

# CERT NEWS

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

April/May/June 2016

## Calendar—

### CERT CLASSES—

Wednesdays, May 11-June 11 with an all-day Saturday sessions June 4 and June 11. Register on City site, Recreation Classes, Category CERT: <https://secure.rec1.com/CA/city-of-laguna-beach/catalog>

### SHELTER FUNDAMENTALS—

Saturday, May 21 from 8am to 5pm at the Susi Q. Registration is required at <http://goo.gl/forms/mVKMhdgtOR>

### DISASTER PREPAREDNESS—

See Upcoming Training Opps on page 3. Watch for info via email.

### MANNED INFO BOOTH

Can you help spread the CERT word on Saturdays at the Farmer's Market? RSVP with available dates to Sandi Cain at [LagunaCERT@gmail.com](mailto:LagunaCERT@gmail.com)

### ALL HANDS QUARTERLY CERT MEETING—

Tuesday, July 19, 6-8pm  
At the Susi Q. Watch for info via email. Topics TBD. Be there!

### LAST QUARTERLY CERT MEETING OF 2016—

Look for this! We're planning Volunteer Awards.

## CERT Board

### CONTACT US:

[LagunaCERT@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:jvillwock@lagunabeachcity.net)

## From the Emergency Operations Coordinator

**T**hank you all for your volunteer efforts! Starting in May we'll be beginning our 7th CERT class since fall of 2011. We have now graduated over 220 CERT members and our program is growing so please keep spreading the word.

Although El Niño turned into El No-No, Orange County recorded 4.87 inches of rain since the beginning of 2016, it was a good reminder on how important it is to be prepared for all types of hazards that Laguna Beach faces. If you are looking to dispose of your pre-filled sandbags, look no further! Waste Management has provided a roll-off bin at the Act V Parking Lot, 1900 Laguna Canyon Road, where you can dispose of your filled sandbags. No other trash will be permitted in these bins.

### What's new?

Laguna Beach recently received grant funds and has purchased additional GMRS radios to expand our CERT Communications Team. If you are interested in joining please contact Sonny Myers, CERT Radio Communications Chief, for additional requirements and information.

Last, the City of Laguna Beach has partnered with Nixle to add functionality to its community notification system to alert residents in real-time for localized situations and relevant community advisories. As a resident, there are several simple ways to register:

1. Text your ZIPCODE to 888-777 from your mobile phone
2. Go to [www.lagunabeachcity.net](http://www.lagunabeachcity.net) and sign-up via the Nixle Widget under the Police Department
3. Sign-up and create a User Profile on [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com)

Hope you all enjoy your summer and make sure you check the CERT calendar for upcoming exercises and training classes!

Jordan Villwock, MS

*Emergency Operations Coordinator*



## From the Radio Chief

by Jerry Myers, Radio Communications & Technology Chief

**H**ello Laguna CERT! Spring has sprung and El Niño seems to have turned into El No-no. We practiced and prepared, but nothing happened, or you may think as much.

What did happen is you prepared, came to CERT classes and drills, learned to fill sand bags, practiced on the radio and made yourself and your family ready for an epic El Niño that did not happen. Do not be discouraged, being prepared is a year-round task. Making sure your FRS, GMRS and HAM radio skills are sharp is never a waste of time. I applaud all of you who take time out of your busy schedules to practice on a regular basis. Laguna is a safer place because you care.

As we enter 2016, I am happy to announce the procurement of additional radio equipment for our radio team and I am accepting applications for positions on the team. If you were interested in becoming a member, I'd love to hear from you. Please send an email to [lagunacert@gmail.com](mailto:lagunacert@gmail.com). There is a limited amount of equipment available and there are a few qualifications to be on the team. Your physical location in Laguna is important because of our topography so your location will be a deciding factor to become a candidate.

Through ongoing practice, inter-agency drills and classroom instruction we are making the Laguna

CERT radio program strong and effective. Your continued participation and interest in community safety is greatly appreciated. Having a strong neighborhood communications program will be invaluable when there is an emergency.

