver Anchor Auxiliary and Huntington Beach CERT whose members assist us in providing an organized and safe flu drive for the community."

CERT volunteers will support the Flu Clinic by providing traffic control within the hospital grounds. This is an opportunity to get your flu shot.

If you missed this item last month, the CERT Executive Board met with Brevyn Mettler August 23rd to discuss the new format for 2013 basic CERT classes. The basic 20 hour CERT training (formerly held on four Saturdays) will now begin in April on four consecutive Wednesday evenings followed by one all-day Saturday session. Due to budget constraints, there will be a fee of \$35 and the class size will be limited to forty students. The classes will be repeated in the fall of 2013. More details as well as a 2013 CERT calendar of events will be posted when approved and available.

Thank you Bob Culhane, Deputy Fire Marshall HB Disaster Preparedness EXPO



Announcements:

LAST CALL for Technician Radio License

Class: RACES will again be teaching and preparing students to take the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) Technician License Examination. The class is scheduled for Friday, October 12th (evening), Saturday October 13th (all day), and Sunday October 14th (until 1 pm.) The license examination will be on the evening of Thursday, October 18th. The training is open to all CERT members and to the 2012 graduates of the basic four classes. As CERT Communication Team Leader, I am coordinating signup, collection of funds and distribution of the class book. If interested, contact: pgpworks@verizon.net.



HB CERT HIGHLIGHTS

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CLASS 1

Volunteers are needed to staff the following booth team activities:

- Boeing Fire Prevention Day October 11th, 10 am to 1:30 pm at Boeing in Huntington Beach
- Huntington Beach Fire Department Open House October 13th, 10 am to 2 pm at the Gothard Fire Station/Training Center
- Harbor View Shake Out-HB on October 19th, 8 am to 12:30 pm at Harbor View Elementary School
- Monthly CERT Booth October 26th, 11 am to 5 pm (three 2-hour shifts)

If interested in staffing any of these events, please call Roy Alzua before October 8th at 714-964-3870 or cell 714-812-6989.

Outdoor Solar Lights – Light Source during Power Outages

Solar lights can be used inside at night during power outages. Place them in a jar or bottle; they give off plenty of 'free light'. Put one in each room, return them outside in the daytime and bring them in at night as long as the power outage continues. They are safe to use and less expensive than batteries.

An exercise in emergency preparedness is to bring a solar light from the yard into the house one night and turn off the lights. See if the solar light lasts until dawn. After each night's use, put the solar light back outside; it will recharge and be ready to reuse again whenever needed.

Some of the lights fit into the small (20 oz) water bottles and may also fit into the larger liter bottles or vases. In order to keep the plastic bottles from tipping over, use "flat marbles" like those in aquariums, sand, aquarium gravel or other similar material. Your home will have light for occupant comfort and safety during power outages.

Be prepared for power outages, earthquakes, and other disasters.

October is Fire Protection Month

Included in this newsletter are two flyers on home fire prevention from the National Fire Prevention Association. For more important information, go to their website at:

<http://www.nfpa.org/categoryList.a1sp?categoryID=1491&URL=Safety%20Information>

Surfing Event Welcomes Surfers Ages 50+ for a Wave of Fun

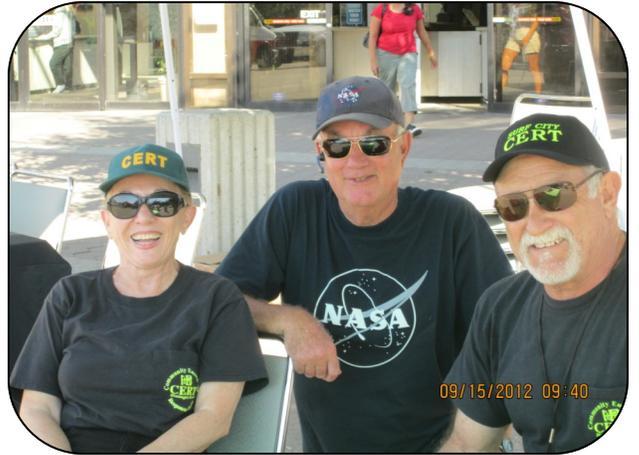
The second annual Huntington Beach Senior Surf Invitational will take place Saturday, October 27th, 2012, on the south side of the Huntington Beach Pier beginning at 7:30 a.m. The City of Huntington Beach and the Huntington Beach Council on Aging (HBCOA) invite all surfers ages 50+ to register through Michael E. Rodgers Seniors' Center.

Advance Registration is required. For more information please contact Rodgers Seniors' Center at 714-536-9387, or www.hbcoa.org

**PHOTOS FROM THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2012
DISASTER PREPAREDNESS EXPO**



PHOTOS FROM THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2012 DISASTER PREPAREDNESS EXPO (continued)



PHOTOS FROM THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2012 DISASTER PREPAREDNESS EXPO (continued)



Escape Planning

Plan Ahead! If a fire breaks out in your home, you may have only a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Everyone needs to know what to do and where to go if there is a fire.

SAFETY TIPS

- » **MAKE** a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
- » **KNOW** at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- » **HAVE** an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- » **PRACTICE** your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.
- » **PRACTICE** using different ways out.
- » **TEACH** children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- » **CLOSE** doors behind you as you leave.

