

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



Fall 2014



NBCERT COORDINATOR'S CORNER

By Matt Brisbois, Newport Beach Fire Department Life Safety Specialist

Hello Newport Beach CERT Volunteers!

Welcome to the third edition of the newly re-launched Newport Beach CERT quarterly newsletter. The newsletter is published each quarter in conjunction with the CERT "All Hands" meetings. This has been a busy summer for the Newport Beach CERT program from Field Day, a CPR/AED and First Aid class, neighborhood meetings/presentations and ultimately the Ben Carlson Memorial activation. This edition is filled with information on events held this summer and what is planned for the fall.

I wanted to first take a moment to thank the entire Newport Beach CERT community for your out pouring of support following the tragic loss of Newport Beach lifeguard Ben Carlson. I had the pleasure of working with Ben for over 15 years, as a lifeguard, junior lifeguard instructor and as the CERT Coordinator. In fact, Ben worked at several CERT "Drill the Skills" over the past several years and was always willing to help when needed. He was a truly special hero who gave the ultimate sacrifice to save another. The news and circumstances of Ben's loss were one of the hardest things for me to deal with both personally and professionally. To learn of the loss of a friend and colleague one day and then to be a part of the planning team for his memorial the next day was quite a whirlwind.

When Fire Chief Poster and Assistant Chief Kitch approved a full CERT activation to support two major events and other logistical issues for Ben's Memorial services, I knew that it was going to be a major undertaking. I would like to thank the CERT Board of Directors lead by Karen Tringali and Jan Burns for handling all memorial activation scheduling from the courtesy door hangers, paddle out and the actual memorial service. The assistance of the CERT Board of Directors was awesome. I would also like to thank Harry Wallace (CERT Incident Commander), Dennis Epp (Logistics), Marilyn Broughton (Logistics), Evalie DuMars (Logistics), Gail Reisman (Door hanger assignment), and Nancy Moran-Sanchez (black ribbons) for stepping up and doing everything that was needed. Lastly, I would like to send a special thank you out to all of the CERT volunteers that responded to assist at any of the memorial events. It was truly remarkable that the CERT program, led by your Board of Directors, was able to respond in mass when the city truly needed your assistance. It was very special for me to see CERT volunteers lined up at the memorial paddle out handing out flowers to all of the participants and at the memorial handing out the program guides. So thank you to all of the Newport Beach CERT family for all of your support and assistance with the Ben Carlson Memorial Services. BEN DID GO and I will always be grateful for all of your help at his memorial services.

This was the first major CERT activation in Newport Beach and one that would not have been possible without all of the CERT volunteer support. There were many lessons learned with the activation and a "Hotwash" meeting was held with all memorial volunteers to discuss what went well and what could be improved upon. As a reminder, please remember that in order to be activated, you must have your CERT vest, ID badge and other applicable equipment. It is incredibly difficult to issue necessary equipment during a CERT volunteer activation and it will always be a requirement that at a minimum you have a CERT vest and ID badge. The Fire department holds two "Drill the Skills" each year (the next one is scheduled for Saturday, October 18th) and these are two opportunities for CERT volunteers to make sure that they have the necessary equipment and identification badges to respond to an activation. It is too late to ask for a new ID badge or CERT vest after the activation, you need to have the appropriate equipment- CERT vest and ID badge, ready prior to the activation.

Please take the time to read this newsletter in its entirety. Information about our Annual Expo, Fall Training, YouTube videos and more are included. I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events. Thank you for your service.



THANK YOU FROM FIRE CHIEF POSTER

On behalf of the family of Lifeguard Ben Carlson, and the men and women of the Newport Beach Fire Department, I wish to express my gratitude for the presence of CERT members at the Paddle Out and the Celebration of Life for Ben Carlson on July 13, 2014.

This has been a very difficult time for not only the Newport Beach Fire Department but also for the entire community. As you all know, Ben was an incredible person that many of you had the opportunity to meet at the many CERT "Drill the Skills" he worked over the past decade. Ben's Memorial Paddle Out and Celebration of Life was a huge undertaking and your role in coordinating, managing and ultimately helping out at both events was greatly appreciated and needed.

The quick response of the CERT Board of Directors, led by Karen Tringali and Jan Burns, to handle all coordination and scheduling of CERT volunteers for both memorial events was instrumental in freeing staff to handle other tasks. The willingness of CERT volunteers to step up and handle assignments at both events on their own was awesome. It is my understanding that about 345 volunteer hours were worked at both events, and that includes about 60 hours prior for event coordination. Your coordination efforts and ability to activate according to your training was evident.

This was the first major CERT activation in Newport Beach and you did a remarkable job. Although the activation was under difficult circumstances, you came through when we needed you most. I look forward to the continued development of the Newport Beach Fire Department CERT program so that we can continue to enhance your operational readiness.

