

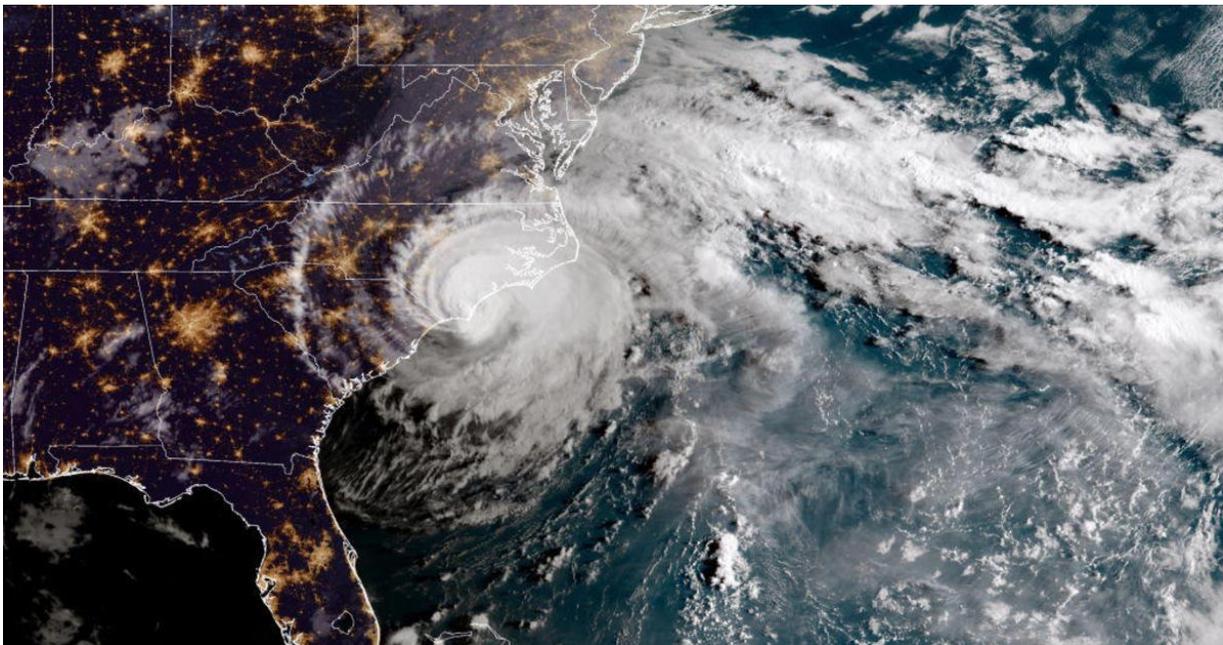
CERT NEWSLETTER

October 2019 *“Training And News For The Monterey COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM”*. A citizen based, volunteer emergency response team.

CERT is paid for by the City of Monterey!

*“It’s a lot of fun to accomplish the difficult”
Monterey CERT members have done this for years!*

HURRICANE DORIAN



In September Hurricane Dorian slammed into the Carolinas, leaving serious damage in her wake, particularly in the Outer Banks areas. The most severe devastation occurred in the Bahamas where the eyewall smashed Great Abaco and Grand Bahama Islands, remaining for over 22 hours before beginning to diminish. This was the worst Hurricane to hit an island area for such a sustained period **in over a century**. An estimated 70,000 people lost their homes.

Every part of the United States is subject to disasters. You need to be alert, prepared and supplied at all times to assure you and your family will survive the aftermath.

SAFETY ALERT!



Photo shows the absolute destruction of a building from a propane explosion. On September 16th, a Farmington, Maine fire captain died and his brother, the town's fire chief, was among the seven others injured in an explosion caused by a propane leak that destroyed a building they were investigating. The explosion scattered debris for more than a mile.

The blast leveled the building housing a nonprofit, LEAP Inc., and could be heard and felt for miles. Insulation was reported to have fallen more than a mile from the building in downtown Farmington and it was scattered like snow closer to the scene. Papers with personal information were scattered in neighboring yards.