IF THE ALARM SOUNDS...

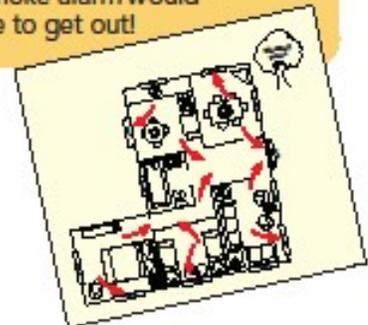
- » If the smoke alarm sounds, **GET OUT AND STAY OUT**. Never go back inside for people or pets.
- » If you have to escape through smoke, **GET LOW AND GO** under the smoke to your way out.
- » **CALL** the fire department from outside your home.



Your Source for **SAFETY** Information www.nfpa.org/education
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

FACTS

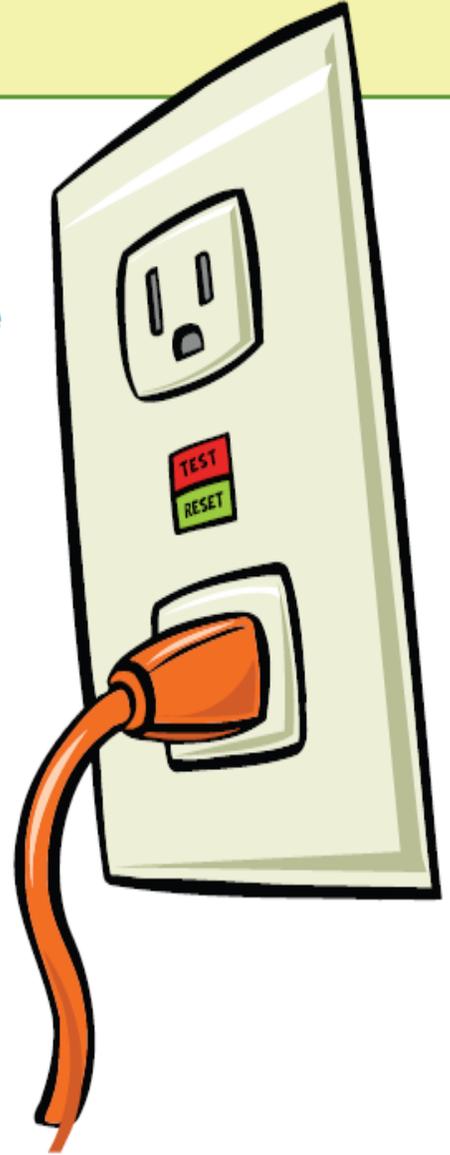
- ! According to an NFPA survey, only **one of every three** American households have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.
- ! While **71%** of Americans have an escape plan in case of a fire, only **45%** of those have practiced it.
- ! **One-third** of American households who made an estimate thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life-threatening. The time available is often less. And only **8%** said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out!





Electrical Fire Facts & Figures

- Electrical fires were involved in an estimated 46,500 reported home structure fires in 2010. These fires resulted in 420 civilian deaths and 1,520 civilian injuries, with \$1.5 billion in direct property damage. An electrical fire is a fire involving some type of electrical failure or malfunction.
- Almost half (49%) of home structure electrical fires involve some type of electrical distribution equipment (such as wiring, outlets, switches, lamps, light bulbs, cords, or plugs). The electrical distribution equipment provided the heat leading to ignition. For example, a hot light bulb might have been too close to something that can catch fire.
- Nearly one third (31%) of home electrical fires began with ignition of wire or cable insulation.
- December and January are the peak months for home electrical fires.
- The leading areas of origin for electrical fires are the bedroom (14%), attic (11%), and kitchen (11%).
- When an electrical switch is opened or closed, an arc, or discharge of electricity occurs. If connections are loose or where wires or cords have been damaged, an unintentional arc can occur leading to high temperatures and sparking, possibly igniting anything that can burn. Arcing accounts for most home electrical fires. Installing Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs) in the home can offer protection against electrical fires caused by arcing.



Source: Home Electrical Fires, by John R. Hall, Jr., January 2012.

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, October 13th - 10 AM to 1 PM
- Wednesday, October 24th - 6 PM to 9 PM
- Saturday, November 10th - 10 AM to 1 PM
- Wednesday, November 28th - 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

- October 4, 2012: CERT Management meeting 6:00pm in the EOC
- October 13, 2012 HBFD Open House at the HB Gothard Fire Training Center, 18301 Gothard Street
- October 20, 2012, Sandbag training, e-mail notice to be sent
- November 1, 2012 CERT Management meeting 6:00pm in the EOC



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:

Anna Pinter	Judy Ann Morris	Peter Petrelis	Virginia Petrelis
Art Weiland	Carol Nehls	Cynthia Goebel	

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

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

Five Simple Steps:

- Find a place to host an hour-long presentation given by a trained HBFD CERT Volunteer Speaker.
- Choose a convenient date and time for your group.
- Call the CERT Message Line (714-536-5974) or log on the CERT website at 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.
- CERT will provide a flyer to distribute to your neighborhood or group.
- 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.

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!)