

CERT NEWS

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

April-June 2017

Quick Dates—

All meetings are held at the SusiQ unless otherwise specified.

JULY 4 HELP NEEDED

Information booth at Main Beach & firework security at Heisler. See opportunities in Better Impact.

ANNUAL PICNIC

Sun., July 23 (*note the date change!*), Heisler Park, 11am-2pm

ARC SHELTER BASICS & SHELTER MOCK UP CLASS

Sat., July 29th. www.danapoint.org/ARCshelterclass

PET TECH CPR & FIRST AID TRAINING

Sat., Aug. 26, see article page 7

CERT TRAINING, CLASS 9

8-week class begins Tues., Sept. 5

ALL HANDS SKILLS DRILL

Sat., Sept. 30 at The Ranch, 8am-2pm. See article page 2

GREAT SHAKEOUT

Fri., Oct. 20, 10:20am

AWARDS DINNER

Annual party and awards. Wed., Dec. 6, 6-9pm

We sometimes learn about new training opportunities or other events that cause us to change our CERT calendar. We do send out notices about cancellations or date changes. Please check your email and Better Impact regularly!

CERT Board

CONTACT US:

LagunaCERT@gmail.com

- Alx Simmons, CERT Director
- Sandi Cain, Outreach Chief
- Sonny 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

Happy Summer CERT Members!

Thank you to everyone for their volunteerism and always being willing to help out. In June, CERT was able to staff an information booth at Alta Laguna Park for two weekends in order to interact with community members and educate them on the smoking ordinance, hazardous fire area, disaster preparedness, and CERT. The CERT Board learned more about our Better Impact software during the neighborhood drill in June. Thank you!

If you have not heard, we are having our first ever "Laguna Beach CERT only" exercise on September 30th, 2017 which is being hosted by The Ranch. Please save the date, you will not be disappointed!

Have a great Summer and as always, if you have any questions do not hesitate to ask lagunacert@gmail.com.

Thank you,
Jordan Villwock, MS
Emergency Operations Coordinator



PHOTO COURTESY OF STUNNEWS LAGUNA

Neighborhood Drill, June 17



Jo Jensen, left, and Michael Ervin ready the CERT booths at Adolfo's and Gelson's. We set up booths in five districts and called out CERT members through Better Impact. If you didn't get a text on June 17, please contact sue@spidergirlsdesign.com.

All-City Drill Set for The Ranch

by Sandi Cain, Outreach Chief

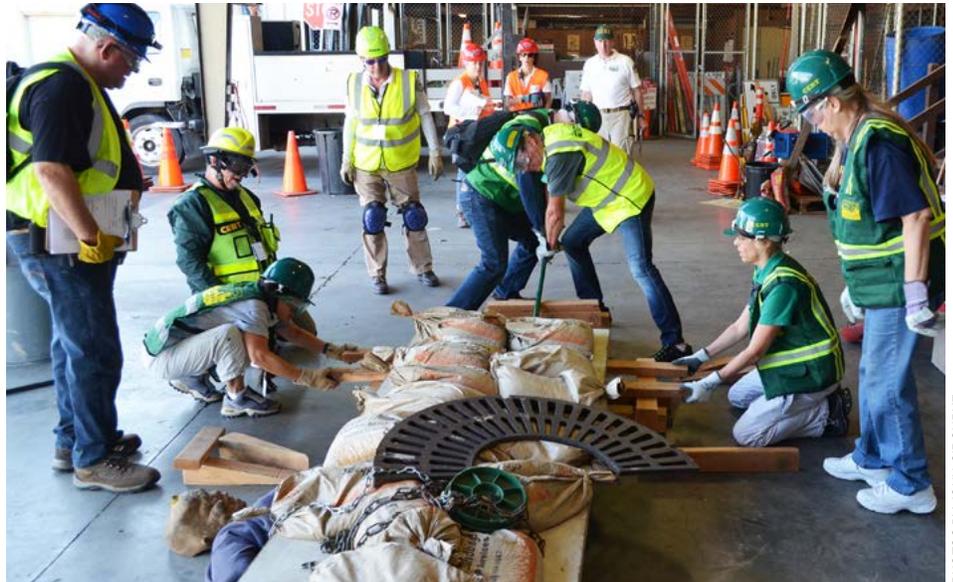
The first all-city Laguna Beach CERT drill will be held on Sept. 30 from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. at The Ranch. This drill replaces our previous participation in the South County Drill in San Juan Capistrano, which will not be held this year.

