

CERT NEWSLETTER



February 2019 *“Training And News For The Monterey COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM”*. A citizen based, volunteer emergency response team!
CERT OPERATIONS & TRAINING ARE FUNDED BY THE CITY OF MONTEREY!

Prepare as if your life depends upon it, because it does!

33 CERT Members Deploy During January 16th Storm! On Wednesday, January 16th, a strong storm system impacted the Monterey Peninsula. Local emergency response agencies were overwhelmed and initially requested CERT via Everbridge alert at 1543 hours (3:43 P.M.). CERT members remained deployed for hours, with the last team members **signing out after 1 A.M.** CERT teams relieved fire units at numerous locations where trees and/or wires down presented dangerous safety issues, thus freeing emergency units to respond to other 911 requests. In many instances, CERT teams safely secured the scene for extended periods of time until PG&E could remove the hazards.

PG&E Safety Training, Feb 9th in The EOC. PG&E Senior Public Safety Specialist and retired Monterey Fire Division Chief **Stewart Roth** is scheduled to provide safety training for the public. We encounter PG&E related issues regularly, particularly during storm conditions. It is vital we all are very well aware of the practices that will keep us all safe! **Time: Saturday, February 9th, 9 A.M.-12 noon. CERT is invited!**

CERT Radio Drill Monday, February 11th at 7 P.M. Join the radio drill on CERT channel 3.

New CERT Class Starts February 23rd. This is our weekend series, taught over three consecutive Saturdays, February 23, March 2nd & March 9th. **Find one person to take CERT (Class is open to everyone and is free of charge. Under 16 must be accompanied by an adult)!** To enroll, e-mail: training@montereycert.org

Carmel CERT Team Finds Tree Into House. On January 17th, the morning after a strong storm impacted the Peninsula, the Carmel CERT team was asked to check various areas of town where there was significant storm damage, trees down, etc. The team located a nearly 100' pine tree, previously unreported, that had fallen onto a house, causing serious damage. No one was in the structure.



Photo by CERT Member Scot Smythe

DID YOU RECEIVE THE CERT ALERT? On Wednesday, January 16th at approximately 3:44 P.M. and 6 P.M., Monterey CERT initiated emergency requests to our membership to assist with storm related emergencies. **If you have completed the Monterey Police Background** check and **DID NOT** receive the alerts, please let us know immediately IF you have not done so already.

Our system is designed to send alerts to you via phone message, e-mail and text messages. Once you acknowledge receipt of the alert from any one of these venues, the system will stop attempting to contact you.

Again, IF you have not done so already, please let us know immediately if you have completed the Police background checks, but **DID NOT** receive the alerts.

HAM RADIO PERSONNEL Monterey County Office Of Emergency Services (OES) has requested that we advise them which of our members have a HAM radio license. If you possess a current HAM license, please reply herein and let us know. Include your contact information, such as cell phone number and HAM license number. We will pass on the information to OES. Thank-you!



BE PREPARED! To assure local emergency alerts go to both your home AND cell phone, you **MUST PRE-REGISTER** with the Monterey County Office of Emergency Services (OES) at this link:

<http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/emergency-communications-911/citizen-awareness/alert-monterey-county>

You can create an account with OES to assure notifications come to both your home and cell phone. Once you have created your account, you can conduct a test to assure you are correctly logged into the system.

When in Carmel, be aware that a very loud siren is installed on the roof of the fire station on 6th Street at San Carlos Street. This siren will sound when there is a threat to the public, such as a tsunami alert. If on Carmel Beaches, immediately move to higher ground. Consult the **Monterey County OES Daily Briefing Dashboard** for further information when hearing the siren in Carmel at:

<http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/administrative-office/office-of-emergency-services>



Training: Evacuation

A wide variety of emergencies may cause an evacuation. In some instances, you may have a day ahead is vital to ensuring that you can evacuate quickly and safely, no matter what the circumstances.

Before an Evacuation

- Learn the types of disasters that are likely in your community and the local emergency, evacuation, and shelter plans for each specific disaster.
- **Plan** how you will leave and where you will go if you are advised to evacuate.
 - Identify several places you could go in an emergency such as a friend's home in another town or a motel. Choose destinations in different directions so that you have options during an emergency.
 - If needed, identify a place to stay that will accept **pets**. Most public shelters allow only service animals.
 - Be familiar with alternate routes and other means of transportation out of your area.
 - Always follow the instructions of local officials and remember that your evacuation route may be on foot depending on the type of disaster.
- **Develop a family/household communication and re-unification plan** so that you can maintain contact and take the best actions for each of you and re-unite if you are separated. "If you can't get home, meet at Del Monte Center, Whole Foods entrance".
- Assemble supplies that are ready for evacuation, both a "go-bag" you can carry when you evacuate on foot or public transportation and supplies for traveling by longer distances if you have a personal vehicle.
- If you have a car:
 - Keep a full tank of gas in it if an evacuation seems likely. Keep a half tank of gas in it at all times in case of an unexpected need to evacuate. Gas stations may be closed during emergencies and unable to pump gas during power outages. Plan to take one car per family to reduce congestion and delay.

- Make sure you have a portable **emergency kit in the car**.
- If you do not have a car, plan how you will leave if needed. Make arrangements with family, friends or your local government.

During an Evacuation

- A list of open shelters can be found during an active disaster in your local area by downloading the **FEMA app**
- Listen to a battery-powered radio and follow local evacuation instructions.
- Take your **emergency supply kit**.
- Leave early enough to avoid being trapped by severe weather.
- Take your pets with you, but understand that only service animals may be permitted in public shelters. **Plan how you will care for your pets in an emergency now.**
- If time allows:
 - Call or email the out-of-state contact in your **family communications plan**. Tell them where you are going.
 - Secure your home by closing and locking doors and windows.
 - Unplug electrical equipment such as radios, televisions and small appliances. Leave freezers and refrigerators plugged in unless there is a risk of flooding. If there is damage to your home and you are instructed to do so, shut off water, gas and electricity before leaving.
 - Leave a note telling others when you left and where you are going.
 - Wear sturdy shoes and clothing that provides some protection such as long pants, long-sleeved shirts and a hat.
 - Check with neighbors who may need a ride.
- Follow recommended evacuation routes. Do not take shortcuts; they may be blocked.
- Be alert for road hazards such as washed-out roads or bridges and downed power lines. Do not drive into flooded areas.

After an Evacuation

If you evacuated for the storm, check with local officials both where you're staying and back home before you travel.

- Residents returning to disaster-affected areas after significant events should expect and prepare for disruptions to daily activities, and remember that returning home before storm debris is cleared is dangerous.
- Let friends and family know before you leave and when you arrive.
- Charge devices and consider getting back-up batteries in case power-outages continue.
- Fill up your gas tank and consider downloading a fuel app to check for outages along your route.
- Bring supplies such as water and non-perishable food for the car ride.
- Avoid downed power or utility lines; they may be live with deadly voltage.
- Stay away and report them immediately to your power or utility company.
- Only use generators away from your home and NEVER run a generator inside a home or garage, or connect it to your home's electrical system.