

CERT NEWS

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Nov/Dec 2015

Calendar—

All events meet at the Susi Q Multipurpose Room.

CPR TRAINING—

Saturday, Nov. 7, 8am-12:30pm
The training is offered through the Community Services Department— <http://online.activecommunities.com/lagunabeach> (Click on the Find an Activity button, then choose First Aid/CPR/AED from the second page.)
Or call 949-497-0716.

RADIO CLASS—

Monday, Nov. 9, 6:30-8pm
RSVP Jerry Myers at LagunaCERT@gmail.com
See page 2 for more info.

RED FLAG TRAINING—

Saturday, Nov. 14, 1-2:30pm

QUARTERLY MEETING, FLOOD PREP TRAINING—

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 6-8pm
We will welcome new members and provide training on what to do in case of flood. This will have an interactive sandbag component. Plan to be there!

CERT Board

CONTACT US:

LagunaCERT@gmail.com

Alx Simmons, CERT Director
Sandi Cain, Outreach Chief
Jerry Myers, Radio Comm Chief
Susan Reese, Marketing Chief
Mike Mitchell, Training Chief
Charlie Barr, Development Chief

Jordan Villwock, MS,
Emergency Operations Coordinator
jvillwock@lagunabeachcity.net

From the Emergency Operations Coordinator

As I am sure you have heard, there is the likelihood of a **strong El Niño this winter**. This is not one large storm it is the compilation of several storms throughout the winter that will cause a wetter than normal season. Here are some basic tips to help you stay safe:

- Avoid walking or driving through flood waters.
- 6 inches of moving water can knock you down. 2 feet can sweep your car away.
- If there is a chance of flash flooding, move immediately to higher ground.
- Build or restock your emergency kit. It should include a flashlight, batteries, cash, and first aid supplies.
- Update or add contact information in AlertOC (Mass Notification System) by going to www.alertoc.com

SAVE THESE DATES AT THE SUSI Q! Saturday, November 14 2:30pm, we'll have **Red Flag training**, right after CERT Graduation Drill. Wednesday, November 18th 6pm is our Quarterly CERT Meeting. The theme will be **"Responding to a Flood."** During this training, CERT members will learn how to properly fill sand bags, what equipment is needed, and much more!

Those who have not had their picture taken for their **official CERT ID** card can do so at this meeting. Remember completion of fingerprinting is required before ID cards will be issued. Several folks have ID cards ready for pick-up in the lobby of the police department.

Make sure you **'Like'** the City of Laguna Beach on Facebook as great information is shared with the community on that platform.

Jordan Villwock, MS

Emergency Operations Coordinator



LB CERT members got a few quick lessons about the city's practice fire suppression simulator, animal issues surrounding emergencies, and had an opportunity to win prizes in the "What's in Your Go Bag" portion of the program. Those with unusual, useful and creative additions to the go-bags won useful prizes to add to those bags.

From the Radio Chief

from Jerry Myers, Radio Communications & Technology Chief

Hello Laguna CERT! As you may have noticed, our Laguna Beach CERT program is growing and I would like to personally thank all for you for your continued participation in CERT and welcome our **newest radio team member Rich Leger**. Rich is new to CERT and a licensed HAM radio operator. Rich will be a great addition to the team, welcome aboard Rich!

On a more somber note, it is my sad duty to announce the recent passing of one of our members, **John Keith**. John was a dedicated community member, with service to CERT as an OCFA Firefighter (retired), Emergency Disaster Preparedness Committee member and positions on numerous Laguna Beach committees including Design Review, Laguna

Canyon Conservancy, and President of the Orange County Educator's Association. John's bright smile and cheerful presence will be missed. I extend our sincerest condolences to John's family during this difficult time.

As the CERT program grows, so does the need to increase radio coverage within the city. We currently have nineteen members on our radio team. Our team practices twice weekly to hone our communications skills and learn how to strengthen our radio program. Having a strong neighborhood communications program will be invaluable when there is an emergency.