We will be offering a radio class soon at the Suzi-Q Community Center 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! Keep an eye out for the email.



Board members Sonny Myers and Sandi Cain spread the word about CERT and family preparedness during the April Health Fair at the Boys' & Girls' Club.



Patriots Day Parade was a lot of fun for CERT participants. (Photos throughout this newsletter.)



## Ongoing Training: The Backbone of CERT

by Sandi Cain, Outreach Chief

**W**e all know the ‘use it or lose it’ philosophy—if you don’t practice skills, you will eventually forget them (except maybe riding a bike ... ). So it’s no surprise that ongoing training is what keeps CERT members in shape.

While we’ve had a decent turnout for some meetings and refresher classes, we’d love to see more of you take part! So please make note of these upcoming dates and programs and plan to come to review your skills, meet fellow CERTs and be better prepared.

Due to scheduling issues at the Susi Q, the May, June and July programs are currently set for Tuesday nights. We will continue attempts to vary the training nights to give people more options.

We will strive to send out two or three reminders of these programs, but hope you’ll pencil them in now!



Eleanor Tiner with the help of Mike Mitchell our training chief practices cervical stabilization at our medical refresher class April 16.

## Upcoming Training Opportunities by Mike Mitchell, Training Chief

- **May 11th - June 11th.**  
**Cert Basic Training.**  
Wednesdays, with two all-day Saturday sessions, June 4 and June 11. Register on City site under Recreation Classes, Category CERT: <https://secure.rec1.com/CA/city-of-laguna-beach/catalog>
- **May 21, Saturday, 8am to 5pm, Susi Q.** **Shelter Fundamentals** class is being offered Saturday, It is required for CERT members who wish to become CMAP members and would allow the person to volunteer in a shelter during a disaster.
- **June 21, Tuesday, 6-8pm, Susi Q Center.** Introducing **CERT Desserts** program—we’re asking each attendee to bring a favorite dessert to share with your team members as we taste and learn at the same time! This program will be on **Traffic Control and Crowd Management.**
- **July 19th, Tuesday, 6-8pm.** **CERT All Hands Meeting.** It’s a mystery right now, so watch for updates about this program



*Laguna Beach CERT members who have completed the CERT Mutual Aid Program (CMAP) qualifications attended a reception at the Police Department in February, where Chief Farinella and other members of the department congratulated them for their efforts. In the photo are, from left, Jordan Villwock, Sonny Myers, Matt Lawson, Mike Mitchell, Alx Simmons, Richard Leger, Darin Lenyi. Also in attendance but not in the photo: Sandi Cain, Susan Reese, James Conway, Kathy Rosenberger.*

## **Laguna Beach CERT members are on the way to Mutual Aid Certification**

*by Sandi Cain, Outreach Chief*

**E**leven more Laguna Beach CERT members took a special class in March that will lead to their certification as mutual aid responders in Orange County. The CERT Mutual Aid Program (CMAP) is a cooperative effort of 21 cities in OC, including: Dana Point, Newport Beach, San Juan Capistrano and Laguna Beach.

Participants were Rod Caufield, Wendy Caufield, Todd Foote, Darrel Mallonee, John Monahan, Steve Morgan, Joshua Neufeld, Tracy Newton, Kip Scott, Victoria Strombom, Chris Tomlin.

To fully join in the ranks of CMAP responders, members also must have current CPR training, a Red Cross Sheltering class and complete ICS 100 and 700 online courses. The CERT Mutual Aid Program ensures that any participating city can call on trained CERT members in the event of an emergency that requires widespread response. The extra training also deepens CERT members' understanding of the organizational structure of emergency response teams.