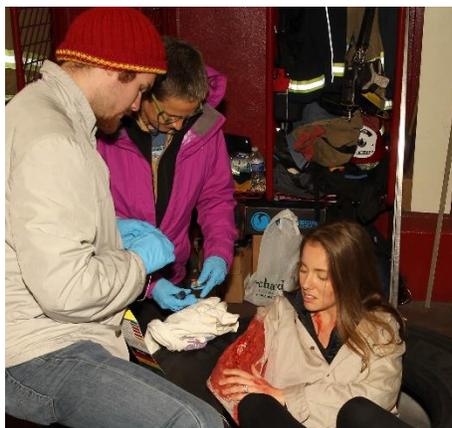
It is vital that CERT members recognize the dangers of a natural gas or propane leak. **Evacuate, isolate and deny entry is our policy! DO NOT ENTER A BUILDING WHERE THERE IS EVIDENCE OF A GAS LEAK!** SIGNS ARE distinct odors, like the smell of rotten eggs and/or the sound of "hissing", or compressed gas escaping from a pipe or container. Isolate the area, deny entry, call 911 and advise CERT Command of the leak. **Minimum safe distance is one block or 400 feet. More if the leak is a ruptured line in the street.**

CERT Quarterly Training: Saturday, November 23rd 0830-1100 hrs. at the EOC. CERT will be holding an important training exercise to review our winter safety procedures and bleeding control methods.

We will be training on the following subjects:

- Safe operations around downed power lines
- Traffic control procedures. Use of MURS channels when directing traffic
- Communications
- Using our winter protective clothing (rain suits)
- Five methods of effective bleeding control

Please participate as there are many safety considerations and new techniques to know when respond to emergencies.



Police Background Checks to Resume



A Monterey CERT Call-Out Team Renders Aid To A Victim

Upon Completion of the Oct-Nov CERT class, we will be resuming the Police background checks. This involves a fingerprinting and computer background check. If you wish to undergo the process, **the following stipulations apply:**

- 1. By participating in this process, you are making a commitment** to be “On-Call” 24/7 to respond to call-outs **when you’re able** for storms, missing persons, coastal incidents, fires and other emergencies where CERT is requested. **This is an important consideration as we have been called out several times this year**
2. You will **NOT receive a written report** on the outcome of your check, nor will one be available upon request. You will only be contacted if something in your past precludes you from being on the CERT emergency call-out group.
3. Even if you have undergone a recent background check with another agency, regardless of Federal, State or Local, you still **must undergo our check** to be on the call-out group.
4. The CERT budget is charged for these background checks, **you will not be charged.**
5. If you do NOT undergo the background check process, you will still receive monthly newsletters, be invited to our quarterly training and are welcome to help your neighborhood in a major event such as a serious storm, earthquake or other widespread emergency by responding to your neighborhood container.

Please continue to monitor the monthly newsletters for information on dates and times as to when and where the background checks and issuing I.D. cards will resume.

CERT Behind the Scenes!

It takes a lot to make a successful CERT program! Members are constantly working behind the scenes to prepare training, maintain our trailer and neighborhood containers, improve our communications and promote CERT.



Left: CERT members Greg Netzorg and Thor Rasmussen on the roof of Community Hospital testing a “Repeater System” for our CERT communications. A repeater is basically a signal booster that, when installed, should greatly improve our radio reception. Community Hospital is one of several locations being tested to determine the best location for the repeater. (Photos by CERT member Thor Rasmussen).

Right: CERT members Mike Brassfield, Lisa Alameda, Sarah Blackstone, Broeck Oder and Lee Whitney staff a booth at the Community Hospital Preparedness Fair at Del Monte Center.



It's 2 A.M. and the ground just stopped shaking! Do you know where your CERT back-pack is?



Your CERT back-pack is NOT a souvenir! It is a useful emergency survival tool! If you graduated the Monterey CERT program, you received a CERT back-pack. This tool was provided so you can keep basic, emergency survival tools in one, easy to find place. You also received a CERT helmet, vest and CERT Guide. In addition to these basic safety items, **we strongly recommend you ALSO keep the following as a minimum:**

- A pair of well fitted work gloves
- Eye goggles
- N-95 rated respiratory masks
- Rubber kitchen gloves and/or several pairs of medical gloves
- A small, powerful flashlight like a Bell & Howell Tac-Light with batteries
- Protein bars or another form of non-perishable food
- Bottle of water
- First-aid items like an elastic bandage, 5"x7" gauze pads and 2" band-aids
- A small tube of sunscreen
- An adjustable wrench or other tool to allow you to shut off utilities when necessary

Keep your back-pack in your car or near the front door of your home for easy access. Check it regularly. Be ready to respond and help your neighborhood in a disaster, BUT make sure your family is safe first! The lives you help and protect may be your family!