

CERT NEWSLETTER

December 2015

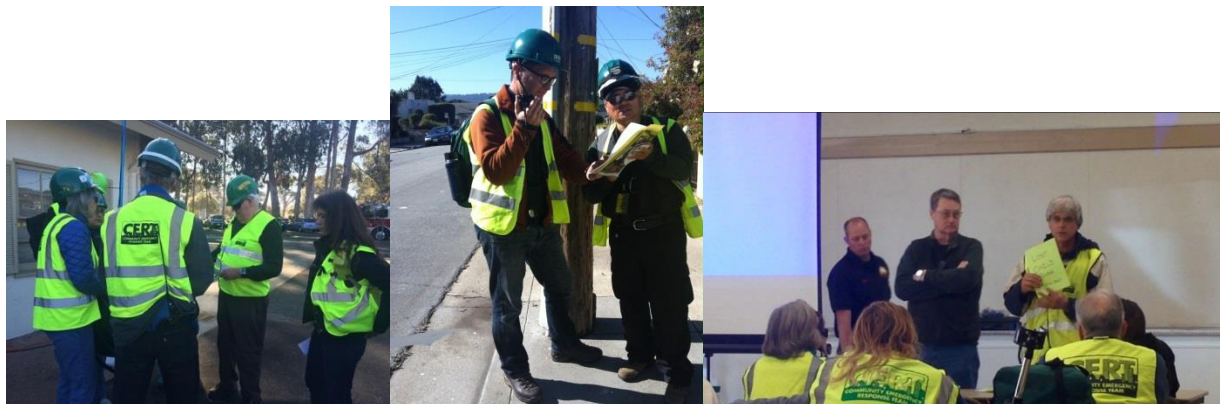


60 CERT members attended the search exercise held November 14th.

This exercise featured classroom instruction delivered by the Monterey County Sheriff's Search and Rescue personnel. Following the classroom instruction, 7 CERT teams were formed and went into the Oak Grove neighborhood of Monterey (between Lake El Estero and the Navy School) and made approximately 100 radio reports of circumstances found. **Some of our lessons learned:**

- How the Sheriff's want to perform check-in and tracking
- Division Group Supervisors should be close to their area of responsibility for improved radio communications. CERT will investigate obtaining more powerful mobile (vehicle) radios for the Divisions.
- Anyone in a supervisory role needs to have assistants to help with writing down information, radio reports, etc. Communications needs two assistants.
- The MURS radio channels should be used primarily for inter-team communications, such as when performing traffic control or searching a building. CERT tactical channels will likely work better for communications between teams and their Divisions.

Our sincerest thanks to everyone who participated in this exercise! CERT is a team activity and each of you makes a strong contribution to our team efforts. **ANY COMMENTS OR INPUT YOU HAVE REGARDING THE EXERCISE ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.**



CERT Training: Vehicle Accident Scene Safety



CERT members operating in the field may encounter a vehicle accident. As always, approach the scene with caution. Several potential hazards are present at any vehicle accident.

- Leaking fluids such as gasoline, battery acid and coolant. These fluids can ignite.
- Downed power lines that present a stepping hazard OR can electrically energize the vehicles. **REMEMBER: Always look up, down and all around!**
- Fires
- People on the ground OR beneath the vehicle
- Unstable vehicles that may roll
- Broken glass
- Other motorists not paying attention that can strike rescuers, the accident itself or other vehicles.
- Unsafe or illegal items carried in the car such as firearms, chemicals or other items.

Vehicle accidents should be reported to CERT Command immediately. Approach the scene **ONLY** after assessing the potential hazards and risks. Operate within your CERT scope of training. At least one team member should maintain safety overview of the scene and not become directly involved in patient treatment, i.e. hold back 30' or more for a "field of view".

New CERT Class scheduled for March. 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 training@montereycert.org 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 is transitioning to a new e-mail system. CERT is moving to a g-mail based e-mail system. In the future, you will be receiving CERT communications, e-mail and notices through our g-mail accounts that are specific to the area of responsibility. For example: training@montereycert.org, planning@montereycert.org, logistics@montereycert.org, and finance@montereycert.org.

