

CERT NEWS

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

October-December 2016

Quick Dates—

RADIO PRACTICE/DRY RUN FOR CALIFORNIA SHAKEOUT

Sat., Oct. 8, see pg. 2

CERT BOARD MEETING

Tues., Oct. 11

FARMERS MARKET

Sat., Oct. 15, see pg. 3

RADIO DRILL, CALIFORNIA SHAKEOUT

Thurs., Oct. 20

RED FLAG TRAINING

Wed., Oct. 26, see pg. 5

RADIO REFRESHER CLASS, FRS AND GMRS RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

Thurs., Nov. 3, 6-8pm, Susi Q, see pg. 2

FARMERS MARKET

Sat., Nov. 12, see pg. 3

CERT BOARD MEETING

Tues., Nov. 15

CERT AWARDS MEETING, POTLUCK

Wed., Dec. 7, watch email

CERT BOARD MEETING

Tues., Dec. 13

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
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From the Emergency Operations Coordinator

Hello CERT Members!

I hope everyone had an awesome summer filled with friends, family, and relaxation. The Laguna Beach CERT team has been doing some exciting things including its first ever neighborhood drill and participation in the South County CERT Exercise for the 3rd year in a row. My hats off to all that donated their time and energy planning as well as participating in those events. If you were not able to join in on the CERT fun during the busy Summer months, don't worry we have lots more coming. Please take a look at the calendar of CERT events and attend as many as possible.

September marked National Disaster Preparedness Month so let's take the opportunity to look through our CERT kits, disaster supplies, and food and replace items as needed. If you have not taken the time to prepare a disaster kit at home, it is not too late. Visit www.readyoc.org for recommendations of what to include in your kit. Remember "Jordan's Five" – water, food, cash (small bills), AM radio, and a flashlight.

Save the date of December 7th for the Inaugural CERT Awards.

Sincerely,

Jordan Villwock, MS

Emergency Operations Coordinator

Way to Go Laguna Beach CERT!

The Laguna Beach CERT program received two honorable mentions for the **FEMA Individual and Preparedness Awards**. The honorable mentions were for the Outstanding Community Emergency Response Team Initiatives and for Preparing the Whole Community. FEMA received hundreds of applications for these awards and honorable mentions which recognizes the outstanding efforts of individual programs, and organizations throughout the country working to prepare their communities for emergencies.

Look for These Classes Early 2017

- **Laguna CERT**— next class will start in January.
- **Citizen's Academy**— next class will start in March.
- **CMAP**— joint class with the neighboring cities in March.

From the Radio Chief

by Jerry Myers, Radio Communications & Technology Chief

Another busy summer has passed in Laguna and we now shift our thoughts to the start of school, fall and the holiday season. The days are getting shorter and I'm looking forward to getting some rain. (Just not all at once) We had a great end of summer CERT picnic at Heisler Park that was thoroughly enjoyed by all that attended. I had a good time. Let us know if we should make this an annual event!

It's time to start looking around the house and make sure I'm ready for winter. I'll clean my gutters, trim the trees, inspect the driveway and patio drains, and make sure all of my rechargeable devices and emergency supply kits are ready and don't forget fresh batteries!

This is a good time to review your CERT backpacks and emergency supplies. Make sure you have items that are necessary for winter, warm clothes and a rain jacket. Check your prescription meds, batteries and general condition of your emergency supply kit. Don't forget to change your smoke alarm batteries!

CERT celebrated its 30th anniversary this September with a nation-wide conference at the Universal Sheraton in Universal City. I was fortunate enough to attend this very informative 3-day conference and have a chance to meet and network with CERT members from all parts of the country and as far away as China! Joining me at the conference were Jordan Villwock and Alx Simmons from our CERT program as well as Matt Brisbois from Newport Beach CERT. There were representatives from San Juan Capistrano and Huntington Beach as well. In the coming months and meetings, I will be sharing with our CERT program many of the ideas and information that I learned at the seminars.

We just finished our annual **South County Drill** for 2016. I want to thank my fellow board members and all of our CERT volunteers who worked to

Be safe, be prepared and be proactive.



