



# CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT NEWSLETTER

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CLASS 1

### CERT Holiday Party, December 14, 2023

By Raji Shunmugavel

On Thursday, December 14, 2023, at our monthly meeting we had our Huntington Beach CERT Holiday party at City Hall in rooms B7 and B8. After three years without parties, we were able to attend this fun event!

We had a fantastic Christmas potluck with appetizers and desserts brought by the CERT members. The food was plentiful, and everyone really enjoyed it!

In the past we have had a gift exchange, but this year was different, and it was more fun. The Huntington Beach High School Singers and Dancers performed, and it was delightful! They were extremely talented in singing and dancing!

In addition to that, there were games that challenged our memories back from 1951 to present, guessing what the prices were for some of our favorite items. That game challenged our math skills; I could not do without the calculator! We were asked to guess the price and then when the original price was announced, we had to find the difference between our guess and the correct answer. Whoever was off by a total of less than \$1000 was the winner.

Our Holiday Party this year was very relaxing, fun filled and entertaining!





## CERT Sandbags

*By Phil Burtis*

The sandbag team has been busy this storm season and over 900 sandbags were delivered to 60 clients across the City. Some deliveries were relatively simple and easy; some required significant hikes through mud, water and plants! So far to date, the following volunteers have all helped fill, deliver or both- please thank these tireless volunteers next time you see them: Al Baloy, Kirby Baloy, Steven Bell, John Bishop, Phil Burtis, Jonathan Clotworthy, Crystal Ditzler, Alan Eiler, Leo Gruber, Ben Hansen, Robert Harris, Bob Irvin, Mimi Irvin, Nanci Moreno, Keaton Quinn, Juan Rojas, Kelley Shannon, Raji Shunmugavel.

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## **CERT Monthly Meeting, January 11, 2024**

*By Raji Shunmugavel*

Many months ago, Carol asked us to be trained in various classes to complete the new CMAP requirements. Upon completion we always email Carol a copy of the Certificates so she can make a note of what training we have done. I completed the new requirements during the Christmas Holidays, it took many hours.

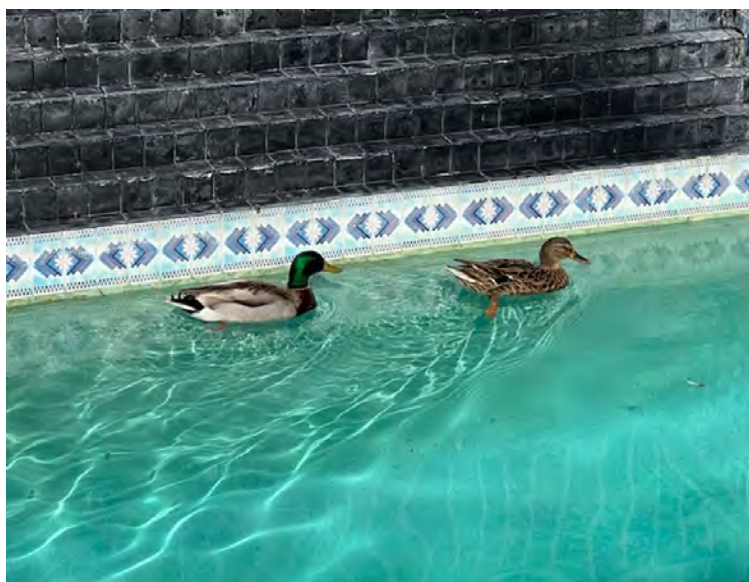
One of the new classes is Care & Reception Center training, which Carol taught at our January 11 CERT meeting. She will be teaching this new class several time throughout the year.

A handout was given to all participants. The main outline had Mass Care defined, Care & Reception explained, and had a scenario discussion followed by Q&A. Senior Center and Murdy Community Center are some of the locations that could be shelters in Huntington Beach. If there is a fire of some kind, shelters must be selected far away from the fire.

Carol also talked about a new volunteer management software that we will begin using in the next couple of months and it will have an app to make hours reporting and signing up for events easier. As no one knows except yourself what activities you are participating in, reporting hours is very important. At the end of every year, Carol does a report for Brevyn and the Chiefs that goes over what Carol and the volunteers did that year. It lets them know and understand all the wonderful events, classes, training, and meetings that CERT volunteers participate in. When you are recording your hours, please include the travel time to/from the activity if it is not something you are doing from home. You also need to round up to the full number since the program does not accept fractions. If volunteers are participating in an activity via online, be sure to report those hours as well.

The meeting was well attended by 51 people, which is a great number and a good start for the new year 2024.

## **More Sandbag Delivery Fun!**





## **CERT Monthly Meeting, February 8, 2024**

*By Raji Shunmugavel*

On February 8th, our CERT monthly meeting was a Triage refresher drill. We talked about how to help the most people in the least amount of time. We must keep our current skills updated.