The Board of Directors will be meeting with The Ranch personnel soon to finalize details, but we think this will be an excellent location that will offer us some real-world challenges for practicing our skills. Ranch employees who have taken the CERT training will be taking part in this event as well.

Please sign up in Better Impact for this Sept. 30 event. Anyone who has taken part in other drills in the past can testify to the usefulness of practicing in this kind of setting. We hope to have a good turnout and will be sending more details to you as the date nears.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RANCH



PHOTOS BY JOHN O'ROURKE

The Ranch, top, set to host first Laguna Beach CERT drill. Bottom: CERT members simulate cribbing at last year's South County Drill in San Juan Capistrano

Laguna Beach Hosts CERT Mutual Aid Program (CMAP) for First Time

by Sonny Myers, CERT Instructor, Communications Chief

On behalf of Laguna CERT, I would like to thank all of you who took the recent CMAP (CERT Mutual Aid Program) course at the Suzi-Q Senior Center. The turnout was great. We had participants and trainers from Laguna Beach, Laguna Niguel, Dana Point, San Clemente and Aliso Viejo.

The CMAP course (CERT Mutual Aid Program) teaches CERT members about the incident command system. We were taught how to respond to a deployment, basic radio instruction and how to be prepared to respond to a large incident when additional help is needed to assist our first responders and CERT agencies in Orange County.

Jordan Villwock from Laguna CERT and Aaron Rosen from Dana Point CERT taught a class that was lively and informative. Everyone successfully completed the CMAP class and has now added this qualification



CMAP instruction facilitated by Jordan Villwock. Participants from Laguna CERT: Barbara Garcia, Durinda Klein, Eleanor Tiner, Janice Hayden, Jayne Berberian, Jenn Tara, Sonny Myers, Jo Jensen, Margaret Warder, Michael Farley, Suzi Scallon, Tracy Paddock. Inset: Aaron Rosen's (Emergency Manager for Dana Point) famous rock give-a-aways.

to their CERT training. The CERT members who completed the class are now available to be deployed to other Orange County cities should

they require assistance and Mutual Aid. If you missed the class, take it when it comes around again, I highly recommend it. Good job all.

What's Your Story?

We are now a CERT team of 250 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 Janice Hayden

In August 2013, my husband and I moved to Laguna Beach from Concord, Massachusetts.

I quickly realized that our new hometown was vulnerable to natural disasters that I had never had to worry about, including wildfires, floods, mudslides, and earthquakes. With high traffic congestion and only two roads (Laguna Canyon Road and Coast Highway) to enter and exit Laguna Beach, the need for excellent emergency management was very apparent. When I spotted an article in the Independent about an upcoming CERT class, I registered so that I could do my own small part in helping

Laguna Beach survive an emergency.

I love being part of CERT. The training that we are provided by the police department, FEMA, and the Red Cross prepares us to help our own families as well as the community in case of an emergency. The more I put in, the more I get out of it. As I go to more workshops I feel more confident in the skills I am learning, and more ready to put them into practice during an

actual emergency. I'm ready to be a team player in an emergency, whether that means filling sandbags, directing traffic, helping with search and rescue, or doing triage on injured persons.

I recently joined the CERT Radio Team in order to help with communications during an incident. CERT has made me feel part of something bigger than myself and a real part of Laguna Beach, my new home.



Are you Radio-Ready?

by Sonny Myers, CERT Instructor, Communications Chief

Have you checked the batteries on your radio lately? Do you know where your radio and go bag are? Being in charge of our CERT hand held radios, this is the first question I usually ask when I meet a fellow CERT. And you know what, almost without fail, the answer I get is yes. Give yourselves a pat on the back. Being prepared is an ongoing task. It is not difficult, but it must be consistent.

