

CERT NEWS

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

July-September 2016

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CERT Board

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From the Emergency Operations Coordinator

Happy Summer! Last month we graduated our 7th CERT Class since 2011 and now have a total of 240 CERT members in our ranks. Congratulations to the recent graduates!

We have some exciting upcoming training for those who wish to join our Wildlife Watch Team. This team has two components, public outreach & education and animal hazing. The training for public outreach & education is on July 14th from 6pm to 9pm and for animal hazing on July 21st from 6pm to 7:30pm. Both classes will be at the Susi Q.

Lastly, within the next month we will be rolling out new software which will help us track training, hours, and events along with adding improved communication with our volunteers. What does this mean to you? You will all be receiving a username and password emailed to you to allow you access into the system. So look for those and don't worry, we will have plenty of training sessions to ensure everyone knows how to use the system. Plus it is really easy!

I hope you all enjoy the summer and **stay safe!**

Sincerely,
Jordan Villwock, MS
Emergency Operations Coordinator

CERT Volunteer Management System – Coming Soon!

by Alx Simmons, Director

I am excited to announce that we are implementing our Volunteer Management System. This software can be used from either a desktop or mobile device, and will provide each CERT member with a Volunteer Portal where you can; review and sign-up for activities/events, track your hours, and update your interests and availability. The software is called 'Better Impact'. We will use this system to track, schedule, and communicate with CERT volunteers.

System configuration and testing is underway. Our plan is to roll out the system to the CERT volunteers in August. Online and self-help documentation will be provided, and optional training classes will be held for those of you who would like individualized assistance. **Stay Tuned!**

From the Radio Chief

by Jerry Myers, Radio Communications & Technology Chief

Batteries! Batteries in our radios and flashlights. Batteries in our smoke alarms, garage door openers, car key fobs, computer keyboards & mice. We have batteries everywhere! We use batteries for so many things that it's easy to forget when they were changed, what size you need and if you have any spares. Remember, when it comes to batteries, one is none. Always have a spare.

When it comes to being prepared, batteries are often neglected. Here are a few tips to simplify your battery usage and stay prepared.

Get a car cigarette lighter adapter or USB cable to charge your cellphone and tablets from your car. Know where it is and keep it there.

Keep your FRS or GMRS radio in the charging base. Most new

generation hand-held portable radios have a "Smart" charger that allows the radio to stay in the charger. If you have backup batteries for the radio, don't forget to keep them charged as well.

Place a small piece of tape on the contacts of the batteries in your emergency flashlight. Most new generation batteries will last 10 years in a storage state. When you need the flashlight, simply remove the tape and you're ready to go. Do the same for your emergency radio.

Additionally, use plug in emergency flashlights and place several throughout your home. Get the type that automatically turns on when the power goes out. The flashlight is always charged and you'll be able to find it in the dark. I have one in each bedroom and main area of my home.

Store your batteries in one place and keep them cool. Label the batteries when you purchase them so you or others will know which device uses what type of battery.

Have a "battery routine" for your devices that use batteries on a continual basis, set up a schedule to change and charge your batteries. I use daylight savings time as the battery swap date. You're already changing the clocks, change your batteries!

Consider rechargeable batteries for batteries that you change frequently. Several companies make plug-in battery charging stations that are capable of charging several sizes of batteries. Help keep batteries out of the landfills.

Enjoy your summer and stay prepared!

Did You Get This Text Message?

If you didn't and you want to know what's happening, go to nixle.com or text your zip code (92651 for Laguna Beach) to 888 777 to receive messages.

A message from CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH

Did you get this text message? If you didn't and you want to know current city information, go to nixle.com and sign up!

This is the City of Laguna Beach with an update on the brush fire in the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park. The forward progress of the fire has been stopped and the fire is currently 60% contained. No homes were ever threatened. Laguna Canyon Road is expected to be opened by 8:00 pm. Thank you.

This e-mail has been sent to you by the CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH. To maximize their communication with you, you may be receiving this e-mail in addition to a phone call with the same message. If you no longer wish to receive email notifications from CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH, please [click here](#) to unsubscribe.

Nixle is a Community Information Service dedicated to helping you stay connected to the information that matters most to you, depending on your physical location. You stay connected to your local police department, your children's schools, your local community agencies and organizations, and the important information from other locations throughout the country that are relevant to you. For more information, go Nixle.com

CERT Tidbits

HAM RADIO FIELD DAY

The Laguna Beach Emergency Communications Team led by Chief Radio Officer John Kountz hosted their 17th Field Day Saturday June 25, from 11am to 7 pm at Alta Laguna Park. Field Day is the nation's oldest annual international emergency preparedness event. During the event, FCC licensed amateur radio operators (HAMS) demonstrate their skill at providing emergency communications. Laguna Beach HAMS established and confirmed radio contact with their counterparts throughout the United States and Canada.