Thank you for all of the efforts.

Scott L. Poster

Fire Chief

NBCERT NOW ON YOUTUBE

Just in time for National Preparedness Month! Check out the YouTube shorts filmed by Matt Brisbois and Katie Eing. These shorts cover Disaster Supply Kits, CERT Program, our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and AlertOC. Each video is between 2-4 minutes and provide a great way for you to circulate easily digestible information to your family and friends. Consider including this link on your community websites and in your community newsletters.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNerxWPw_NtKHpnnyKG0jg or search Channel NEWPORTBEACHGOV on YouTube

TIP OF THE MONTH – FAMILY COMMUNICATION PLAN

The recent Napa earthquake should be a reminder for all of us to make sure we have a family communication plan in place. In Napa, landlines were down, cell phone use was limited, and in some cases texting was the only way to find out a family member's situation. Be sure you have an out-of-area contact designated for family check ins. This is particularly important if a disaster occurs during the middle of the day when family members are scattered at work, school and errands.

WATER CONSERVATION & DEALING WITH THE SEVERE DROUGHT

Many communities throughout the West Coast are experiencing severe drought conditions. It is critical that everyone be mindful of indoor water maintenance and conservation. Did you know that the average household's leaks can account for more than 10,000 gallons of water wasted every year? Droughts affect everyone from farmers to those of us just trying to take a shower. Even small efforts, like being mindful of whether or not your faucet is completely off (dripping faucets alone lose 2,700 gallons of water a year!) make a huge difference.

There are many things you can do to improve your conservation, from purchasing water-saving technologies to how you do your laundry. For more information on water conservation go to the City of Newport Beach Water Conservation page at <http://www.newportbeachca.gov/index.aspx?page=229>.

FIELD DAY – 2014

By Peter Putnam, NBCERT Board Member

Field Day 2014, a joint CERT and RACES emergency communications training exercise, was a resounding success. Our goal for this year's event, held during the last weekend in June, was to improve on our performance of last year. We did that easily.

We made contacts with just over 300 stations across the country last year. Thanks to all of the operators who manned the station during the 24-hour event and especially those who were there all through the night, we approached 500 contacts this year. We reached other Field Day participants in every state except Nebraska as well as several foreign countries. The most distant station was in Mali (West Africa).

The star performer was Bob Carlson, a RACES member, who contributed 200 contacts toward the total, tapping out each with Morse code instead of using a microphone. That earned a bonus of a double score for each contact.



CERT radio operators included Bob Chambers, Rick Moore and Jim Ward. Evalie DuMars and Marilyn Broughton helped assemble the antenna for the VHF station they then used to make contacts. Keith Garrison, not yet licensed as a ham operator, put 33 entries into the log.

Pam Spears made sure we didn't lack nourishment. The Saturday night dinner she prepared was a treat for all in attendance.

Other CERT participants included Bob Clark, Corena Dusek, Ellis Marcos, Kathie McClelland, Sue and Ed Siebel, Chuck Turmell, and Ken Wirgler.

Field Day 2015 will be, as always, the fourth full weekend of June. Mark your calendar now for June 27th and 28th, 2015.



CERT COMMS – NET CHANNEL TO CHANGE

By Gary Standard, NBCERT Board Member

Due to ongoing interference issues with our Channel 1 VHF repeater that we use for our Monday night nets, we are switching to our Channel 2 UHF repeater for our future Monday night nets.

Simply turn the knob on your radio (unlocking the knob & keyboard if it is locked) from Channel 1 to Channel 2.

If you have any issues on being able to make this change, please email NBCERTBoard@gmail.com for assistance.



NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT

LIDO ISLE

By Gail Reisman, Lido Isle Team Leader

Lido Isle is divided into blocks, and each block has an assigned "Captain". This creates smaller areas of responsibility and is easier to manage than trying to tackle the neighborhood as a whole.

Block Captains on Via Mentone invite their neighbors to attend a Coffee, Desert and Disaster Preparation Discussion. What a great way to engage your neighbors in a small, intimate setting. Small steps . . . big wins!

DOVER SHORES

By James Gula, NBCERT Board & Dover Shores Team Leader

Dover Shores is starting a new chapter for its Neighborhood Plan: Elder Care in an Emergency. Much of this chapter is based on information from various web sites, and includes a variety of forms and articles. Dover Shores volunteer physicians are working with CERT volunteers to identify the kind of problems that may be unique to seniors and how best to manage and/or treat them.

The Dover Shores Plan will include sections that address elderly care specifically in the areas of:

- First Aid
- Medicines & Therapies
- Dementia & Mental Health
- and more

If you are interested in looking at adopting similar guidelines for your neighborhood plan, we'll be happy to help. Just email NBCERTBoard@gmail.com for more information.



COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

By Matt Brisbois, Life Safety Specialist

On Tuesday, August 5th, the City of Newport Beach Parks and Recreation Commission awarded CERT Board of Director (and President of the Corona Del Mar Residents Association) Karen Tringali with a Community Service Award. Commission Chair Tom Anderson along with Recreation and Senior Services Director Laura Detweiler and Recreation Superintendent Sean Levin presented Karen with the award “for her many contributions to the community and for improving the quality of life in Newport Beach.” In addition to her many roles with the Newport Beach CERT program, Karen has also been President of the Corona del Mar Residents Association for the past six years, is a member of Neighborhood Watch, serves on various neighborhood HOA committees and volunteers for the Corona del Mar 5K. Congratulations to Karen for a well- deserved award.



BEN CARLSON PADDLE OUT PHOTO

Photo Credit: Daily Pilot



CERT ACTIVATION TIMELINE – CARLSON MEMORIAL

By Jan Burns, NBCERT Board Member

To give you a sense of what it takes to activate NBCERT volunteers during an official callout, we put together the following report which was included in the City’s After Action Plan. Again, the Board wishes to thank all those who were available to assist the City during this important event, specifically, the following individuals:

BEN CARLSON MEMORIAL VOLUNTEER HONOR ROLL

Debra Barget	Richard Mays
Timothy Bercovitz	Kathie McClelland
Kathryn Branman	Juliana McNeill
Robert Bray	Michelle Mendenhall
Marilyn Broughton	Rick Moore
Janice Burns	Nancy Moran-Sanchez
Robert Chambers	Mary Moyer
Barbara Davis	Ann Piani
Judith Deaton	Michael Postil
Evalie DuMars	Melissa Rakestraw
Richard Eimers	Ken Rawson
Dennis Epp	Gail Reisman
James Fournier	Clarivel Rodriguez
Keith Garrison	Johanna Roe
Albert Gonzalez	Scott Runneals
James Gula	Matthew Sanders
Doak Hefner	Julie Siebel
Deborah Henry	Sue Siebel
Dale Hollingshead	Ed Siebel Jr
Nicholas Hollingshead	Alan Smith
Peter Hollingshead	Gary Standard
Winston Hollingshead	Joan Steen
Anne Hollingshead	Donna Thompson
Kevin Hollingsworth	Karen Tringali
Jon Jay	Charles Turmell
Diane Knight	Harry Wallace
Ora MacFarlane	James Ward
Juli Marracino	Carolyn Williams
Melinda Martin	Ken Wirgler
Karen Mascitelli	

BEN CARLSON MEMORIAL TIME LINE

The Paddle Out and Celebration of Life for Ben Carlson on July 13 was the first major CERT activation in Newport Beach. The objective for activating CERT volunteers was to free city staff to co-ordinate all the elements of the memorial service. Below is a synopsis of what occurred, starting with official notice of the activation.

Wednesday, July 9

About 9:00 AM the City requested activation of approximately 50 CERT volunteers to assist as ushers, dignitary escort, traffic management, parking assistance and miscellaneous additional responsibilities, such as program distribution and neighborhood information distribution. Additional requests included creation of black ribbons for the volunteers and neighborhood door tag distribution.

Initial key CERT assignments were determined

- CERT Volunteer Coordinator - Karen Tringali
- CERT Activation Process Documentation - Jan Burns
- CERT Neighborhood Door Hangers Team Lead – Gail Reisman

At 6:45 PM the initial CERT Activation Volunteer Request email was distributed.

Thursday, July 10

Additional key responsibilities were determined

- CERT Volunteer Incident Team Lead – Harry Wallace, assisted by Dennis Epp

Friday, July 11

Additional key responsibilities were determined

- CERT Memorial Ribbons – Nancy Moran Sanchez

Door Hangers map and instructions were provided to Door Hanger Team Lead by 8:15 AM and 250 Hangers were in place by noon.

An Official CERT Activation Volunteer Request from the CERT Board was distributed with special bolded notice not to self-deploy.

By 10:00 AM the Nbfd confirmed the official CERT volunteer meeting point for the Memorial was to be at Hoag Primary Parking Lot on Sunday at 4:00 PM. It was also determined that, due to the sensitivity of the ceremony, CERT Comm Radios would not be used, with the possible exception of communications between the Hoag Parking Lot and CERT Volunteer Incident Team Lead, Harry.

Assignment distributions were developed. Additional Hoag parking maps to be available at Primary Hoag Parking Lot.

Saturday, July 12

It was determined that volunteers would be organized into two main categories: traffic control and ushers, with a few to act as support for Harry, and to serve as floaters. Additionally it was determined that Volunteers at the Paddle Out would be managed by Katie Eing, while Harry would manage those at the afternoon Memorial.

The CERT black ribbons were completed and delivered.

Karen distributed an email at 12:30 PM to CERT Volunteers requesting they watch for email Activation Confirmation. At 3:00 PM Activation email was distributed to those CERTs being activated, with Activation Instructions and necessary Maps.

