

Dear CERT Family,

Now that I am officially off probation, I can say it proudly — the CERT program is stuck with me for the next 30 years! I hope you're ready for the long haul, because I am!

As I look back on this past year with the Newport Beach Fire Department, I want to sincerely thank each and every one of you. Your support, encouragement, and consistent presence have meant more to me than you may realize. I came into this role with big goals, but none of them could have been achieved without you.

Together, we've accomplished so much. Over the past year, we hosted six full CERT courses, including three adult classes, two Teen CERT programs, and one City Employee class. On top of that, we secured a 40-foot shipping container to serve as our official CERT shed. It is now fully stocked and ready to support us for years to come.

Another major milestone was expanding our in-house training offerings, all of which are now completely free to CERT members. That has always been one of my top goals, and thanks to support from our department and you, we made it happen. Every CERT member now has access to a range of valuable trainings without cost including First Aid/CPR Training, Wilderness First Aid, ICS Trainings in person, all CMAP courses now offered free and in person to Newport Beach CERT!

Since January 1, 2025, you have volunteered and trained for a combined 4,355 hours. That is incredible. It shows your deep commitment to readiness, service, and your community.

A recent article gave me a spotlight, reflecting on my first year with the Newport Beach Fire Department. It was written in support of the department and was spearheaded by some truly incredible CERT members. I am deeply touched by the kind words, your generosity, and the ongoing encouragement. If you have not seen it yet, you can read the article here: <https://stunewsnewport.com>

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for welcoming me into this community and allowing me to grow alongside you. Every conversation, every volunteer hour, every bit of trust you've placed in me has meant more than I can say. I don't take it for granted. You have made this not just a job, but a place I feel proud to call home. I am honored to serve with you, to learn from you, and to keep building something meaningful together for years to come.

With appreciation,

David Gibson
Fire Services Coordinator
Newport Beach Fire Department