

# CERT NEWSLETTER

January 2016



**The CERT Trailer Has Arrived!** In order to greatly improve our mobility, the City of Monterey has purchased a trailer for CERT. The trailer will contain an inventory of tools, equipment, medical-aid supplies and radios. The **City of Monterey** has committed nearly \$15,000 to this acquisition! This is in ADDITION to the annual \$15,000 budget the City provides CERT. Not one penny of CERT budgeted money goes to salaries or payment for services. ALL of our instruction, management and administration is done by volunteers. We thank the citizens of the Peninsula and City Council of Monterey for their commitment to CERT!



**New CERT Class scheduled for March 2016.** This will be our weeknight series, taught over 7 consecutive Thursday nights. The class is taught free of charge.

**Class is Thursday nights, starting March 10, 2016 and continuing each Thursday night through Thursday April 21st. Time each day is 6:20-9:30 P.M. To complete registration, applicants may send an e-mail to [montereycert@hotmail.com](mailto:montereycert@hotmail.com) with the following information:**

Full name

e-mail address most commonly used

Physical and mailing address

Cell and home phone numbers

Registering students will receive an e-mail with details of the class location, things to bring, etc.

## CERT Training: Dealing With Angry Citizens

**CERT teams operating in the field may encounter an angry citizen. The key buzzword here is AVOID:**

- Avoid confronting or otherwise arguing with the angry citizen
- Avoid raising your voice, speak calmly and softly
- Avoid their “space” by taking a few steps backward
- Avoid any physical contact with the citizen
- Avoid threatening body language, such as outstretched arms, making a fist or pointing



**Address the subject in a calm, soft voice.** Avoid conflict, step back and advise the angry citizen we will get them help. Ask them questions that require a positive answer, such as the nature and location of the problem, (“*Where do you need help?*”) Advise the subject that you will radio their request for help once you have all the facts. If they insist you leave the current assignment to handle their problem, inform them resources will respond as soon as possible. If the nature of their report is a high priority, such as a structure fire, person badly injured or serious hazard like power lines down, report this to CERT Command immediately. You may then consider sending CERT members from your location **IF and ONLY** it can be done safely and three or more members are available to respond from your location and with at least three persons to remain and safely complete the original assignment.

If the person continues acting in a threatening manner, call CERT command for a police response. **Avoid confrontation!** CERT members are community volunteers and **we have no legal power to restrain anyone, or ask for an I.D. We advise and inform of safety hazards.** If a person tries to cross a containment barrier, such as yellow tape, advise them of the dangers but do not attempt any physical contact or restraint.

*(Our thanks to Monterey Police Lt. Jeff Jackson for his contributions to this article)*

## **CERT business meetings typically occur on the first Monday**

of each month. The next meeting is **January 4<sup>th</sup>**. These meetings occur in the EOC from 6:30 to 8 P.M. and are open to all CERT members and the community even if you have not completed the entire instructional series. These are public meetings, we welcome everyone.

## **CERT RADIO NET: Radio net will occur Monday January 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 P.M. on CERT Command Channel 3.**

**Team Leaders are asked to conduct the radio net from their neighborhood containers to test the base radios.**

If team leaders cannot be present at the container, please arrange for other teams members to so do. We will want to test all radios in your container, both the base and hand-held units.



### **WHAT'S ALERT MONTEREY COUNTY?**

AlertMontereyCounty is a system used by City and County public safety officials to deliver emergency notifications to residents and businesses impacted by, or in danger of being impacted by, an emergency or disaster.

Residents who wish to be notified on their cell phone, Voice over IP (VoIP) phone or at their email address must **register online** at: <http://www.alertmontereycounty.org/>

## **Our new radio coordinator is Greg Netzorg.**

Most of you know Greg, he has been a central part of our CERT instruction team for many years. If you have questions about your radio, or need a new one programmed, Greg can be reached by e-mail at: [thezorgs1@comcast.net](mailto:thezorgs1@comcast.net) Our thanks to Tim Mcfaddan for taking on this responsibility in the past.



*Photo courtesy of CERT member Thor Rassmussen*

# Winterizing Your Car

We often think of our homes in preparing for winter. Our vehicle is also an important part of an overall emergency preparedness plan.

**Check or have a mechanic check the following items on your car:**

- **Antifreeze levels** - ensure they are sufficient to avoid freezing.
- **Battery and ignition system** - should be in top condition and battery terminals should be clean.
- **Brakes** - check for wear and fluid levels.
- **Exhaust system** - check for leaks and crimped pipes and repair or replace as necessary. Carbon monoxide is deadly and usually gives no warning.
- **Fuel and air filters** - replace and keep water out of the system by using additives and maintaining a full tank of gas. A full tank will keep the fuel line from freezing. **FILL YOUR FUEL TANK WHEN IT GETS TO ½ CAPACITY.**
- **Heater and defroster** - ensure they work properly.
- **Keep blankets, food and water in your car.** Mylar blankets are very compact and provide excellent thermal protection. They are available at camping equipment stores.
- **Lights and flashing hazard lights** - check for serviceability.
- **Oil** - check for level and weight. Heavier oils congeal more at low temperatures and do not lubricate as well. Consider multi-viscosity oils such as 10/40.
- **Thermostat** - ensure it works properly.
- **Windshield wiper equipment** – Replace your wiper blades if they are more than 1 year old. Keep your window washer reservoir filled with an anti-freeze type window cleaner.
- **If you will be traveling to areas with snow, install good winter tires and carry chains for icy conditions** - Make sure the tires have adequate tread.
- **For more information, go to:** <http://www.ready.gov/winter-weather>