CERT PARTICIPANTS

We're growing our program. We've completed 9 classes in 4 years! That's 240 team members, trained to help their community in a disaster.

MANNED INFO BOOTH

Can you help spread the CERT word on Saturdays at the Farmers' Market? RSVP with available dates to Sandi Cain at LagunaCERT@gmail.com

CERT Wildlife Watch Volunteer Program— We Need You!

by Alx Simmons, Director

The City of Laguna Beach is excited to launch a wildlife watch program which is available to existing CERT volunteers. The training for this program will be a collaborative effort between Laguna Beach Animal Services and California Fish & Wildlife. The intention of the program is to use CERT members who are interested, when called upon by Animal Services, to deploy into specific neighborhoods; to educate the residents, survey the neighborhood for triggers, leave door hangers with suggestions to prevent coyote activity, and optionally a separate team that is trained in hazing the seen coyotes during call-outs. Wildlife watch will have two training sessions; if you are interested, you can participate in one or both segments. (You must attend segment 1 to participate.)

We encourage all CERT members to come to this training. Once trained you can decide if you would like to volunteer to be a part of this very needed program for our community.

■ **Segment #1 Wildlife Watch Public Education & Outreach—**

Thursday, July 14th 6pm to 9pm, Location SusiQ. Register at:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1fBBIR62l6JU4BffV7n888AvAw7x2tHa5Z5JnG_Lc7Sc/viewform

■ **Segment #2 Wildlife Watch Hazing—**

Thursday, July 21st, 6pm to 9pm, Location SusiQ. Register at:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1PwS6DojAGJZHII1n6KYY8w28-gFXn3VirGqzXJxfqY/viewform>

If you are not able to use the above links to register, please notify us by email at LagunaCERT@gmail.com, attention Alx.

Earthquake to ‘Hit’ Laguna Beach in August!

by Sandi Cain, Outreach Chief

Laguna Beach CERT members in some neighborhoods are getting a heads-up about an earthquake that’s going to ‘hit’ Laguna on the morning of Saturday, August 27.

You didn’t know we could predict quakes? We can’t – but we can design a practice drill around a potential earthquake and use that as a way for members to report to neighborhood meeting spots, be deployed to pre-arranged ‘emergencies’ within their neighborhoods and use their communications skills to report back to team leaders.

Neighborhoods expected to take part (with expected team leaders in parentheses) are: North Laguna (Rick Colson); Park Avenue (Rich Leger), lower Temple Hills (Janice Hayden), central village (Josh Neufeld/Alx Simmons); Mar Vista (Lance Kramer), Lower Arch Beach/Alta Vista (Kip Scott), Wesley (Chris Weidhaas/Sandi Cain). Team leaders have been given lists of CERT members in their neighborhood to contact about taking part in this drill and you should hear from them by the end of July.

If you live in a different neighborhood and are interested in being a team leader for that ‘hood, please let us know by emailing LagunaCERT@gmail.com.

Calendar Update!

Just as we never know when a fire will break out or an earthquake will hit, we sometimes learn about new training opportunities or other events that cause us to change our CERT calendar. We do send out notices about cancellations or date changes, so please check your email regularly! As of end of June, the dates below are confirmed.

Thursdays, July 14 and July 21:

Wildlife Watch training 6-9pm at the SusiQ. The first class is required before taking part in the program; the second segment is voluntary. (See article, left.)

Sunday, August 21: “All-Class Reunion” picnic.-Heisler Park. Seven CERT classes have been conducted in Laguna Beach. Which class will have the best attendance? Stay tuned for additional information about time and other details!

Saturday, August 27: Neighborhood drill. Eight neighborhoods will conduct a morning drill and host information booths within those areas. Locations and specific drill details are in the works. If you are interested in being a team leader in your neighborhood, please contact Sandi Cain at LagunaCERT@gmail.com or (949) 292-3279 (text or call) (See article, left.)

September 8-10: National CERT Conference, Sheraton Universal City. See page 7 for details.

Saturday, September 17: South County Drill with Dana Point, Laguna Niguel, San Juan Capistrano and San Clemente. If you are interested in taking part, please email LagunaCERT@gmail.com. This exercise runs from approximately 7am to 1 pm. Participants will get refresher training on key aspects of the CERT program and rotate through the stations during the drill.

Wednesday, October 19: NEW DATE!!! All Hands Quarterly CERT Meeting—Red Flag training. 6-8pm. SusiQ. See page 6.