Sonny Myers on the floor at the National CERT Convention in Los Angeles

plan, set up and execute the drill. Your attendance at these events shows your commitment to the CERT program and to your family that you are doing your best to be prepared when an emergency strikes. I would also like to recognize our Laguna Beach Ganahl Lumber store and Alex Uniack, the general manager for collaborating with Laguna Beach CERT and thank them for supplying the 5-gallon buckets for our Lifting & Cribbing supplies. Thank you!

The Great California ShakeOut is coming October 20 at 10:20am. Don't forget to participate in the annual refresher. When the quake strikes, remember to "DROP, COVER AND HOLD ON."

Our CERT radio team will be doing a simple relay test message during the event as part of our on-going practices.

I am going to hold a **hand-held radio class at the Suzi-Q Center** for any CERT member who is interested in tuning up their skills for your FRS or GMRS radio. The class will be November 3 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Suzi-Q Center.

"Practice" Your CERT Skills From Your Recliner!

by Sandi Cain,
Outreach Chief

If you watch television dramas like the "Chicago" series that includes fire, police and medical elements, such shows can sometimes provide you an opportunity to **refresh your CERT skills without leaving your living room.**

Watch the characters do CPR—is it the way you remember your class? DO you remember your class? If you're not sure, get out your materials from that class and give them another look.

Do the actor-firefighters approach a house fire the way you would expect? Do they do a size-up? Do you remember what to look for in a size up? Do you remember what kinds of fires CERT members should and should not try to put out?

Do actors playing the part of regular workers sometimes try to stop an active shooter? Should they? What were you taught?

Medical shows are meant to have high drama and often simplistic (and instant) fixes—but are they sometimes too dramatic? What do you remember about triage and decision making about how to prioritize the most critical patients after an incident?

Television and movies are meant to be entertaining and reasonably realistic, so the performers most likely get some instruction about proper procedures. But even these fictional programs can provide a quick refresher about some of the skills learned in CERT. Try it sometime! Now and then you might even find something they do 'wrong' in a scripted show!

We're looking for a location to place a container for CERT supplies. It should be easily accessible during a disaster. Please contact Sonny Myers at LagunaCERT@gmail.com if you know of a location.

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've instituted 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).

Why I Joined CERT

by Josh Neufeld

In the ebb and flow of life, the possibility of severe weather, natural disasters or the horrors of human violence on a large scale are real and the best approach is to always be prepared. CERT training is the perfect augment and support mechanism for our local first responders to help people in need during those times when our local or federal institutions are overtaxed. At the least it gives us skills to help ourselves and our families and neighbors. Even better, being an able-bodied; in mind, body or spirit, CERT trained citizen, during times of wide-ranging, far-reaching, comprehensive, exhausting challenges to our normal systems of living, we are fulfilling our duty just as Kennedy said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." CERT gives us the knowledge and training to know how to act and react and apply it locally during times of need.

CERT Outreach Hits Farmers' Market for Fall

We have secured a booth at Farmers' Market on Oct. 15 and Nov. 12 and need volunteers to staff that booth! Pop-up canopy, CERT literature and interest list will be provided. All you have to do is let people know who we are, why we are part of it and how they can be better prepared for emergencies and disasters.

Two shifts are available: 8-10 and 10-12. If you can help either day, please contact Sandi Cain at LagunaCERT@gmail.com or call/text to 949-292-3279 with your preferred date and time. Help us get the word out, fill future classes and acquaint your neighbors with the program!



Empty tables at Heisler Park? It took dedication for board member Sonny Myers to get there early enough (6am) to secure tables for the CERT picnic on August 21.

Why Do We Provide Ongoing Training to CERT Graduates?

by Charlie Barr,
Development Chief

Recently I started thinking about why we provide ongoing training for our CERT graduates.

It is the CERT Board's desire to have a team of the best trained CERT members in Laguna Beach. When you took the CERT training you were given massive amounts of information to digest and remember.

Things change as you know. When we offer training every effort on our part is to provide the most up to date training possible for our members. There are things that you need to do to stay current and therefore very effective to be able serve your community and help keep your family safe. Two of these things are First Aid and CPR. To be honest with you when I took CPR the first time I really hoped that I would never need to use it as I really didn't feel that I had learned enough to be competent should the need arise to use CPR.

