

CERT NEWSLETTER

January 2018, *“Training And News For The Monterey COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM”*. A citizen based, volunteer emergency response team!



Quarterly Training Exercise, Saturday January 20th from 8:45 to 11:00 A.M. Location is the Pacific Grove Fire Station, 600 Pine Avenue (corner of Forest). Subject Is Use and Deployment of the CERT Trailer.

After a very long process, the CERT trailer can now be towed by qualified CERT volunteers. The trailer contains a full inventory of medical-aid supplies, rescue equipment, radios and other items for use in a field deployment. We will be reviewing the trailer and inventory, then dividing into teams and responding into the surrounding neighborhoods to locate “victims” after a simulated earthquake.

Our thanks to the City Of Monterey For Continuing to Fund

CERT! The City of Monterey Council has our deepest thanks for continuing to fund nearly all CERT equipment, activities and operations. All training tools and materials, radios, helmets & vests, back-packs, the trailer, the neighborhood containers plus equipment therein and much more are all paid for by an annual \$15,000 budget entirely funded by the City Of Monterey. This allocation pays for nearly all of the annual costs to continue providing the full range of CERT service. No salaries are paid, as all our instructors and neighborhood Zone Captains, together with all of our members, serve as volunteers! **We also wish to thank the local Kiwanis** for their substantial contribution to purchase a new I.D. card maker for CERT. We will be issuing new cards very soon.



Containers, the trailer, equipment, radios, safety clothing, backboards, manikins, training costs & more are all paid for by the City of Monterey!

The Horrible Fires In Southern California Remind Us To Be Prepared. Get Your Camera Out!

There is no way anyone can remember every single item in your home. Insurance companies require “evidence” in a claim. An important part of your emergency preparedness is to have a total and complete photographic inventory of everything in your home.



Keep this inventory on a thumb-drive or disk at a remote location, such as a safe deposit box. Photograph EVERYTHING! Open every drawer. Taking pictures of everything you own will make it far easier for you to prove your insurance claim should disaster strike. Clothes, silverware, jewelry, EVERYTHING! ALSO, contact your insurance agent and make sure your coverage is up-to-date. Values change and construction costs have escalated over the past few years.

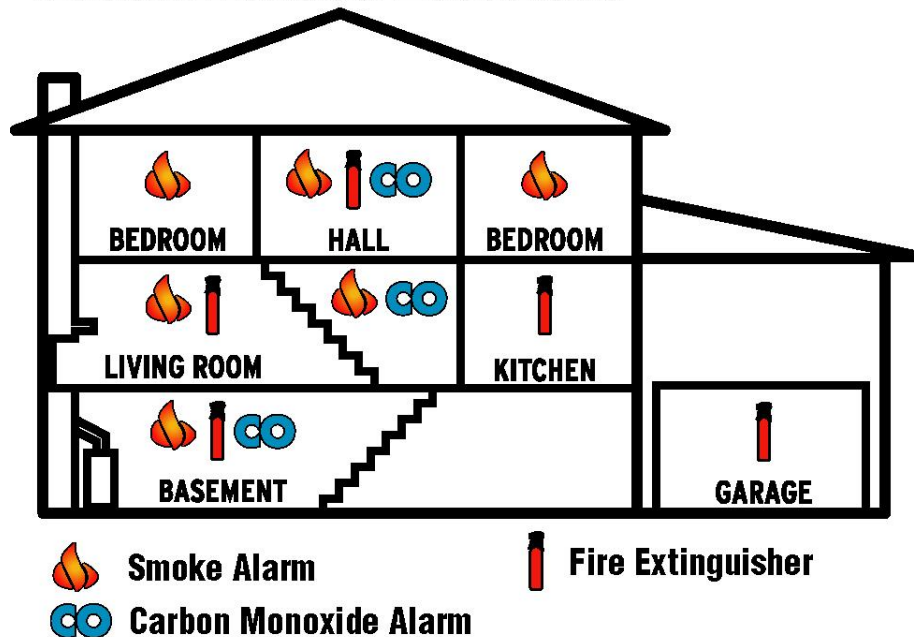
CERT “Live Scan” Background Checks Proceeding. To date, several dozen members have undergone the background check. Monterey Police have been working very hard on our behalf to conduct the checks. If you wish to participate, **but have not yet let us know**, please do so ASAP. By participating in the background check process, you will be included in the Emergency call-out system which we can use to assemble CERT members during a storm, search for a missing person, coastal incident, support at a major fire or other emergency needs. When activated, a simultaneous message is sent to your phones, email and text stating the nature of the emergency and the Staging Area location. In today’s World, background checks are common. January appointments are being made.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is the “invisible killer” because it is a colorless, odorless, and poisonous gas. According to the [U.S. Fire Administration](#) (USFA), more than 150 people in the United States die every year from accidental non fire-related CO poisoning from household products, like generators. Other products include faulty, improperly-used or incorrectly-vented, fuel-burning appliances such as furnaces, stoves, water heaters, and fireplaces.