Now would be a good time to change the batteries and make sure you have fresh spares, look in your go bag. If you have water or food in the bag, you may want to exchange and freshen up your supplies. It only takes a few minutes and you'll be happy to have fresh water when you need it. Water in plastic bottles only stays fresh for a few months then it begins to taste like plastic and those protein bars might be a little "off" if they've been in the bag for too long.

And now for some radio team news, I would like to welcome our newest member, Janice Hayden. Janice has been very active in CERT. She has taken CMAP, radio training, completed ICS-100 and ICS-700 and sheltering. She will make a great addition to the team, welcome aboard Janice!

Lastly, if you are interested in joining the radio team please let me know. Our goal is to have complete hand-held radio coverage for all of Laguna Beach. Participation is easy and fun. Participation is an excellent way to take your CERT training to the next level. Contact Sonny Myers at lagunacert@gmail.com and I will fill you in.

John Wayne Airport Stages Aircraft 'Fire' in Triennial Drill for CMAPs

by Suzi Scallon and Sandi Cain

Trish Berchtold, Lisa Broughton, Jo Jensen, Matt Lawson, Sonny Myers, Kathy Rosenberger, Suzi Scallon, and Ann Summers took part in the triennial John Wayne Airport disaster exercise in April.

This drill involves multiple agencies staging a full-scale mass-casualty exercise in which there are plane evacuations and other 'injured' parties involved. Only CMAP-qualified CERT members can participate. In all, more than 500 volunteers, observers, support staff and emergency responders took part.

One of Laguna's CERT members, Suzi Scallon, took part for the second time. Aside from getting to watch other role-players during this important practice drill, Suzi shared some other insights she gained with us—to show the benefit of the program and to encourage others to consider taking part the next time around.

Here's what she had to say: "I learned that there are a lot of 'moving parts' to disaster recovery at an airport. It was interesting to play a "victim" during the April Mass-Casualty Incident Exercise. "It was fun being made up and acting the part of someone who was "ambulatory, with abrasions, cuts & bruises." "These activities were good ice-breakers and a great way to meet CERTs from other cities. I also met some Laguna CERTs I didn't know before. The most interesting part, to me, was being 'behind the scenes' of John Wayne Airport.

"Exercises like this are a key component of emergency response planning and preparedness. We are proud to work in concert with our partner agencies to ensure the Airport is ready in the event of an emergency," said Barry Rondinella in a press release about the exercise.



OCA engine extinguishing a 'virtual fire' at the simulated crash site



JWA Operations addressing the Incident Command Post

Others participating in the drill were: Orange County Sheriff's Department and Airport Police Services, which also provided one helicopter along with personnel; Orange County Health Care Agency, Emergency Medical Services, which provided coordination of ambulance response and with the American Red Cross; and Orange County Fire Authority which responded with more than 50 vehicles and 200 personnel

from the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Station 33 at John Wayne as well as neighboring fire stations. Alaska Airlines represented the plane involved in the incident.

Other fire department staff from Long Beach, Newport Beach, Costa Mesa, Huntington Beach, Orange and Garden Grove also took part as evaluators. And more than 100 members of local CERT teams participated as volunteers.

Log into your Better Impact account: <https://app.betterimpact.com/login/volunteer>
Username: your email ~ Password: cert92651 (unless you changed it)
If you have any problems with Better Impact, please call Sue Reese at 949-497-6844.

CPR Classes Train CERTs, Others in Lifesaving Skills

by Susan Weidhaas,
CERT member

My husband Chris and I took the recent CPR class that is suitable for beginners AND for those refreshing skills, as is required every two years. It's important to keep up with training as life-saving technology advances. Even though we learned about the AED's in our last class, the recent class really impressed us with the benefits of having these devices nearby.

The class only took a couple of hours out of an evening, but we found it very professionally conducted and instructive.