### **CMAP Cities/Agencies**

- City of Anaheim
- City of Buena Park
- City of Brea
- City of Costa Mesa
- City of Cypress
- City of Dana Point
- City of Fullerton
- City of Garden Grove
- City of Huntington Beach
- City of Irvine
- City of La Habra
- City of La Palma
- City of Los Alamitos
- City of Newport Beach
- City of Placentia
- City of San Juan Capistrano
- City of San Clemente
- City of Santa Ana
- City of Seal Beach
- City of Westminster
- City of Yorba Linda
- Orange County Sheriff's Department
- Orange County Fire Authority
- American Red Cross
- Orange County Health Care Agency

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

## How to Test Your Family Readiness

by Sandi Cain, Outreach Chief

**C**ERT members have their CERT go-bags and hopefully a home go-bag for every family member too. You might even have a list of valuables you'd grab if there's enough time. But what's 'enough' time? Test yourself to see!

I live near Ruby's, where the hillside above the restaurant and St. Catherine's school burned a couple years ago. My house is half a mile away and was in no danger early on, but I decided to practice putting the listed valuables in my car. (My list is broken down into stuff to take with 15-minutes notice, 30 minutes; or an hour). With the fire somewhat nearby, I started gathering the stuff on my 15-minute list. My list is sorted by room where the items are located (and updated annually). Piece of cake, I thought.

It didn't quite go as planned. First, the emergency alerts started going off on my phones. Then a neighbor appeared at the door. Another neighbor started giving updates from his roof.

Then I started putting our cats in their carriers and to the car. That took 15 minutes. Uh-oh. Then I noticed that five cat carriers didn't really leave much room for other valuables, much less another person... one of us would have to take the other car or hold a cat carrier.

After a second trip with the laptop, cell chargers, important papers, photos and flash drives, I noticed one of the cats was working her way out of the carrier. Re-zipped the carrier. Went for more stuff.

In the end, it took me 30 minutes to pack up the essentials on my 15-minute list. And that was without the stress of it being a mandatory evacuation. Needless to say, that list got revised quickly. And thankfully, I haven't had to test it in a real situation yet!



*Water drop at Ruby's fire in fall, 2012 taken from Laguna Terrace Park.*

## Team Leaders Stepping Up!

by Sandi Cain,  
Outreach Chief

**W**e've been recruiting for neighborhood leaders for the past six weeks or so in order to make sure we have CERT team leaders in place in all of the Laguna Beach "Structure Protection Zones" ---the method the Fire Department uses to designate response areas within Laguna Beach.

So far we have eight volunteers to be the point person for a neighborhood to help organize things in the event of an emergency in the different zones. Hats off to the following people who have stepped up so far:

Rick Colson (North Laguna)  
CJ Farley (Balboa/Nyes)  
Janice Hayden (North Coast)  
Lance Kramer (Mar Vista)  
Marielle & Beth Leeds  
(Bluebird Coastal)  
Josh Neufeld-Coastal 4  
(Midtown)  
Kip Scott (Arch Beach)  
Don Sessions (Three Arch)  
Chris Tomlin (Arch Beach)

As a neighborhood leader, you'd get to know other CERTs in your 'hood, help identify a meeting place in an emergency and help promote and conduct a few neighborhood meetings each year, with the guidance of the CERT board.

**Go ahead--test your own plan—what works?  
What doesn't? Share your own 'lessons learned'  
for an upcoming newsletter!**

**We need 25  
team leaders!**

We only have 8 so far. If you are interested, please email [lagunacert@gmail.com](mailto:lagunacert@gmail.com) with the subject line "Team Leader." Thank you!

## What's Your Story?

We are now a CERT team of 200 strong! But that makes it challenging to get to know fellow team members who weren't in your CERT class. To help you get acquainted, we're instituting a feature for each newsletter called "What's Your Story?" **We hope you will submit YOUR story** about how and why you got involved in CERT in about 200 words, along with a picture (at a CERT event or any head shot). We're starting off with board members and hope you'll be inspired to share your own story!

