

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



Winter 2014



NBCERT COORDINATOR'S CORNER

By Matt Brisbois, Newport Beach Fire Department Life Safety Specialist

Hello Newport Beach CERT Volunteers!

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Newport Beach CERT quarterly newsletter. The newsletter is published each quarter in conjunction with the CERT "All Hands" meetings. As usual, this fall has been a busy time for the Newport Beach CERT program, including National Preparedness Month (September), the 6th Annual Disaster Preparedness Expo, and the three fall 2014 CERT programs. This edition is filled with information on what happened this fall and what is planned for 2015.

National Preparedness Month

The City of Newport Beach actively participates in National Preparedness Month each September and this year was no exception. Along with a public relations campaign encouraging residents to be better prepared for unexpected disasters the fire department hosted the 6th Annual Disaster Preparedness Expo on Saturday, September 13th at the Newport Beach Central library. Over 35 CERT volunteers assisted at the expo and over 1,000 people attended. The expo had booths from CERT, NBPD Neighborhood Watch, RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services), Southern California Edison, Ready OC and the Gas Company. There were also interactive booths on how to control bleeding and how to perform compression only CPR. The expo provided Newport Beach residents with an easy way to get all of their disaster preparedness information and was well received by all. The success of the expo was a result of the hard work of the CERT Board of Directors as well as all of the CERT volunteers that assisted with all aspects of the expo, from set-up to take down. A special thanks goes to CERT volunteers Marilyn Broughton, Evalie DuMars and James Ward for all of their assistance with the expo.

Fall CERT Training

Following the expo, the three fall 2014 CERT programs started at the end of September. As we have done for the past two years, the fire department hosted three fall 2014 CERT programs, a Tuesday-Thursday evening class, a Thursday day class and an all-day Saturday class. All three CERT programs ended in a "Drill the Skills" on Saturday, October 18th. A total of 54 participants completed all of the **CERT** requirements and officially graduated at the drill (see page 6 for the listing of Fall Graduates.) There were over 110 participants in the "Drill the Skills" and it would not have been possible without the assistance from a large group of CERT volunteers lead by Doak Hefner, Marilyn Broughton, Evalie DuMars, Dennis Epp, Harry Wallace, Jan Burns, Ed and Sue Siebel. The spring 2015 CERT program schedule is also set to begin in late February 2015 and will follow the same format as the fall schedule with all three programs culminating in a "Drill the Skills" on Saturday, March 28, 2015.

New ID Badging System

The fall 2014 CERT program graduates were the first set of graduates in a while to not be issued their CERT ID badges upon graduation. This was the result of an old ID badge system (that was received through grant funding) simply dying. I am happy to report that we did receive another grant for a new ID badge system last spring and because of the diligence of CERT Board of Directors Karen Tringali, Jim Gula and Jan Burns, the new ID badge system is up and running and we will start issuing the new CERT ID badges at the "All Hands" meeting on December 9th and at other events throughout 2015. It will take some time to issue new ID badges to the over 1,000 active CERT volunteers so please be patient. There will be plenty of badging opportunities throughout the year, and we will keep you posted on all the dates and locations so that you can plan to attend one of the sessions.

New Board Members Welcomed

Also, I would like to welcome Jim Gula and Dennis Epp to the CERT Board of Directors. Both Jim and Dennis joined the Board in September and have been busy with technology and communications issues. Jim will serve as the Director of Technology and Dennis will serve as the Director of Logistics and Activation. Both Jim and Dennis are long-term CERT volunteers and have jumped into their new roles head first. Jim has been the integral in the implementation of the new CERT ID badge system and Dennis has been busy organizing the February HAM Radio class. If you have any questions for any member of the CERT Board of Directors, do not hesitate to contact them at NBCERTBoard@gmail.com.



Current Board Members: Left to Right

Front Row: Evalie DuMars, Marilyn Broughton, Jan Burns, Nancy Moran-Sanchez, Gary Standard

Back Row: Peter Putnam, Matt Brisbois, Karen Tringali, Jim Gula [

Dennis Epp

Last . . . But Certainly Not Least

I am happy to announce that I got married on Saturday, November 15th to your fellow CERT volunteer Francesca Drino whom I first meet at a school training for Harbor Day. I am excited to start this new journey with my new incident commander.