There are other things such as use of a fire extinguisher, sand bagging, traffic control, effective clearing of a building in the event of a disaster, how to turn off your gas and water. As I am writing this I have the news on in the background and I am hearing them talk about when the big earthquake comes. My question to you is, are you and your family prepared for the next disaster in Laguna Beach?

All of our training adds to your ability to protect your home and your family should a disaster come to Laguna Beach. We realize that all of you have busy schedules. However we hope that you will take the time to participate in our training classes.

If you feel that we need to be doing some specific training we certainly are open to your suggestions.

The Laguna Beach CERT Board of Directors look forward to seeing you at a training soon

Neighborhood Drill

Our first effort at a citywide neighborhood drill generated great response for team leaders who set up in some very public and some very creative places to await CERT members to flock to the call out for response to a major earthquake. Team leaders Chris Tomlin, Cathy Bosko, Chris and Susan Weidhaas, Kip Scott and Janice Hayden did a great job with set-up and outreach to curious residents who wondered what the gear and check-in tables were for. Unfortunately, only a handful of CERT members responded to the call-out, which assigned responders to go to 'damaged' homes where photos of the 'damage' were posted and asked them to report back with their findings to incident command.

Big Thank You!

Hats off to the homeowners and businesses that allowed us to post 'damage' signs on their property or use their storefronts for neighborhood command centers. Those included the **Laguna Beach School District Office parking lot, Adolfo's, Mozambique, STRUCTURES, Moulton Meadows Park and Gelson's.**



CERT Neighborhood participants, above from left: Chris Tomlin; Mike Mitchell, Susan Weidhaas (with Max); Chris Weidhaas, Susan Reese, Cathy Bosko, Janice Hayden. At left, first member of "Future CERTS of Laguna" Club Max Weidhaas enjoyed his role in the neighborhood drill in August.

We learned a lot about our call-out process (a good thing since it was a test case!) and what we needed at each incident command post. Now what we need is some feedback from YOU—the members! Please take a couple of minutes to let us know how we can best offer these short practice call-out sessions by answering the questions below and sending your reply to LagunaCERT@gmail.com with the subject line of 'survey.'

- 1. How often are you willing/able to participate in one-to-two-hour practice disaster drills?**
 Once a month Quarterly Once or twice a year
- 2. For short skill-based drills requiring you to report to one or more locations, which are you interested in?**
 Saturday a.m. Saturday afternoon A weekday evening Any time for a table-top drill in a fixed location
- 3. What CERT topics are you most interested in reviewing?**
 Search & rescue Medical skills Administration/incident command Fire Safety Disaster preparedness
- 4. How often are you willing/able to attend CERT meetings or additional training?**
- 5. What is the best weekday evening for you to attend such meetings/training?**

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

Why Red Flag Training?

Just a couple of years ago, Red Flag alerts were getting to be pretty common as the drought worsened and Santa Ana winds plus dry conditions increased the possibility of a conflagration at the drop of a cigarette, sparking catalytic converter or accidental ember from a grill.

But on some days, the alert was puzzling if we had overcast and moderate temperatures while inland cities were sweltering. That was due to all of OC being lumped into the same zone for Red Flag warnings. Now, thanks to the efforts of our fire chief and the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), coastal OC has its own red flag weather zone and we've had no high-alert dangers for the past year.

That switch also saves the city and schools money, because every time there's a Red Flag alert the schools need to stage extra buses and staff at each school in case evacuation is imminent, costing about \$4,000 each day the alert is in effect.

Still, when these dangerous conditions ARE present, it's best to know what to look for, how to report possible fires and educate the public—both locals and visitors—about the dangerous conditions. The OC Coastal

Zone currently includes Dana Point, Laguna Beach, Newport Beach and Aliso Viejo. For Laguna Beach, the zone stops at El Toro Road, so there is still some danger if a fire breaks



out just beyond that boundary, as it did in the big fire in October 1993.

In addition to focusing personnel and resources to curb smoking and the use of fires in hazardous fire areas like Alta Laguna park, the city also makes use of CERT volunteers on Red Flag days to help educate the public about park rules regarding smoking and hours of operation and to serve as a visual deterrent to those who may think of smoking or using open fires.