Wednesday, December 7: First Laguna Beach CERT Awards Banquet at the SusiQ. Details later.

Congratulations CERT Class 7 Graduates!



- Kasey Konkel
- Ken Konkel
- Heather Sparkuhl
- Darryl Pikoos
- Esther Andras
- Joseph Andras
- Walter Bell
- Mary Krueger
- Tom Renner
- Pat Gorman
- Jenn Tara
- Jo Melillo-Long
- Edward Storke
- Mary Ricks
- Melissa Williams
- Gregory Williams
- George Ricks
- Thomas Munuz
- William Guido



CERT — doing the greatest good for the greatest number of people.

What's Your Story?

We are now a CERT team of 200 strong! But that makes it challenging to get to know fellow team members who weren't in your CERT class. To help you get acquainted, we've instituted a feature for each newsletter called "What's Your Story?" **We hope you will submit YOUR story** about how and why you got involved in CERT in about 200 words, along with a picture (at a CERT event or any head shot).

Why We Joined CERT

by Richard Leger

I got involved with Laguna Beach Police Departments CERT and CMAP program to better ready my family and help others in the wake of the 1993 Laguna Beach fire. Since I have joined the Laguna Beach CERT Team I have had the opportunity to get hands on training with search and rescue, medical triage and treatment, CPR and first aid, terrorism threats, incident command, shelter management in association with the Red Cross, active shooter training, and many other disaster-emergency skills. As part of the CERT team I was also asked to join the communications team and was issued a two way radio by the police department to help assist them in any disaster or emergency situations. Since joining the CERT Team here in Laguna I have had the opportunity to participate in training exercises in Laguna Beach, Orange County and Los Angeles County with their Fire and Police departments. It has been a great experience so far. I'm excited about the training and exercises that are coming up to train and learn even more and I strongly encourage anyone who has any interest at all to just come check it out.



Rich Leger



Rick Colson

by Rick Colson

I got involved in CEPA and CERT to be a leader in my community and to be in a position to assist folks that can't help themselves.

CERT and CEPA gives me a format to implement my leadership skills and love for others. I can do search and rescue, observe and report, CPR, Terrorist watch, Triage, assess threat levels in a disaster situation, Set up a shelter in place, secure an area. I can be an incident commander in my neighborhood. I understand the chain of command and how to delegate authority but I also know how to follow a leader's with more experience. I can't say enough how much I appreciate being a part of a team like this. I feel it's my civic duty to volunteer when I'm not selling Real Estate.

OC Fire Watch Symposium Stresses Best Practices

by Jerry Myers

Inaugural OC Fire Watch Symposium at Irvine Regional Park offered a lot of information. Kevin McArthur, the Fire Watch Coordinator with the Irvine Ranch Conservancy put together an information-filled symposium. There were several guest speakers including Brian Norton, Battalion Chief for OCFA, Terri Merritt, Fire Prevention Specialist for OCFA, Christopher Lorenzi, Senior Park Ranger/Operations Support and Ron Slimm, Supervising Park Ranger/

Wildland Fire Resource Advisor.

The speakers covered the Fire Watch Program and the interoperability with the various State and local agencies. They discussed best safe practices while performing fire watch as well. The Battalion Chief asked for public support for the Fire Watch cameras at key locations throughout the County.

Best Practices to Remember:

1. First priority: Safety for all volunteers and first responders.

2. Our fire watch program will be more effective with more volunteers.
3. Irvine Ranch Conservancy and the Park Rangers are extremely dedicated to protecting our wildlands, both flora and fauna.
4. Funding will always be an issue.
5. Any time you have an opportunity to educate the public regarding fire safety, do it!
6. **If you see something, say something!**



Jim Beres (second from right), Civilian Services Supervisor, and Tanner Flagstad, Police Aide (not shown), provided CERT members with an informative and lively traffic instruction class in June.



We captured some great photos as CERT members Matt Lawson, Richard Leger, Randall Miller, Mike Mitchell, John Monahan, Sonny Myers, and Chris Tomlin assisted police cadets with traffic control during the June Laguna Coast Wilderness fire.

Red Flag Training and Call-Outs

By Charles Barr,
Development Chief

As noted on the readyoc.org web page, red flag situations are very specific in Southern California. History has clearly demonstrated that wildfires are more likely to occur and more likely to spread when strong winds are accompanied by low humidity levels and high temperatures.



If the wind speeds are sufficient (25 mph or more) and the humidity levels low enough (less than 15%), this potentially dangerous combination prompts an official readiness response called the “Red Flag Program.”

