

**NATL WINNER 2012 FEMA AWARD  
OUTSTANDING TEAM INITIATIVES**



**CERT PROGRAM & VOLUNTEERS  
CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH, CA**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NEWPORT BEACH EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM & ITS VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE NATIONAL RECOGNITION & 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE AWARD**

NEWPORT BEACH, CA: The Newport Beach Fire Department's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program and its volunteers have won the 2012 Individual and Community Preparedness Award for Outstanding Community Emergency Response Team Initiatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). They also received Honorable Mention in the Volunteer Integration Category.

"The national recognition 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."

In 2011, CERT Volunteer Board of Directors was formed to advise and help the City identify and develop training opportunities as well as marketing, community outreach and radio communications. They also work on event planning, speaking engagements, and help manage administrative projects and the extensive volunteer pool. Efforts by the Board and by the 1,000 active CERT volunteers provide the City with a significant advantage in being able to maintain a robust and aggressive CERT program without burdening the City's financial resources.

One of the CERT Volunteer Board's key objectives is to see that everyone who lives, works or plays in Newport Beach is focused on disaster response and preparedness. Newport Beach is vulnerable to annual flooding, sea-level rise, tsunami threats, earthquakes, wild fires, hazardous spills and other potential disasters and emergencies that can strike any city. The CERT Program works toward ensuring that everyone is prepared when any of these catastrophes occur.

Major accomplishments this past year include the development of self-funding preparedness projects in many of the city's 156 communities and neighborhoods, adding volunteer trainers for CPR, First Aid and Radio Communications, and the creation of "Centers of Excellence" which focus specific volunteer skills, such as medical, technology, communications, engineering and project management, on unique problem-solving opportunities.

For additional information, please contact the CERT Volunteer Board of Directors at [NBCertBoard@gmail.com](mailto:NBCertBoard@gmail.com) or the City's CERT Program Coordinator, Matt Brisbois at [NBCert@nbfd.net](mailto:NBCert@nbfd.net) or 949-644-3381.

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