# Why I Joined CERT

by Alx Simmons

**I wanted to be a part of the community.**

**Throughout my career I constantly traveled** and moved. Taking assignments in cities for 1-3 years at a time. I reached a point in my life where I realized that I didn't feel as if I was 'from' anywhere, and that I didn't know many people where I lived. I decided to make a change. I wanted to find a place to call home, to make friends, and to be a part of the community. After a 9-month search, I decided that Laguna Beach was that perfect place. Immediately after moving to Laguna, I started to

look for organizations and volunteer opportunities. As soon as I heard about CERT, I signed up right away. With my background in disaster planning for corporations, it seemed like the perfect fit. I graduated from CERT Class #2 and I have been actively participating in the program ever since.

CERT is truly a great program. It gives us all the opportunity to improve the safety of our community and to be better prepared to help our city and neighbors if any emergency situations were to occur.



Share this article (or the whole newsletter!) with your friends and neighbors and encourage others to join in this citywide effort toward individual/neighborhood and group preparedness!



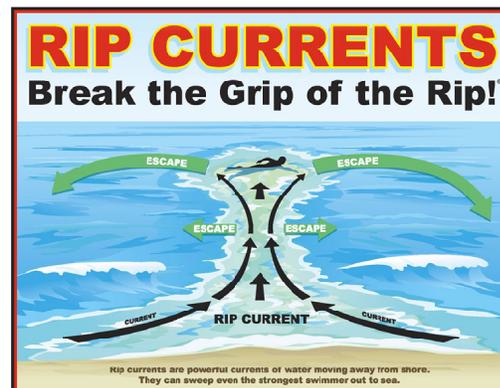
## UPCOMING CERT TRAINING

City of Laguna Beach is offering Community Emergency Response Team training to its residents and businesses **beginning Wednesday, May 11**. Classes will meet weekly from 6-9pm with two Saturday meetings. You must attend all training dates, absences require make-up. You must be a resident of Laguna Beach or work here, be 18 years old with no felony convictions. Applications must be submitted through the online recreation class sign-up.

Go to: <https://secure.rec1.com/CA/city-of-laguna-beach/catalog/index?filter=Y2F0ZWdvcnkjNUU1NjQzJTVEPTEmc2VhcmNoPQ==>

The cert program consists of 25 hours of classroom and hands-on training, concluding with an exercise drill to apply the skills and knowledge obtained during the classroom sessions. Training includes:

- Disaster Preparedness
- Fire Safety
- Disaster Medical Operations
- Light Search and Rescue
- CERT Organization
- Disaster Psychology
- CERT and Terrorism
- Traffic Control and Scene Management



### IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT

- ◆ Don't fight the current
- ◆ Swim out of the current, then to shore
- ◆ If you can't escape, float or tread water
- ◆ If you need help, call or wave for assistance

### SAFETY

- ◆ Know how to swim
- ◆ Never swim alone
- ◆ If in doubt, don't go out

More information about rip currents can be found at the following web sites:  
[www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov](http://www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov)  
[www.usla.org](http://www.usla.org)



### Enjoy the beach— don't be caught in a rip current!

We will be heading to the beach soon to enjoy our beautiful weather, the sun, sand and surf. Learn to spot the warning signs of this very dangerous natural condition— powerful currents moving away from shore. If you are caught in a rip current, don't fight the current. Swim away from the current then to shore. Check with the Lifeguard before you enter the water.



# LEADERSHIP LAGUNA

MAY 5  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
CITY MANAGER

MAY 12  
PUBLIC SAFETY

MAY 19  
CITY ATTORNEY  
WATER QUALITY

MAY 26  
COMMUNITY SERVICES  
PUBLIC WORKS

JUNE 2  
COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT

A FIVE-WEEK EDUCATIONAL SERIES  
OPEN TO RESIDENTS OF LAGUNA BEACH

LEARN ABOUT CITY HALL  
ENCOURAGE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT  
CONNECT WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS

SESSIONS BEGIN THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2016 | 7-9 PM  
HOSTED BY LAGUNA BEACH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
INTERESTED? VISIT [WWW.LAGUNABEACHCITY.NET/LEADERSHLAGUNA](http://WWW.LAGUNABEACHCITY.NET/LEADERSHLAGUNA)

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