This program includes volunteers who have taken a two-hour training program that focuses on how to spot potential problem areas as well as ways to help educate the public about dangerous fire conditions and how they can help by being aware and reporting suspicious behavior that could lead to fires—either intentional or inadvertent.

Red Flag conditions typically have four progressive stages that are intended to reduce response time to absolute minimums:

- STAGE I: Fire Weather Watch – usually 48 to 72 hours in advance of a Red Flag Alert.
- STAGE II: Red Flag Warning – usually 24 hours in advance of a Red Flag Alert.
- STAGE III: Red Flag Alert—(when volunteers are deployed)
- STAGE IV: Cancellation (can occur at any time)

For more information about fire alerts, please visit: <http://readyoc.org/ocfirewatch/index.html>

Red Flag Training will be the subject at our October All Hands Quarterly CERT meeting, Wednesday, Oct. 19, 6-8pm at the Susi Q. Watch for info via email. Be there!

CERT Neighborhood Drills a Regular Item in Newport



Laguna CERT board members **Sonny Myers** and **Sandi Cain** paid a visit to Newport Beach this spring to see how that CERT group stages its annual neighborhood drill. That experience is the basis for the drill we will be doing for the first time in August.

Newport has several years' head

start on us, so we got some great ideas for the way the 'hoods were set up, how the radio communication worked and what was involved on the day of the drill. As it turned out, we also saw how much attention each small neighborhood received at the CERT tables set up as 'command posts.' Not only did CERT members get some

good practice, but neighbors and visitors out walking on a Saturday morning stopped by the command posts and talked to members about the program, thereby soliciting potential new members along the way. Talk about a 'two-fer'!

Myers and Cain were really impressed with some of the storage lockers Newport has set up on the island. It's something we're aiming for in Laguna Beach: some nice little parcels, or part of a commercial parking lot, or someone's storage shed where we can keep supplies. So please be on the lookout for potential places! If you have or see a spot that might serve us well for some storage space, let us know so we can check it out. Especially if it's free or nearly free to use! More storage would help us 'spread the wealth' across Laguna and improve the availability of supplies and equipment when a real emergency hits.

30th Anniversary National CERT Conference

2016 is the 30th Anniversary of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program. To celebrate, California Volunteers has partnered with FEMA, NBC Universal Studios, and other CERT partners to hold a National CERT Conference. Join over 850 CERT program managers, instructors, and volunteers at this milestone event!

Registration: \$325, including two lunches and afternoon refreshments. Register at: <http://2016certconference.eventbrite.com>

Registration discount for volunteers: CERT volunteers who are attending the conference and are paying their own registration costs are eligible for a 50% discount on the conference rate. Talk to Jordan before July 11 to be eligible for the discount.

Conference staff volunteers: If you are interested in attending the conference as staff, contact Jordan before July 20. California volunteers who work at least 10 hours during the conference will be able to attend the rest of the conference for free (volunteers will still need to cover their own hotel and travel).

Hotels: A discount rate for hotel rooms is available at both the Sheraton Hotel (888-627-7186 or <http://www.sheratonuniversal.com/>) and Hilton Hotel (818-506-2500 or <http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/california/hilton-los-angeles-universal-city-BURUCHF/index.html>) → for reservations.

Please contact Jordan Villwock for more information. jvillwock@lagunabeachcity.net

A sampling of proposed conference workshops is below:

- CERT Innovations Sharing - Short presentations from CERT programs
- Disaster Deployment Overview
- Emergency Operations Center staffing for CERT Volunteers
- Map your neighborhood
- Using Technology and Social Media to Enhance your CERT Program
- Training - CERT Tools for Leadership Success

CERT Patches

All Conference attendees will receive an embroidered CERT patch.

Stay Connected

Conference updates are emailed to registered CERT programs. If you do not receive these emails directly from your State CERT program manager, please email Ben Leason at ben.leason@cv.ca.gov

What's New with You?

You've had the CERT training.

What type of volunteering would you like to do within CERT? _____

How involved would you like to be? _____

What additional training would you like to have? _____

Are there parts of the training you would like to renew or practice? _____

We have to get CPR/First Aid certification every two years.

Are you interested in signing up soon? yes not yet

Other general suggestions or news to share: _____

Let us know if you have moved, changed contact info.

(This is new information.)

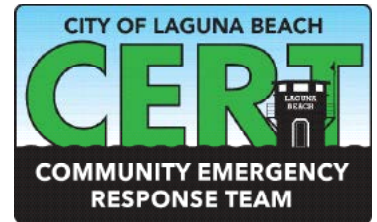
Name _____

Home Address _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____ Text messaging okay

Email Address _____



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**Stay
involved—
Watch for
new training
and exercise
opportunities
and notices
of quarterly
meetings.**