

CERT NEWS LETTER

January 2015



83 CERT Members Attend Coastal Exercise



(Photos courtesy of CERT member Thor Rasmussen)

Once again, CERT showed we can be an enormous asset to our community. At the coastal exercise, the CERT organization coordinated with multiple resources including the Monterey Fire Boat, U.S. Coast Guard, Cal-Fire Boat, Sheriffs Air Assets and an Ambulance. In addition to acting as coastal spotters for two people in the water, CERT members administered emergency medical care to accident victims on the Recreation Trail and worked with ambulance crews to get the victims transported to a medical facility! CERT setup a forward command for more efficient communications with the teams in the field. This was a lesson learned from our December storm deployment. We will be a huge resource at the next coastal incident.

DECEMBER CERT DEPLOYMENT A HUGE ASSET TO OUR COMMUNITY!



Monterey CERT members confer with fire personnel to establish safety zone around a downed tree endangering overhead lines.

ON DECEMBER 11, 2014 Sixty Monterey CERT members deployed to assist during a storm which caused damage to many areas of our community. By providing safety zones around downed power lines and trees, CERT members allowed fire units to proceed to other emergencies! We learned several lessons on this deployment, including the need to provide a forward command to allow for more efficient communications. This forward command approach was used during our coastal exercise and provided more direct and clear communications with the CERT teams in the field.

Next class for new members starts March 5, 2015 and continues through April 16th. This will be our evening series, taught over seven consecutive Thursday evenings. Class will be instructed in the EOC from 6:30 to 9:30 P.M. E-mail: montereycert@hotmail.com

Practice your basic CERT skills by attending the final exercise of the next CERT class. This occurs **April 16th in the EOC from 6:30-9:30 P.M.** We practice all our basic skills such as emergency medicine, triage, rescue, search and use of the CERT radios.

Training Refresher: Placing a victim on a backboard: All of our CERT containers have at least one backboard like the one shown below. Securing the victim to the board is a “four point” process. This means we use 4 straps. We want to secure both their upper and lower body to the board to keep them from slipping when moved.

First, position the victim on the board with their head and the wider end of the board:



Second, place two straps across their chest in an “X” pattern with the buckles closer to their waist. Then place straps across their waist and legs.



Remember to use a minimum of four people when lifting a backboard. Six persons lifting is ideal, as shown below. If necessary, put some padding between the back of their head and the board to better support their spinal area.



(Photo courtesy of CERT member Thor Rasmussen)

The Everbridge Alert System is used to contact CERT members during an emergency. Everbridge sends you a voice message to your phones, plus an e-mail and text message. Once you acknowledge any of these messages, the system presumes you have been reached and stops trying to contact you. The phone message comes from the number **555 555-5555**. Our alert for the coastal exercise was as follows:

“This is a drill, this is a drill. All CERT members are requested to respond immediately to a Coastal Incident. Staging location is 620 Ocean View Blvd. in Pacific Grove, next to the Beach House Restaurant at Lover’s Point”.

If you have completed CERT training and did not receive the Everbridge Alert, please contact us immediately with an e-mail to: montereycert@hotmail.com

CONTACT YOUR TEAM LEADER: If you have not already done so, contact your team leader and meet them at your neighborhood CERT container. Make sure you know how to find the container and are familiar with the inventory.

REMEMBER: After an emergency such as an earthquake, storm or other potential disaster when all forms of communication are absent, when the power is out and telephones and cell phones don’t work, secure your family, immediate neighbors and then, if you are able, report to

your neighborhood CERT container. Using our radio system, CERT is the primary eyes and ears to the City on what's happening in the neighborhoods. We will form teams and proceed into the neighborhoods to *"DO THE MOST GOOD FOR THE MOST PEOPLE"* CERT provides an excellent video at this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KwV3e1Xfif0>

CERT TEAM LEADER LIST: **CONA**=Casanova Oak Knoll, **Crml**=Carmel, **DMB**=Del Monte Beach, **FH**=Foothill, **MV**=Monte Vista, **NM**=New Monterey, **OG**=Oak Grove, **OT**=Old Town, **PG**=Pacific Grove, **S3**=Station 3, **SL**=Skyline

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"Doing the most good for the most people"