Best wishes to all our volunteers for a very Happy Holiday Season!



AlertOC Mass Notification Annual Test Call

By Katie Eing, Emergency Services Coordinator

On Tuesday, September 23, 25 jurisdictions (24 cities and the County unincorporated areas) including Newport Beach conducted a test of Orange County's Regional Emergency Notification System, AlertOC. The exercise was conducted in conjunction with National Preparedness Month. The primary objective of the regional exercise was to test AlertOC's capability, capacity and effectiveness to deliver emergency notifications to the public during times of a major disaster, and to encourage residents to register their cell phone numbers. Newport Beach called "residents only" which is about 33,000 (mostly landline phone numbers) during the test. The City's public hotline located in the EOC was activated with five call takers. The hotline received over 400 calls from residents. The hotline was staffed with reps. from the City's Manager's Office, Fire Dept. and Police Dispatch. All residents in Newport Beach are encouraged to register their cellphone numbers and e-mail addresses with AlertOC by going to www.alertoc.gov.



Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Exercise

By Katie Eing, Emergency Services Coordinator

On October 16, the City held an EOC drill in conjunction with the Southern California Great Shakeout. This was the second EOC drill of 2014 and was for the EOC staff that serve as secondary and tertiary. The drill provided an opportunity to introduce and train staff on the City's new EOC.

At the conclusion of the drill, EOC staff was provided orientation on the City's new Emergency Drinking Water Trailer by Utilities staff. Thank you to all City staff that participated. Together we are more prepared to respond and recover from a disaster!



TIP OF THE MONTH – REFRESH YOUR GO-BAG SUPPLIES

By Jan Burns, Director of Administration

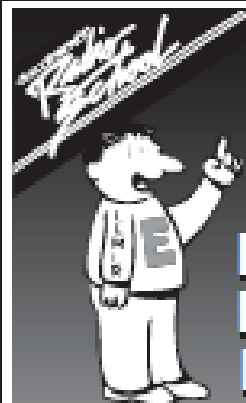
The recent time change should trigger a reminder to review the contents of your go-bag. Look for items that are perishable (medications, batteries, food and water, etc.) and replace them with more current supplies. And don't forget to check your smoke-detector batteries too. You know the saying: "An ounce of protection . . ."

ANNUAL HAM RADIO CLASS COMING SOON

By Dennis Epp, Director of Logistics & Activation

If you have not yet become a CERT Comm (licensed Ham radio operator), now is the time to do so. This is an important skill for all our CERT graduates. Becoming licensed to operate a HAM radio puts you and your neighborhood in direct contact with the City's EOC when all other forms of communications are not available. The ability to communicate with EOC staff helps the city prioritize its first-responder resources to those neighborhoods with the most pressing needs.

The Ham Radio Class will be held on February 3 from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm, February 5 from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm and February 7th from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. You must attend all three classes to receive your FCC-issued radio license. The class will be held at Fire Station 7. The cost is \$60.00 and includes all required materials. Twenty five people have signed up thus far. We have 15 more spaces available and we expect the class to be full, so sign up without delay. For more details about the class, you can read the brochure that we've included on the next page.



HOME STUDY FIRST! IN 2 EVENINGS PLUS 1 FULL DAY,
YOU WILL BE A HAM RADIO OPERATOR.

**FREE
INSTRUCTION!**

EMERGENCY RESPONDER'S Ham Radio License Class

Feb. 3th, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm, Newport Beach Fire, near John Wayne Airport

Feb. 5th, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm, Newport Beach Fire, near John Wayne Airport

Feb. 7th, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, Newport Beach Fire, near John Wayne Airport

FREE INSTRUCTION from **GORDON WEST**. Materials fee of \$60.00 includes:

- Gordon West text book, and 1 audio CD for learning radio!
- Prestudy Workbook, a fun way to learn before each class session
- Band charts for frequency privileges
- 3 month free ham magazine subscription
- Beverages and Saturday lunch provided by Newport Beach Fire CERT.
- Pass your ham radio FCC license exam right in class.
- Live equipment demonstrations, including emergency radio communications.
- Radio demonstrations of radio internet linking, plus computer communications.
- Training on how to operate through local radio repeater systems.
- Study questions reorganized for easier classroom learning. New simple Test!
- Multiple-choice examinations with no Morse Code test required.