Breathe easy this winter and avoid CO poisoning with these USFA tips:

- Install and maintain CO alarms in a central location outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of your home to provide an early warning of CO.
- Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from all doors, windows, and vents.
- Make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of lint, snow and other debris.
- NEVER leave your car running in the garage. Many newer cars do NOT have a conventional key. Busy people sometimes unintentionally leave the car running in the garage. CO then permeates into the house!
- NEVER use a barbecue to heat your home! The CO created is deadly!

Recommended Locations



NEW CERT CLASS, February 2018



The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist their families and others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT also participates in searches for missing persons, serves as coastal spotters for persons swept out to sea, storm response and other common emergencies.

Learn These Skills and More:

Emergency First-aid
Use of a fire extinguisher
Disaster Preparedness
Shutting your utilities

Rescue and Neighborhood Search
Communications when phones fail
Assessing your home or workplace after an
earthquake or storm

All classes are taught in Monterey. Anyone may enroll by sending an e-mail of interest to: training@montereycert.org You will receive a confirmation with class details.

**The next CERT training takes place over 3 consecutive Saturdays:
Classes occur on Saturday February 24th, Saturday March 3rd and
Saturday March 10th. Class time each day is 8:20 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
We break for lunch from 12-1 each day.**

CERT is free and open to everyone, regardless where you live !

CERT Standing Orders: Everyone Needs to Know These!

1. **Everyone home safe!** Your safety and the safety of your team is the first priority. This is the guiding principal for ALL CERT activities.
2. **Sign-in.** When arriving at a CERT incident, first thing you ask is, “Where do I sign-in”? This is how we track you. AND sign-out!
3. Always wear your CERT safety equipment when on assignment.
4. Never operate alone. CERT members always operate in teams.
5. Be sure of your assignment and radio frequency before leaving Staging.
6. Stay in touch with your Neighborhood Container, Staging Area or other Command unit. Make regular reports of your status.
7. Operate within your “Scope-Of-Training”. Do not attempt an operation that is outside what you learned in CERT training.
8. Have a reason for what you do! “We shut the gas meter because we smelled natural gas”. “We made forcible entry because someone was calling for help and we could not find an unlocked door or window”.
9. Never approach, touch or come within 50 feet of ANY wire down no matter how harmless it may seem. Be aware that fences, metal and even the ground can conduct electricity, especially in wet conditions.
10. Do not let victims in a danger zone change your safety protocols.
11. Only consider entering a building in which the lateral and horizontal lines are correct.
12. Always have one team member with a radio remain outside and beyond the collapse zone when entering a building.
13. At a mass casualty incident:
 - Report the victim count to your team leader
 - Initially assess ALL victims for an open airway, excessive bleeding and shock, attaching Triage tags as you go.
 - Stop only to treat life threatening conditions.
 - Then begin treatment and movement of all victims, starting with those tagged **“Immediate”**, and report updated count and status of victims.
 - Continually monitor the status of victims for changes in condition.
14. Constantly assess and re-assess your situation. Emergencies are dynamic and conditions can change, your plan may need to change.
15. When in doubt, abort your operation until all team members are comfortable with the plan. Any team member can stop an operation.
16. Constantly monitor the physical AND mental condition of yourself and your team members.
17. Call for professionals and/or more CERT resources when necessary.
18. Be aware of your surroundings. Look up, down and all around.