Sunday, July 13

- 6:30 AM required forms (CheckIn_AM, Contacts_AM, Equipment_InOutAM) provided to Katie & Jan for the AM Paddle Out
- 7:30 AM -11:00 CERT Volunteer Paddle Out Shift - Alan, Evalie and Marilyn meet Katie at Pier
- 7:30 AM required forms (Assignments_Memorial, CheckIn_PM, Contacts_PM, Equipment_InOutPM, Radio Storage_PM) provided to Harry, Katie & Jan for the Afternoon Memorial
- 7:40 AM Contacts_Memorial_Staff provided to Jan to print name tags radio labels
- **9:00 AM Paddle Out**
- 3:30 PM Supplies (reflective vets, ribbons, T-shirts) delivered by Evalie & Marilyn to Volunteer Check-In Table
- 3:30 PM – Harry at the Hoag Hospital Parking lot to coordinate CERT volunteers on arrival for assignment
- 4:00 PM – 9:00 CERT Volunteer Memorial duty shift

Tuesday, July 22

- 6:00 PM De-Brief & Thank You Meeting – What worked well, what can be improved



CALENDAR OF EVENTS: SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER

By Jan Burns, NBCERT Board Member

SEPTEMBER

- September 9 @ 6:30pm – All Hands Meeting
- September 10 @ 7:00pm – RACES/CERT Comm Mtg
- September 12 – Expo Prep Meeting 1:00pm
- September 13 – 6th Annual Disaster Expo
- September 23 @ 10:00 am: ALERTOC Notification
- September 23 @ 7:00 pm: Fall CERT Training T/Th
- September 25 @ 9:00 am: Fall CERT Training Th Day
- September 27 @ 8:30 am: Fall CERT Training Sat

OCTOBER

- October 4 @ 10:00am Fire Service Day @ Station #7
- October 8 @ 7:00pm – RACES/CERT Comm Mtg
- October 18 @ 9:00am – Fall Drill The Skills

NOVEMBER

- November 12 @ 7:00pm – RACES/CERT Comm Mtg

DECEMBER

- December 7 – Corona del Mar Christmas Walk Booth
- December 9 @ 6:30pm All Hands Meeting

JANUARY

- January 30 @ 6:30pm State of CERT @ Oasis

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



Q&A

Q: “I was dismayed to find a CERT backpack in my local thrift store. I explained to the owner what it was, and he happily gave it to me. Can I return this abandoned backpack to NBCERT so that it can be reused?”

A: Unfortunately, we cannot accept used equipment back into inventory here at NBCERT. However, we encourage you to give that backpack to a family member or neighbor who has expressed an interest in family preparedness. You might also want to use it for “show and tell” at neighborhood functions.

YOUR QUESTIONS & OPINIONS COUNT!

What changes can we make to our program to help you be more effective in preparing your neighborhoods and families? What articles would you find interesting in our next CERT Volunteer Newsletter? Email your suggestions to NBCERTBoard@gmail.com



NBCERT EMAILS

On a monthly basis, or when needed, the City of Newport Beach sends out notifications about NBCERT activity and events. These email notifications are generated through the City’s Select Alert System. Every Newport Beach resident is encouraged to sign up and select from a variety of topics. NBCERT volunteers, especially, are encouraged to sign up and select the categories: Disaster Preparedness and Community Preparedness. If you are not getting these emails from the City of Newport Beach, please consider doing so without delay.

Sign up here:

<http://www.newportbeachca.gov/index.aspx?page=614>

In addition to the City emails, your NBCERT Board of Directors send out emails on an as-needed basis, reminding you of upcoming events and activities. Our emails give you the opportunity to RSVP for these events, and to ask questions directly to your volunteer Board members.

If you are not getting these emails, it is likely that we either don’t have your email address, or the email address we have for you is an old one and no longer valid. Please consider subscribing to the NBCERT Board email list for an enhanced look at what your program is doing.

Sign up here:

NBCERTBoard@gmail.com

Please put the following in the Subject Line:
Email News Subscription



CERT IN THE NEWS

By James Gula, NBCERT Board Member

The Sunday LA Times (September 7, 2014) has an article on a community CERT group in Bel Air Crest. Good template for other neighborhoods: <http://www.latimes.com/local/la-me-adv-bel-air-disaster-20140905-story.html>

KCAL-9 carried a story last week about how Pulsepoint saved a baby’s life in Spokane, WA:

<http://www.kxly.com/news/spokane-news/smartphone-app-helps-save-babys-life/27846260>



DO YOU TWEET?



If you already have a Twitter account, please follow us @NBCERTBoard. If you don’t have one, consider setting one up for you and for your neighborhood. It’s fun, easy and enhances our communications with fellow volunteers.



