

NATL WINNER 2012 FEMA AWARD
OUTSTANDING TEAM INITIATIVES



CERT PROGRAM & VOLUNTEERS
CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH, CA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 23, 2013

NEWPORT BEACH EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM & VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE WHITE HOUSE AWARD

NEWPORT BEACH, CA: The Newport Beach Fire Department's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program and its volunteers have been honored by the White House as a ***Champion of Change*** in the category of Community Resiliency and Preparedness. This prestigious White House award honors the Newport Beach CERT Program, its leadership and its volunteers for their work in preparing our residents, schools, businesses and visitors for natural and manmade emergencies and disasters. In 2012, the Newport Beach CERT Program and its volunteers won the Individual and Community Preparedness Award for Outstanding Community Emergency Response Team Initiatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), as well as receiving Honorable Mention in the Volunteer Integration Category.

The Champions of Change Program was started in 2009 by President Obama who believes that: "The best ideas come from the American people . . . all across the country, ordinary Americans are doing extraordinary things in their communities to out-innovate, out-educate, and out-build the rest of the world, helping us win the future".

"This prestigious recognition by the White House of our city's CERT Program and its volunteers is an amazing honor and would not have been possible without our program's leadership, city support and most importantly the commitment and passion that inspire our volunteers to take action. Our volunteers tirelessly promote preparedness and safety practices in their homes, within their neighborhoods and throughout the city at large", said the CERT Volunteer Board of Directors. "As volunteers, we are proud of what we have accomplished, and pledge to continue our work on innovative and resourceful preparedness projects for Newport Beach."

CERT Volunteer Board of Directors was formed in 2011 to help program leadership identify and develop opportunities in the areas of training, community outreach, marketing, logistics, radio communications and technology initiatives. In a city of almost 88,000 residents, 160 unique neighborhoods and communities, numerous schools and businesses, and a visitor population that can exceed 250,000 on weekends and holidays, the city's first responders will rely heavily on the support and service these volunteers are trained to provide in emergency situations, large and small.

The City's CERT Program was started in 1999, and has trained over 1,400 participants during that time. Today, the program not only focuses on recruiting new volunteers, but also offers continuing education and advanced training in areas like CPR/First Aid, Survival Training, HAM Radio Communications, and more to over 1,000 active certified volunteers.

For additional information about the Newport Beach CERT Volunteer Board, please contact them by email at NBCertBoard@gmail.com or follow them on Twitter @nbcertboard.

The White House will post information about the Newport Beach CERT Program on or after September 24, 2013 at www.whitehouse.gov/champions/disaster-preparedness and will stream the Champions of Change Awards Ceremony live at 10:30am PDST on Tuesday, September 24 at www.whitehouse.gov/live and after the event at www.youtube.com.

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