Several times a year we try to

have a Red Flag Training Course for CERT graduates. We will be doing the training this month on October 26, Wednesday, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Our plan is to teach you about how to be a good lookout on Red Flag days and about the conditions that cause a Red Flag Alert.

Usually the commitment for being a lookout is no more than 3-4 hours, it's fun to do as there are always people who wonder why we are in a fire danger area, and it gives us as CERT members the opportunity to educate them about the importance of being careful in high fire danger areas.

Some of the things that we will cover in the course are: the fire triangle, favorable conditions for a fire, types of fuels, what the color of the smoke means. Of course how to report a vegetation fire, what is burning, how big is the fire and where is the fire.

The information gleaned in this course will be useful at any time and anywhere that you see a fire and need to report.

July 4 Information Posts

by Sonny Myers

The turnout and assignments for the July 4 information posts and crowd control operated smoothly and everyone had a good time with two shifts at two different locations.

In the morning, CERT members took turns at the EOC Trailer at Main Beach and at the corner of Laguna Ave. and PCH, answering questions, giving directions and getting the word out about CERT. Alternately, we controlled access to Laguna Ave. by staffing the barricades to keep the street open for emergency vehicles if needed.

The evening shifts at several locations in Heisler Park controlled access to the beach at Rock Pile and Picnic Beach and made sure that no one entered the fireworks location at Monument Point.

Thanks to everyone who gave up part of his or her holiday to assist.

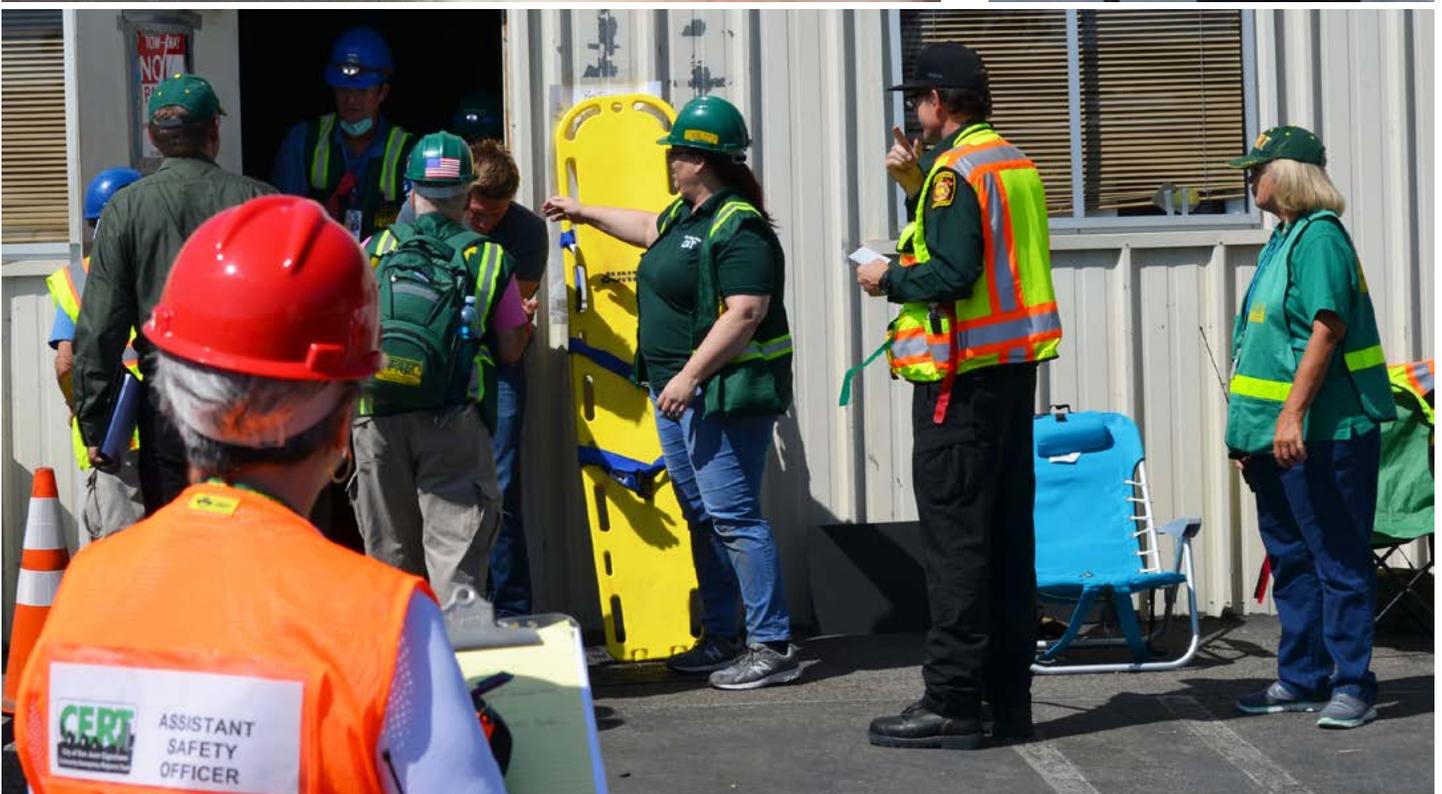
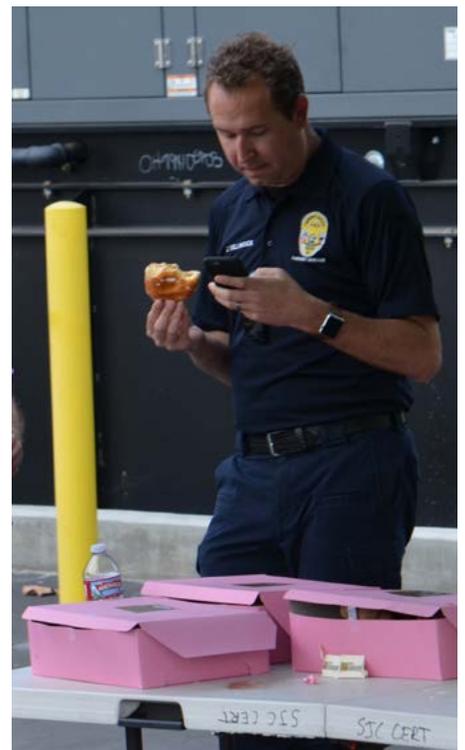
Thanks to these CERT members who volunteered part of their holiday to man information posts and help with crowd control:

Jayne Berberian
Janice Hayden
Matt Lawson
Sonny Myers
Mary Ricks
George Ricks
Heather Sparkuhl
Chris Tomlin

Laguna Beach CERT Supports Annual South County Drill

by Rich Leger

On Saturday September 17th a 7.5 magnitude earthquake simulation drill in San Juan Capistrano brought together three cities to participate in the South Orange County “CERT” (Community Emergency Response Team) Exercise. The city of San Juan Capistrano and their CERT program members provided the excellent location and fire department assets to assist in fire suppression training for the drill. The Laguna Beach community emergency response team members took leadership roles in several of the exercise’s training disciplines including cribbing, which trains for the extraction of trapped victims and search and rescue. Laguna Niguel and San Clemente CERT teams were also involved in the joint exercise which proved to be a huge success for everyone involved. I personally find being part of the Laguna Beach volunteer CERT team and participating in these practice drills quite fun and extremely informative. I want to especially thank the Laguna Beach Police Department for putting the Community Emergency Response Team “CERT” program together for everyone in our community, because helping our citizens help themselves and others in case of an emergency is great planning on everyone’s part.





PHOTOS BY JOHN O'ROURKE, RICH LEGER, AND MORE

What's New with You?

You've had the CERT training.

What type of volunteering would you like to do within CERT? _____

How involved would you like to be? _____

What additional training would you like to have? _____

Are there parts of the training you would like to renew or practice? _____

We have to get CPR/First Aid certification every two years.

Are you interested in signing up soon? yes not yet

Other general suggestions or news to share: _____

Let us know if you have moved, changed contact info.

(This is new information.)

Name _____

Home Address _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____ Text messaging okay

Email Address _____



CERT Board

CONTACT US:

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**Stay involved—
Watch for
new training
and exercise
opportunities
and notices
of quarterly
meetings.**