In one room there were ten of our Gumby triage dolls with tags attached, indicating their injuries. A team of two participants entered the room, did a shout out to announce their presence and get any walking wounded to come their way, assessed the survivors, and then discussed their plan with the first aid instructor, who was outside the room waiting to see our results and to offer further coaching.

As time is very critical, we were given 5 minutes to triage the 10 patients. The importance of not doing CPR during triage was explained. If you need to stop bleeding, sometimes you apply direct pressure, and sometimes you use a tourniquet. We also went over how you may be able to identify if a person has died.

Then when we returned to room B7, we were requested to practice CPR.

Afterwards, we all regrouped and talked through the practice drills, the team leaders pointed out suggestions on how to do some of the skills more efficiently. Practicing and hearing the instructor critique helps you continue to learn!

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## **Northridge Earthquake, January 17, 1994**

*By Raji Shunmugavel*

Thirty years ago, on this day we had the Northridge earthquake. I was completely ignorant of CERT. I knew that first responders and eventually structural engineers would go out to assess the damage, but beyond that I really did not know what would happen.

There was an online event to review what happened during the Northridge Earthquake for the thirtieth anniversary. Brandon Tom, Program Coordinator SFFD NERT, and Rico Gross from City of Los Angeles City Fire Department CERT were the speakers.

The difference between CERT and NERT was explained. C is for Community and N for neighborhood. Sue-Va Tai from Cal OES (California Office of Emergency Services), who is the State CERT Administrator, opened the meeting.

Disaster deployment was discussed. What kind of events would require it? Is it a spontaneous, pre-planned, community, weather-related event or a CERT

related exercise? Can you pre-deploy volunteers before the problem occurs?

During a call out, as a volunteer you need to be ready to assist multiple ways and take on perhaps more than one role. To be eligible to respond as a disaster volunteer you need to be an active and Live Scanned volunteer. You never self dispatch to an incident; this is something CERT Volunteers are not supposed to do.

Prior to being called out, you would receive a mission description and task details including where to park and report. Your actual assignment will be assigned by the person in charge. They will let you know where your work station will be, anticipate assignment duration, number of resources or personnel needed. They will remind you that disaster awareness is a large part of safety which is the responsibility of all team members.

There are many personal considerations to think about when there is an activation. You need to take frequent breaks, eat and drink frequently, emphasize teamwork, rotate personnel, and talk about what is going on, especially if it is a very impactful situation.

You need to bring your own personal protective equipment, even though some gear may be provided for you. Never bring weapons of any kind.

Always notify appropriate family members of your deployment. Remember to follow your standard site etiquette. This includes knowing who you report to, ask questions if you don't understand what you are to do. You represent the agency that sent you, so when you are CERT you are also HB Fire Department!

Both LAPD and SFFD speakers shared about how their teams participate. SFFD shared types of activities in their monthly meetings.

It was nice to attend this webinar. It helped me understand what is different and what is the same at each CERT program.

What to remember? The department that is sending CERT volunteers coordinates with one ICS Commander.

It was an interesting refresher after finishing almost a month ago all the CMAP requirements.

Huntington Beach CERT trains the volunteers very well and I am well trained and ready to help my community.

## **Huntington Beach Marathon, February 4, 2024**

*By Raji Shunmugavel*

The morning of February 4th opened beautifully with 50-degree sunny, dry, clear weather. We could see Long Beach and Catalina Island so clearly.

The course runs from Beach Blvd to Warner with a U turn at the 20-to-21-mile point. For more than a decade I have been situated at Water Station 13. This year we were a three-person team: Raji Shunmugavel KG6CCB, Ed Klotz KI6AEE, and Christopher Heilberg.

KI6AEE was prepared to help transport any runners who would be challenged to finish the Race in case of inclement weather. Luckily, we were blessed with good weather and the runners completed their U turn at the 20-to-21-mile point. All three of us were cleared to leave by 12:30pm. Ed Klotz helped in carpooling and provided safe arrival back home during the windy weather.

One interesting thing happened was that Water Station 13 was about to run out of water and the Team leader had to go to another station to fill the water supply. Just then, a passel of runners requiring water came by. The volunteers cheering the runners and handing out water and Gatorade contacted the CERT Communicator KG6CCB to communicate this message to Net Control. Although Net Control's responsibility was to communicate and the Race personnel's responsibility was to provide water and hydrating supplies to the race runners, the team leader functioned efficiently and made sure hydration resources were available soon.

The Water Station team leader appreciated the Radio Communication help and I also could see why a communicator's involvement can really help the event.

summarized in the Adult Reference Card, Skill Practice Sheet, and Pediatric Ready Reference Cards.

Getting permission to help from victims, and parents' permission for children and infants, are necessary steps for trained CPR volunteers.

Huntington Beach CERT trains the volunteers very well and I am well trained and ready to help my community.



## **Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED Class , January 20, 2024**

*By Raji Shunmugavel*

The Saturday morning of the class it was not raining when we arrived, but it did rain most of the time. The class was taught by Mimi Irvin and Linda Vollmar.

For some participants it is a refresher, some it is two-year renewal and for some, it was the first time to complete this First Aid training. They mentioned a First Aid Mobile App that helps us to have the information in our hands. The differences in CERT First Aid and CPR certification were taught as well.

Using "check, call and care," we can help the victims. How important it is for us to wear gloves, calling 911 for medical help and other protective measures were

## **Creating and Storing an Emergency Water Supply**

From <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/creating-storing-emergency-water-supply.html>

During a water-related emergency or outbreak, safe drinking water may not be available. Prepare for an emergency by creating and storing a supply of water that will meet your family's needs.

### **Bottled Water**

Unopened, commercially bottled water is the safest and most reliable source of water in an emergency. If you do not have bottled water, you can make your water safe to drink by following the instructions on CDC's Making Water Safe in an Emergency page and using clean containers to collect and store your water.

### **How Much Emergency Water to Store**

- Store at least 1 gallon of water per person per day for 3 days for drinking and sanitation. Try to store a 2-week supply if possible.
- Consider storing more water than this for pregnant women, people who are sick, pets, or if living in a hot climate.

### **Other Considerations**

- Observe the expiration date for store-bought water.
- If you are filling containers with water to store, replace the water every 6 months.
- Store a bottle of unscented liquid household chlorine bleach (label should say it contains between 5% and 9% of sodium hypochlorite) to disinfect your water, if necessary, and to use for general cleaning and sanitizing.

### **Choosing a Container**

If you are filling containers with water to store, it is best to use food-grade water storage containers. FDA-approved food-grade storage containers will not transfer toxic substances into the water. They can be found at surplus or camping supply stores. Contact the storage container manufacturer if you are not sure whether the container is food-grade. If you are not able to use a food-grade water storage container, be sure the container you choose:

- Has a top that can be closed tightly.

- Is made of durable, unbreakable materials (not glass).
- Has a narrow neck or opening, if possible, so water can be poured out.

DO NOT USE containers that were previously used to hold liquid or solid toxic chemicals, such as bleach or pesticides.

### **Cleaning and Sanitizing a Water Storage Container Before Use**

Before filling with water, follow these steps to clean and sanitize water storage containers:

1. Wash the storage container with soap and rinse completely with water.
2. Sanitize the container with a solution made by mixing 1 teaspoon of unscented liquid household chlorine bleach in 1 quart (4 cups) of water. Use bleach that contains 5%–9% sodium hypochlorite.
3. Cover the container tightly and shake it well. Make sure the sanitizing bleach solution touches all inside surfaces of the container.
4. Wait at least 30 seconds and then pour the sanitizing solution out of the container.
5. Let the empty container air-dry before use.
6. Pour clean water into the sanitized container and cover it with a tight lid.

### **Storing the Water**

Tips for storing water from your home:

- Label container as “drinking water” and include storage date.
- Replace water every six months.
- Keep containers in a place with a cool temperature (50°F –70°F).
- Keep containers away from direct sunlight.
- Keep containers away from areas where toxic substances, such as gasoline or pesticides, are present.

### **Using the Water**

Tips for taking water out of the container:

- If using a scoop or other device, use a clean one each time you remove water from the container to avoid contaminating the water.
- Do not touch the water or insides of the container with your hands.
- Do not scoop out water with your hands.



# CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT

## *Neighbors-Helping-Neighbors*

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The mission of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program is to provide information and training on disaster preparedness; provide leadership and coordination during an emergency, and assistance to help victims recover from an emergency.

### Upcoming CERT Events & Activities

- April 11, CERT Annual Awards evening 6:30-8:00pm B7 & B8
- April 12-14 CERT Class (Help still needed!)
- CERT Responder class 8:00am-2:00pm
- 4th of July Parade assistance
- US Open of Surfing Aug. 3-11
- Sept. 13-15 CERT Class
- Oct. 4-6 Pacific Air Show
- Oct. 12 Fire Department Open House

Register on CERT Portal, or e-mail Carol

### Red Cross 1st Aid/CPR/AED Classes

- July 13 ARC 1st Aid Class, 8am-2pm, City Hall B7-B8
- Nov. 9 ARC 1st Aid Class, 8am-2pm, City Hall B7-B8

Register on CERT Portal, or e-mail Carol

CERT NEWSLETTER STAFF:

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## **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!**

**CERT Website:** [www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert](http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert) **CERT Contact:** [CERT@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:CERT@surfcity-hb.org)  
**CERT Message line 714-536-5974 (THIS IS A MESSAGE LINE ONLY!)**