Through ongoing practice, inter-agency drills and classroom
Radio Chief continues on page 3

Great Radio Opportunity!

from Jerry Myers

John Kountz, Chief Radio Officer, Laguna Beach Emergency Communications Team - Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services has arranged to have Gordon West, or his trainer instructor give our team a **FREE, all-day radio class** so you can get your HAM radio licenses. There is a study book required for the class (\$21.95 on Amazon) and a fee of \$15.00 for the FCC examination if you decide to get a license.

Time is limited and this offer will not last! Please contact Laguna CERT and express your interest so we can get a head-count for this all important and valuable class. We know that you will need some time to study the course materials and we would like to have the class early next year. For further information, please RSVP to lagunacert@gmail.com and reply with HAM LICENSE CLASS in the subject line.

We will notify you of the date and time of the class.

This is an excellent opportunity to take your radio skills to the next level and become a licensed HAM operator.

Are you interested in how to communicate with your neighbors and other CERT members during a disaster?

Do you want to learn how to use a hand-held radio or become a part of the CERT radio communications team?

Do you have an FRS radio that you bought for family outings?

Do you know how to operate your radio?

All these questions and more will be answered at our upcoming **CERT radio-training seminar** Monday, November 9 from 6:30-8:00pm at Suzi-Q.

This informative 1-1/2 hour class will cover basic use for FRS and GMRS radios. We will practice communicating with other CERT members and learn how to communicate with your neighbors using your radio. For those of you interested in more in-depth radio use, we will discuss communications protocols and learn how to fill out the necessary radio forms when you are using your radio. Please RSVP to lagunacert@gmail.com by 10/30/15

Bring your FRS or GMRS radio to the class!

Need to sign up for American Red Cross Sheltering or other courses?

from Sandi Cain, Outreach Chief

If you need some of the Red Cross classes for CMAP training, **here's how to sign up** on the improved system:

- Log into EMBARC at <https://embarc-learning.sabacloud.com>
- Next to "Don't have an account?" Click on the "Sign up here" link, then create your account by typing the letters/numbers (code) provided into the adjacent box. Click 'sign up.'

To find the right class:

- Choose 'learning catalog' from drop down menu
- Browse or search for class name, then click on 'view classes'
- On left side of the page under location, type 'CA-Santa Ana' and then 'Apply Filters'
- Class offerings will come up. Be sure you choose the classroom style for disaster-related classes. Then click "enroll" and you will receive an order confirmation followed by an email confirmation.

Join the CERT Booth Team! from Sandi Cain

Our CERT board is seeking people to help with “Booth Camp”! That’s not a typo ... we need booth volunteers for various events, because we are receiving an increasing number of requests to have a CERT booth in conjunction with various local activities.

This is a fabulous opportunity to get the word out about our program to individuals as well as to help disseminate emergency readiness materials at various events around town. So we’d like to create a Booth Team within the CERT team of those who are most **enthusiastic about talking to people about emergency readiness and CERT.**

Most of the time, the Booth Team might ‘work’ at Farmers’ Market or one-day fairs, events or exhibits. A typical request is for a few people to set up, staff and take down a CERT booth. Usually these run for about four hours. That means if we get four volunteers for each opportunity, we can divide that into two shifts of two hours each. How easy can it get? Just two hours, often outdoors, talking to friends and neighbors about CERT and handing out some literature.

Within any group, there are usually folks who enjoy this kind of thing more

than others. We get that. If you are among those who DO enjoy this, we’d like to put you on our Booth Team so that you get first dibs when we get such a request to see if you’re available. But we’ll also reach out to other members and encourage them to give it a try. I’ve worked many trade shows, and these efforts are like mini shows that can be fun as well as informative for members of the community.

If you are interested in being part of the CERT Booth Team, please email me at lagunacert@gmail.com, ATT: Sandi and provide the following information so we know when it’s best to contact you:

- Best days of the week when you could possibly help
- Longest shift you are willing to do (2, 4 or 6 hours)
- How often could you help? (Weekly, monthly, etc.)
- Are you able to help set up the canopy and/or return it at the end of the event?
- Have you been trained on the fire box (for times when we may be able to demonstrate it)
- Best way to reach you (email, text or cell phone call). If you prefer text or calls for booth volunteering, please provide your cell number.