In order to accommodate the transition, we will also maintain the montereycert@hotmail.com e-mail account for quite some time.

Our radio coordinator and friend Tim Mcfaddan has moved!



Tim has made some changes in his life and will be traveling between Monterey and another area. For several years, Tim has been an important member of our radio committee and has been

responsible for programming our radios. He will be returning to Monterey from time to time. Our sincerest thanks to Tim and best wishes for his future.

Our new radio coordinator is Greg Netzorg. Most of you already 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 Our thanks to Greg for taking on this responsibility.

CERT RADIO NET: We will not be holding a radio net in December. Radio nets will resume in January.

POWER LINE CAUTIONS: Remember: CERT will likely be called out this winter. Securing areas with downed power lines is a function we performed last winter and probably will perform again. We secure the area with yellow caution tape and await PG&E. This important function can allow fire units to proceed to other emergencies. **NEVER APPROACH OR GET WITHIN 100' OF A DOWNED WIRE, REGARDLESS OF THE TYPE OF WIRE. PHONE AND CABLE LINES CAN BE ELECTRICALLY CHARGED FROM CONTACT DOWNLINE!**



Never, touch a downed power line or go near one. Power lines are not insulated like power cords. Always assume the power line is live.

- Don't touch a fallen power line or anything touching the wire.
- Do not touch anything or anyone in contact with a fallen power line or other equipment.
- Keep everyone away from fallen electric wires. Watch for children and pets who may ignore caution tape
- Do not drive over a fallen power line or let anyone drive over a line.
- Call CERT Command immediately to report a fallen power line if you discover one in a neighborhood search.

If a vehicle comes in contact with a downed power line:

- Advise the occupants to stay inside! The safest place is in the car. The ground around the car may be energized.
- If you become trapped in a vehicle yourself, honk the horn, roll down your window and yell for help.
- Warn others to stay away. Anyone who touches the equipment or ground around the vehicle may be injured.
- Use your mobile phone to call 911 or radio CERT Command
- Fire department, police and PG&E workers will tell you when it is safe to get out of the vehicle.
- Use your CERT radios to communicate with team members on all sides of the event.

The CERT tool for securing a scene with a downed power line is Caution Tape, available in all CERT containers.

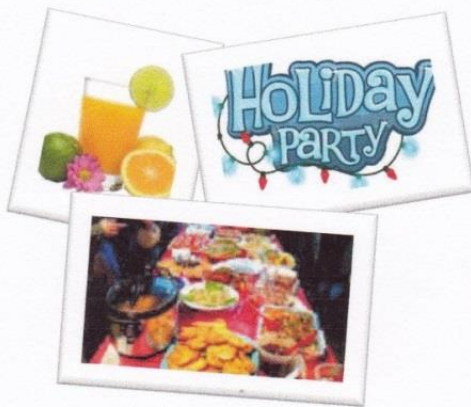


Note how this CERT member is maintaining a safe distance from the downed trees and wires!



SAVE THE DATE
DECEMBER 4, 2015
ANNUAL HOLIDAY
POTLUCK

Come, enjoy, and celebrate your accomplishments.
Together we are making our communities safer.
Support CERT programs and Promote PERT
(Personal Emergency Preparedness Training)



Let us know what you plan to bring!

- Appetizer
- Main Dish
- Side Dish
- Dessert
- Beverage (non-alcoholic)

Please list ingredients so folks
with allergies can participate.

\$5 per person donation at the door

Who:

CERT team members, other volunteer
and professional first responders,
families, friends, neighbors and
public officials

When:

FRIDAY, December 4, 2015
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Where:

Monterey Youth Center
777 Pearl Street
Monterey, CA

Information about how to sign up
available in November

Questions? Contact Sarah Blackstone
at sarahblack@aol.com or
call 649-3050

Sponsored by:

