

WHITE HOUSE CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE &
NATL WINNER FEMA OUTSTANDING INITIATIVES



FIRE DEPARTMENT CERT PROGRAM & ITS VOLUNTEERS
CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA

City of Newport Beach Fire Department

CERT VOLUNTEERS

NEWSLETTER



Spring 2014

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT.

NBCERT NEWSLETTER RETURNS



NBCERT COORDINATOR'S CORNER

By Matt Brisbois, Newport Beach Fire Department Life Safety Specialist

Hello Newport Beach CERT Volunteers!

The Newport Beach CERT Quarterly Newsletter has been re-launched with this edition. To those of you who have been around long enough to remember our previous newsletter, Welcome Back! And a hearty Welcome to those of you who are newer to our program and have never received our past editions.

Our goal for this newsletter is to provide information to CERT volunteers on past events and to highlight events coming up over the next few months. We also want to share experiences from neighborhoods around the city, whether they are successful projects and initiatives or roadblocks that hinder progress. By sharing this information with our 1,000+ volunteers, we hope to find creative ideas and solutions that will help all our teams be successful. This is just one way that NBCERT will "crowdsource" for innovation.

This newsletter is unique in that other than my brief article each month, the newsletter is entirely created, developed and distributed by the NBCERT Board of Directors. The NBCERT Board of Directors continues to work tirelessly to promote the CERT program, enhance our communications, create CERT training opportunities, and ultimately to support our overall goal of better preparing the Newport Beach community for unexpected disasters. So the next time you see any of our Board members, please thank them for their service. Our CERT program would not be where it is today without the dedication of this group.



2013 was a banner year for the Newport Beach CERT program, highlighted with receiving the prestigious White House Champions of Change Award. Both the CERT Board of Directors and the Fire Department are looking forward to another banner year for the Newport Beach CERT program in 2014. As you will see in this newsletter, we have a lot of events, trainings, and drills in 2014 and will need the help and support of our CERT volunteers to achieve the ambitious agenda set by the Fire Department and CERT Board of Directors.

I am excited about our 2014 Spring CERT Training Programs, because once again we are offering three different schedules: Tuesday/Thursday Evenings; Thursday Daytime; and all-day Saturdays starting on Tuesday, March 11 and ending with our Drill the Skills exercise on Saturday, April 5. We have plenty of open seats in each of these programs, and I encourage you to recruit a family member, friend or neighbor. The complete class schedule and class application can be found on www.NBCert.org. And don't forget, if you still have a class or two to make up to complete your own certification, Spring 2014 is a perfect time to do that. Don't delay. Sign up or recruit today!

I hope you enjoy reading this first of many CERT Volunteer Newsletters. This edition is chock full of interesting and informative articles, including ways you can help and a request for your feedback on our program. Let us know what you think after you've had a chance to read through it.

2014 NBCERT GOALS

NBCERT's mission is to achieve a culture of resiliency and preparedness in our homes, schools, businesses and civic entities by promoting city-wide training and events which prepare the community for an unexpected disaster and by providing opportunities for all its volunteers to improve and enhance the skills they need to effectively and efficiently provide disaster services support to its city and community in the event of an emergency.

In 2014, we will:

1. Conduct our first comprehensive Neighborhood Drill on Saturday, April 26th
2. Continue to find unique ways to market the CERT program and to create a "culture of preparedness" throughout Newport Beach, including
 - a. Reviving the CERT Newsletter
 - b. Initiating a Social Media presence
3. Support the Fire Department by staffing community education booths throughout the year
4. Develop advanced training opportunities for our CERT Volunteers, including
 - a. CPR/AED
 - b. Mutual Aid
 - c. Command Post Operations
 - d. How to Organize Your Neighborhood
5. Continue the development, education and training of CERT Communicators
6. Expand the CERT Administration Team to assist with special projects and day-to-day operations, including
 - a. CERT Student Manual
 - b. Program Registration
 - c. Class Assistants
 - d. Volunteer Hours Portal
 - e. Special Reports
7. Continue preparation and enhancement of the Volunteer Management trailer for use in drills and potential deployment
8. Roll out the new Citizen Corps Volunteer ID Badge System
9. Maintain and refresh inventory of CERT supplies for classes and community outreach booths
10. Recruit major groups within our city (as we did with Pelican Hill Resort and Harbor Day School) to take advantage of our unique BERT, SERT and CERT opportunities

SIXTH ANNUAL STATE OF CERT AWARDS BANQUET



On January 31, 2014, the Newport Beach Fire Department hosted the sixth annual State of CERT Awards Banquet at the Oasis Senior Center. This event recognizes the efforts of all Newport Beach CERT volunteers and singles out

CERT volunteers that went above and beyond to assist the program each year.

Over 140 CERT volunteers attended the 2014 awards banquet. The keynote speaker for the event was Mary Jo Flynn, Assistant Emergency Services Coordinator with the City of Anaheim Fire Department and noted authority on the use of social media in a disaster setting. Ms. Flynn's presentation focused on how CERT volunteers can utilize social media to effectively collect and distribute information. The Life Safety Services Division of the Fire Department then presented the state of the Newport Beach CERT program. Some of the highlights for 2013 included Newport Beach CERT volunteers donating over 11,845 volunteer hours in the 2013 calendar year and the Newport Beach CERT program being recognized as a 2013 White House Champions of Change award recipient.

Please join us in congratulating the 2013 State of CERT Award Winners:

CERT Volunteer(s) of the Year
Marilyn Broughton and Evalie DuMars

CERT Instructor of the Year
Fire Captain Keith Winokur

CERT Neighborhood of the Year
Dover Shores Community Association, led by Jim Gula

Spirit of CERT Award
James Ward

Emergency Communications Volunteer(s) of the Year
Peter Putnam and Dennis Epp

If you were not able to attend this year's events, we have posted both a photo slideshow and the video of the evening's events. You can view them by clicking on these links.

Photo Slideshow

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/17320602@N06/sets/72157640930505413/>

State of CERT 2014 Video

<http://www.newportbeachca.gov/index.aspx?page=487>



We are looking for CERT volunteers who are able to assist at each of the Spring 2014 CERT Training Programs. Your assistance is needed at each

class within one of these three programs:

- Tuesday & Thursday Evenings
- Thursdays Daytime
- Saturdays All Day

Nancy Moran-Sanchez, Marilyn Broughton, Evalie DuMars and Jim Ward have all helped out in the past. And they have developed a booklet outlining duties and responsibilities, making this a turn-key opportunity for future volunteers.

We can accommodate some flexibility in your schedule if needed. If you are available to assist at any of the upcoming Spring 2014 CERT programs listed above, please e-mail NBCert@nbfd.net.

CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR NEWEST CERT COMMUNICATORS!

By Peter Putnam, NBCERT Board Member

Twenty-nine NBCERT graduates participated in the Gordon West Radio School classes held February 4th, 6th and 8th, swelling the ranks of active CERT Communicators to 140. Gordon kept the class members entertained while preparing them for their FCC Technician Class Amateur Radio licenses.

Working closely with previous graduates and Newport Beach RACES volunteers, the new ham radio operators will quickly become valuable assets to the community, through their ability to provide up-to-the-second radio reports from their positions around the city during times of an emergency.

Congratulations again to our newest CERT Communicators.

CERT COMMUNICATORS SKILLS CLASS

Our new CERT Communicators were subjected to their first "emergency" on the day their licenses arrived. Dennis Epp and Harry Wallace subjected them to a training exercise that combined use of their brand-new call-signs with real radio transmissions, providing reports of simulated emergencies.

Peter Putnam encouraged them to investigate aspects of ham radio other than emergency communications, open to them as new members of the "World's Best Social Club"

CERT COMMUNICATOR GRADUATES

FEBRUARY 2014



Marilyn	Amato	City of Laguna Niguel	KK6JRP
Noelle	Becker	Harbor Day School	KK6JRQ
Ed	Burt	NB Employee Retired	KK6JRS
Leonore	Butcher	Lido Isle Community	KK6JRT
Russell	Butcher	Lido Isle Community	KK6JRU
Michael	Coleman	Harbor Day School	KK6JRV
Francesca	Drino	Harbor Day School	KK6JVS
Cara	Ducey	Harbor Day School	KK6JVT
Sylvanda	Edwards	Harbor Day School	KK6JRW
Albert	Gonzalez	Irvine Terrace	KK6JRX
Dan	Greenwood	Harbor Day School	KK6JRZ
Barbara	Lakin	Crystal Cove (Master)	KK6JSB
David	Lamb	Lido Isle Community	KK6JSD
Geoffrey	LePlastrier	CdM Village SW	KK6JSE
Karen	Mascitelli	Cameo Community	KK6JSF
Karen	Meier	Harbor Day School	KK6JVR
Gregg	Minoux	Balboa Island	KK6JSH
Wanda	Nordstrom	Harbor Day School	KK6JSI
Dennis	O'Hern	Lido Isle Community Assn	KK6JSJ
Marcia	O'Hern	Lido Isle Community	KK6JSK
Sarah	Oliphant	Harbor Day School	KK6JVQ
Jeff	Peters	Harbor Day School	KK6JSL
Scott	Runneals	Hoag Hospital	KK6JSM
Matthew	Sanders	Hoag Hospital	KK6JSN
David	Schnur	Villa Balboa Community	KK6JSQ
Robert	Stephens	Harbor Day School	KK6JSS
Quentin	Wall	Lido Isle Community	KK6JSU
Carolyn	Williams	Cameo Community	KK6JSX
Courtney	Zarrilli	Harbor Day School	KK6JTA

CITYWIDE NEIGHBORHOOD DRILL – APRIL 26, 2014

By Tom Popplewell, NBCERT Board Member Emeritus



On April 26, Newport Beach CERT will conduct its first citywide disaster recovery drill in response to a severe earthquake near the City of Newport Beach.

The overall goals of our first comprehensive drill are relatively modest. Our primary goal is encourage the City's neighborhoods and HOA's to test their organization efforts for disaster recovery. We have asked communities who want to participate in the drill to designate a Neighborhood CERT Coordinator and to write a simple disaster recovery plan for their neighborhood.

The drill will last approximately three hours, during which time volunteers will test their neighborhood's recovery plan and organizational skills needed during the first few critical hours following a severe earthquake. The NBCERT Board is preparing a series of workshops and materials to assist volunteers practice the skills they learned in both their CERT classes and in their advanced training sessions. For example, the NBCERT Board is accumulating disaster response plans from neighborhoods who have already organized and developed a plan. Using these plans as a guide, other neighborhoods will be able to more easily develop an effective plan that is best suited for their specific needs.

The role of radio communications after a major disaster is an important tool that our increasing number of CERT Comms will need to use effectively. To help volunteers with their radio communications and protocols, the NBCERT Board, in partnership with RACES leadership, has developed a concise brochure that outlines recommendations for radio communications both within your communities and with designated CERT Comms who fill facilitate message traffic for the city.

We expect to learn much from our first citywide drill. We will build on our successes and retool our opportunities for future drills. Our goals are to test our skills across a variety of neighborhoods with different needs and to learn from our collective experiences to strengthen our city's overall resilience in the face of a disaster.

DO YOU TWEET?

By Karen Tringali, NBCERT Board Member

As many of you heard at our State of CERT event this year, Social Media is gaining momentum as a valuable tool for government agencies, CERT volunteers and community members during an emergency or disaster. With proper use, social media can provide valuable information both to and from our neighborhood command centers and with the city's EOC staff.



The NBCERT Board has selected Twitter as our first tool to test. And several neighborhoods are now following suit. We also plan to set up a hashtag to monitor and report activity during our April 26 Neighborhood Drill.

If you already have a Twitter account, please follow us @NBCERTBoard. And consider setting one up for your neighborhood just like @DoverShoresCERT and @BalisleCERT did. Let us know if you do and we'll follow you.

We'll keep you posted on our progress, and encourage you to test along with us.

PREPAREDNESS TIP

By Alan Smith, NBCERT Board Member Emeritus



The month of March marks the start of Spring and daylight saving time. These are great reminders for us to "refresh" our go-bags and emergency supplies.

Check your batteries and the expiration dates on medications and other perishables you've set aside for an emergency.

Have you also set up a supplies shed for your neighborhood? If so, it is equally important to check those supplies too.

We'll remind you again in the Fall. When seasons and time change, so should our supplies. Start now if you haven't already done so.

YOUR OPINION COUNTS!

What changes can we make to our program to help you be more effective in preparing your neighborhoods and families? Email your suggestions to NBCERTBoard@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: MARCH –JUNE

By Jan Burns, NBCERT Board Member

MARCH

- March 4 @ 6:30pm – All Hands Meeting
- March 11 @ 7:00pm– Evening CERT Class Starts
- March 12 @ 7:00pm – RACES/CERT Comm Meeting
- March 13 @ 9:00am–Daytime CERT Class Starts
- March 15 @ 9:00am –Saturday CERT Class Starts
- March 26 @ 6:00pm – Earthquake/Tsunami Workshop

APRIL

- April 5 @ 9:00am – Drill The Skills
- April 9 @ 7:00pm– RACES/CERT Comm Monthly Mtg
- April 10 @ 7:00pm – Organizing Your Neighborhood
- April 15 & 17 – Red Cross CPR & First Aid
- April 16 – Corona Del Mar Town Meeting Booth
- April 26 @ 9:00am - Neighborhood Drill

MAY

- May 14 @ 7:00pm – RACES/CERT Comm Mtg
- May 17 @ 9:00am – Mutual Aid (CMAP) Class

JUNE

- June 7 – 6:30-11:00 AM Corona Del Mar 5K Booth
- June 8 – Balboa Island Parade & Booth
- June 10 – All Hands Meeting 6:30pm
- June 11 @ 7:00pm – RACES/CERT Comm Mtg
- June 28-29, 2013 – RACES Field Day

The complete Master Calendar for 2014 can be found on our CERT Volunteer webpage at <http://cdmra.org/cdmcerts.html>

NBCERT BY THE NUMBERS – AS OF FEBRUARY 2014

1,465 Total NBCERT Program Participants
1,356 Total Active NBCERT Program Participants
1,165 NBCERT Graduates
141 Active CERT Communicators

*** And ***

11,845 . . . Volunteer hours reported in 2013
\$260,590. .Value of volunteer hours reported

We know that the number of hours you entered into the CERT Portal Timekeeping System does not reflect all the time you spent attending classes, drills, talking to neighbors and friends about CERT, organizing your neighborhoods, volunteering at CERT or city events, etc.

To do a better job of capturing our hours, we'll post the year's running total and a reminder in each newsletter. With this year's neighborhood drill and the advanced training opportunities, we know we can exceed 15,000 for 2014 . . . and possibly reach 20,000. But we need you to report all your hours. If you run into any problems entering your hours, just let us know and we'll help you.

You need your ID Number (found on your badge) and your last name in lower-case letters to log on to the Portal at <https://www.nbcert.org/NBCERTPortal/>

If questions or problems, email NBCERTBoard@gmail.com

APRIL IS EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS MONTH

By Karen Tringali, NBCERT Board Member



April is National Earthquake Preparedness Month. A perfect time to take stock and answer the following questions about safety preparedness measures you've taken for your family and for your neighborhood:

- Do you have an emergency plan?
- Did you set aside supplies for sheltering in place?
- Did you prepare an evacuation kit?
- Have you signed up to receive emergency alerts from the City and County?
- Have you recruited family members, friends or neighbors to attend CERT Training?
- Do you know who the other trained CERT members are in your own neighborhood?

It is up to each of us to take care of our families first. The City of Newport Beach has over 86,000 residents (on weekends and holidays our population can expand to over 250,000 with additional visitors). The City simply does not have sufficient emergency personnel to attend to each one of our needs in the short term. That's why preparing your family and your neighborhood for events such as wild fires, power outages, water contamination, earthquakes and tsunamis, hazardous spills, viral outbreaks, etc. can make all the difference in how well we deal with the first week of a major disaster or emergency event.

The month of April presents a great recruitment opportunity for each of our CERT volunteers. Consider making a presentation to your HOA or Community Board to get them engaged in the preparedness conversation. NBCERT Board members are available to help you put together a presentation that is tailored to your community's needs.

Or simply talk to your family members and neighbors and explain to them the importance of being able to say YES to the questions above. Give them a copy of the Spring 2014 Class Schedule and encourage them to take the training.

We've posted templates and information that you can use to get you started in your planning on our volunteer webpage at <http://cdmra.org/cdmcerts.html>

If you'd like to know about other CERT volunteers in your own neighborhood, send us an email at NBCERTBoard@gmail.com and we'll send you a copy of your Neighborhood Directory.

We are here for you and happy to help you move to the next phase of preparedness. Just ask!