Laguna Beach CERT members Ann Lombard, center, and Susan Reese, right, perform triage on a volunteer ‘victim’ after a simulated earthquake at the September South OC CERT Drill in San Juan Capistrano.

From the Radio Chief, continued from page 2

instruction we are making the Laguna CERT radio program strong and effective. Your continued participation and interest in community safety is greatly appreciated.

We are offering a radio training and refresher class November 9, at the Suzi-Q Community Center (see sidebar) that is open to all who wish to hone their skills, have an interest in becoming a radio-team member and to those who just want to learn how to use a FRS/GMRS radio. The class will be fast-paced and informative; we would love to see you there!



Laguna Beach CERT members Matt Lawson and Chris Tomlin got a first-hand look at the harrowing experience that driving a fire truck on Laguna’s narrow streets is on a daily basis. Parked cars contribute to limited accessibility.

Congratulations CMAP

Orange County CERT Mutual Aid Program won an Award for Outstanding CERT Initiative. Twenty-four CERT programs, including Laguna Beach, have worked to develop the Orange County CERT Mutual Aid Program, an extensive network of volunteer programs working to prepare their communities for emergencies. Go Laguna CERT!



OC REGISTER PHOTO

The 1993 wildfire in Laguna Beach that destroyed more than 350 homes was the impetus for launching Red Flag programs in Laguna Beach. These programs train locals on the basics of watching for signs of fire on the outskirts of town during low-humidity, high temperature and high wind conditions. The Greater Laguna Fire Safe Council employs a mobile watch while city Emergency Coordinator trains people to both be on the lookout from designated watch points as well as teaching residents about the fire dangers.

Red Flag Training Saturday November 14
from Charlie Barr, Development Chief

What is Red Flag Training?

When the humidity reaches 15 Percent and there is a sustained wind of 25 miles per hour a Red Flag Alert is called as we are in an extreme fire danger. The training covers your responsibilities while working under a Red Flag Alert.

CERT members who have had the Red Flag training are asked to spend approximately 4 hours on fire watch. At this time we are at Top of the world near the park. As more people are trained we plan to expand the areas covered by CERT Team Members.

What is our job when we are on watch? We watch for a fire, and talk to the people who are entering the trails that cover the whole area and advise them that we are in an extreme fire danger alert. We ask them to please not smoke on the trails as smoking or any open fires are not allowed. From time to time we find people that feel that it is OK to smoke and we remind that they are in a closed area

for smoking and should not smoke anywhere in the area.

It's a great way to get to know other members of the CERT Team as you will always have a partner. It's also an opportunity to talk to people and tell them about CERT and remind them of the need to be careful due to the extreme fire danger...

All CERT graduates are eligible and welcome to attend this training at the Suzie Q Saturday, November 14, 1-2:30pm.

Looking Ahead
from Sandi Cain

In 2016, the CERT board hopes to focus our new, larger group of city volunteers in CERT into **cohesive neighborhood teams** that roughly correspond to the Fire Department's 'Structure Protection Zones.' But if you have a core group of CERT members in your neighborhood, you might want to get started now on just a couple of things: looking for places that could be your central meeting place in an emergency and tour the streets in your area to know which homes are easily accessible to check on neighbors and which are not. You might even start a list of people who need assistance in evacuating!

**Laguna Beach CERT
 Class #5 graduates!
 Congratulations to all
 our recent graduates.**

- Dan Kelly
- Robert Elster
- Richard Leger
- Stanton Leemon
- Jason Roberts
- Carrie Woodburn
- Andrew Soliz
- Don Sessions
- Benjamin Hudgins
- Randall Bell
- Samuel Simon
- Yvonne Newmen
- Todd Foote
- Kip Scott
- Lance Kramer
- Belinda Ann Deines
- Peter Stevenson
- Mark Riem
- David Christensen
- Wiam Elbettar
- Carol Kelly
- Jane Butler
- Lucille Wagner
- Emmitt Jones
- Jayne Berberian
- Christopher Scott
- Clara Collins

***CERT — doing
 the greatest good
 for the greatest
 number of people.***