The new CPR "dummies" are much smarter these days as well. They have light indicators to display if the student is pressing hard enough and at the preferred rate for optimal effectiveness. We found this a very



Susan Weidhaas with son Max and husband Chris at 2016 Neighborhood drill

helpful feature toward fine-tuning our understanding of these important steps.

After the recent class, I feel much better prepared should I need to respond to someone who appears to be having a heart attack. I am in the process of advocating for AEDs in my office building on each floor.

We highly recommend that everyone take advantage of this resource.



PHOTO BY JAYNE BERBERIAN

Training chief Mike Mitchell, right, and Laguna Beach Emergency Operations Coordinator Jordan Villwock speak to students about Red Flag watch during the June training session.

Fire Season Arriving Early After Winter Rains

by Sonny Myers, CERT Instructor, Communications Chief

Hello Laguna CERT. Summer is knocking on the door and now that the rains have stopped it's time to be "Summer Safe." We've had a "normal" amount of rain this year and the trees, shrubs and native grasses have grown to heights and density not seen in several years.

It has been said that we are now in a "Year-Round" fire season and we need to be mindful of the hazards that will appear now that our landscaping is filling out and the hillsides are full with native plants, grasses and scrub.

Now is a good time to "Size-Up" your home for fire danger. Are your gutters clean? Is your landscaping and vegetation trimmed and pruned away from your home? Do you have firewood stacked up against the side of your house? Is the landscaping cleared away from your electric, gas and water meters? Do you have wrenches nearby to turn off the utilities? Make sure that you have at least three feet of clearance around your home for first responders should they need to enter your property and at least 10-20 feet of clearance to combustible vegetation.

Being prepared is a part of CERT and it starts starts at home. **Enjoy your summer and be safe.**

The Pet Tech CPR & First Aid Training will be Coming to Long Beach August 26

Love & protect your pets—comprehensive, hands-on workshop!

This training opportunity is NOT staged by CERT, but is a valuable tool to have and is recommended by the SoCal Animal Response Team based in Huntington Beach (www.scart.us). Knowing the skills of Pet CPR & First Aid can make a difference between life and death—and give pets a fighting chance to survive. Learn emergency skills, wellness assessment, preparing a customized pet first aid kit, rescue breathing, and much more in this workshop.

Sat., Aug 26, 2107; 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm for pet lovers age 15 and up
Pet Food Express, 4220 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach CA 90807

\$75/person includes materials and a certificate of training

Questions/registration: DOGMANITIES@DOGSLife365.com; 323-744-0210

<http://www.dogmanities.com/workshops/>

All-Class Reunion Picnic

11am - 2pm ~ Sunday, July 23
Picnic Park at Heisler (at the tables)

Bring Your Families!

by Sandi Cain, Outreach Chief

There are 250+ qualified CERT volunteers in Laguna Beach now—and if they all come to the picnic at Heisler Park on July 23, the picnic area will have quite a crowd! In fact, it may be a good test of your response skills navigating PCH, Cliff

Drive and parking—or a test of your balancing skills if you take the trolley with your contribution to the pot luck lunch!

This is a purely social event. Get to know your fellow CERT members, bring your spouses or kids and just enjoy a picnic near the beach. Why should visitors have ALL the fun? We

can show them our camaraderie too!

Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. Bring your own non-alcoholic beverage and a side dish, salad or dessert of your choosing to share with your teammates. Please do RSVP by signing up on Better Impact simply so we know how many to expect. **See you there!**



PHOTO BY SONNY MYERS

Picnic Park—Where Myrtle and Cliff Drive meet—picnic tables and beach access are to the right. Look for the green popup.



CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH PHOTO

CERT Engages Community at Alta Laguna Park Information Booth



PHOTOS BY SUSAN REESE

CERT members staffed an Alta Laguna Park extension information booth June 16 & 17 and June 23 & 24. Here, Sonny Myers, talked with the community about the smoking ordinance and the need to watch for wildfires as well as informing the public about disaster preparedness and the CERT program in general. Also taking shifts were Jayne Berberian, Wendy Caufield, Janice Hayden, Jo Jensen, Matt Lawson, Rich Leger, Mike Mitchell, and Susan Reese.