Ham radio operators provide valuable communications in an emergency. Many cities throughout the country use ham radio operators to support Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training and actual call-outs. This action-packed class will feature live ham radio equipment for everyone to learn how to operate. Pre-study before class and pass your amateur radio Element 2 Technician class examination, right in the classroom. New Easter Test!

- Earn full ham radio Technician class radio privileges. - **FREE INSTRUCTION!**
- Learn radio communications through satellites and the International Space Station (ISS).
- Operate your own ham radio position-reporting system (APRS). **LIVE DEMOS!**
- Operate ham radio television and computer radio photos (ATV and SSTV). **LIVE DEMOS!**
- Become a ham radio emergency responder for CERT communications.

Pre-registration is required to hold a spot for you in this limited Volunteer Emergency Communicator Class.

Questions? Call **GORDON WEST** at 714-549-5000. Mail in your registration now to hold a spot in this Newport Beach Fire class. Order materials direct from Radio School, with a check and with the below form. Materials fee \$60.



RADIO SCHOOL REGISTRATION-TECHNICIAN CLASS

Name _____ Phone (DAY) _____ (E-Mail) _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

CLASS LOCATION: N.B. Fire Station #7, 20401 Acacia, Newport Beach, CA.

Please fill out one registration form per person.

RADIO SCHOOL, INC. 2414 College Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 (714) 549-5000 DAYS • (714) 434-0666 24 HRS.

Order Materials Today!

\$60 CHECK

FREE INSTRUCTION!

SATELLITE INTERNET FOR CERT

By Jim Gula, Director of Technology

Any disaster tends to leave people in shock. After our initial roles of providing information to the EOC and triaging what medical problems we can, a key function for our CERT teams is to help people overcome that shock and get back on their feet psychologically. In part that can be accomplished by simply providing a gathering place where people can meet, exchange information and have some friendly listeners to whom they can tell their story. In many events, however, the shock is likely to be compounded by a lack of outside information and communication. Neighborhood CERTs have an important role to fill that gap.

We live in an interconnected world and people take for granted the ability to call, text, and receive information via TV, radio and the Internet. Many disasters have the potential to interrupt that flow of information. All of these technologies have in common a dependence on electricity. Most likely an earthquake but events as esoteric as a solar storm have the potential to knock out our electrical grid for days or even weeks at a time. Cell towers and land-line phones have batteries or generators that will last only a few hours - if they survive the initial shaking and are not overloaded with traffic. Likewise, Internet connections, cable TV and even broadcast TV and radio need electricity to function. Earthquakes can also sever the fiber optic cables that the Internet depends on when they cross faults such as the San Andreas.

Satellites represent the one information source that will survive no matter what happens down here. Newport Beach neighborhood Dover Shores decided to install a satellite Internet system run off a generator to keep our neighborhood command center functioning during a disaster. It provides information and allows people to communicate with email and video conferencing such as Skype so residents can re-establish connections with the outside world and reassure loved ones that they are OK.

There are several providers of satellite Internet service. The best-known ones are Exede/ViaSat and Hughes. We chose Exede/ViaSat as it provides somewhat higher data rates and offers an optional phone service that acts like a sat-phone. Like many service providers they all are reputed to offer bad customer service but our experience has been relatively straightforward so far.

Exede sends out a technician who installs a dish antenna that is similar though a little larger than the ubiquitous Dish or Direct TV type antennas. We installed it near our headquarters structure that contains the generator, modem and a wireless router for WIFI. They have various rate plans. We selected a plan that offers 10GB of data for \$60/month. The phone option costs an additional \$30/month for unlimited calling and connects a regular phone to the satellite via the modem. Satellite Internet is a service we hope we never have to depend upon but it's reassuring to think that it will be there when we need it.





CONGRATULATIONS FALL 2014 CERT GRADUATES!

Nila Ballesteros
Kevin Bernatzke
Sara Berrey
Grayson Breland
Patricia Breland
Julie Castillo
Darren Chadra
Nancy Chusid
Deborah Collins
Jeanne Curry
Vicky Denley
Esther Fine
Jill Golden
Gina Gunal
Shelton Harrison
Laura Hastings
Brooke Hutchison
Jaime Kammann
Marsha Kendall
Carole Kredel
Loretta Leat
Gina Lesley
Susan Lew
Elaine Linhoff

Virginia Lombardi
Kathie Malcomb
Linda Marczak
Aileen Masesar
Stacy McCray
Richard Milo
Frawn Morgan
Linda Mounce
Jeanne Noel-Welch
Katherine Oldakowski
Michele O'Leary
Chaz Perry
Cherri Perry
Theresa Powers
Catherine Raack
James Reynolds
Thomas Ricks
Reid Rolfes
Roberta Schmidt
Elizabeth Shier
Richard Siler
Cinnamon Sparks
Jason Stooks
Christopher Williams
Mary Williams

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: DECEMBER-MARCH

By Jan Burns, NBCERT Board Member

DECEMBER

- December 7 Corona del Mar Christmas Walk Booth
- December 9 @ 6:30pm All Hands Meeting & Badging
- December 16 3:00pm-6:00pm Badging @ Station #7

JANUARY

- January 30 @ 6:00pm State of CERT @ Oasis

FEBRUARY

- February 3,5,7 HAM Radio Class
- February 24 @ 7pm CERT Training Tue/Thu Evenings
- February 26 @ 9am CERT Training Thursday Days
- February 28 @ 8:30am CERT Training Saturdays

MARCH

- March 28 @ 9am Drill The Skills

The complete Master Calendar for 2015 can be found on our CERT Volunteer webpage at <http://cdmra.org/cdmcerts.html>

If you have any questions about these or other CERT events, send us an email at NBCERTBoard@gmail.com.



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



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.





WHAT'S NEW?

MOVED, CHANGED PHONE NUMBERS, TEXT OR EMAIL? LET US KNOW.

NAME:	
HOME ADDRESS:	
MAILING ADDRESS:	
PHONE/TEXT:	
E-MAIL ADDRESS:	
COMMENTS:	

FILL OUT, SCAN & EMAIL TO NBCERTBOARD@GMAIL.COM
OR GO ONLINE & FILL OUT OUR FORM AT WWW.CDMRA.ORG/CDMCERTS.HTML

NEWPORT BEACH CERT COORDINATOR

Matt Brisbois, NBF D Life Safety Specialist

By Email nbcert@nbfd.net

By Phone 949.644.3112

City Website www.nbcert.org

NBCERT VOLUNTEER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ACTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Administration Jan Burns
 Cert Communicators Peter Putnam
 Events Marilyn Broughton
 Evalie DuMars
 Logistics/Activation Dennis Epps
 Marketing Karen Tringali
 Member at Large Gary Standard
 Neighborhood Liaison Open *
 Technology James Gula

By Email NBCERTBoard@gmail.com
 @ Twitter @nbcertboard
 Volunteer Website www.cdmra.org/cdmcerts.html

BOARD MEMBERS EMERITUS/RETIRED FROM SERVICE

Cert Communicators David Brandmeyer
 Harry Wallace
 Logistics Alan Smith
 Neighborhood Liaison Tom Popplewell
 Special Assistant Nancy Moran-Sanchez

* If you have an interest in serving on the Board in any capacity, please contact Matt Brisbois for details and an application.



WHERE CAN I FIND . . .

NBCERT
www.nbcert.org

NBCERT Volunteers
<http://cdmra.org/cdmcerts.html>

NBCERT Volunteer Hours Portal
<https://www.nbcert.org/NBCERTPortal/>

City of Newport Beach
www.newportbeachca.gov

City of Newport Beach News & Alerts
www.newportbeachca.gov/news

AlertOC
<http://bos.ocgov.com/alertoc/alertoc.asp>

ReadyOC
<http://www.readyoc.org/>

Red Cross – Orange County
<http://www.redcross.org/ca/orange-county>

FEMA
<http://www.fema.gov/>

FEMA Courses
<http://training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.aspx>

Citizen Corps
<http://www.ready.gov/citizen-corps>

White House Champions of Change Blog:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2013/10/17/awareness-action-volunteer-driven-initiatives-community-preparedness>