

CERT NEWSLETTER

March 2016, "Training And News For Monterey CERT"



47 Members respond to January CERT Alert! Once again, CERT members showed their incredible commitment to the community with an outstanding response to the January CERT alert. CERT teams supported the fire department during storm conditions by securing locations in Monterey, Pacific Grove and Carmel. Our support allowed fire units to be freed for response to fires, medical emergencies and other needs. **Each of you has my deepest personal thanks for your response, commitment and support.**

Don't Relax Yet, El Nino Is Still With Us! Most major weather reporting services, such as the U.S. Weather Service report that El Nino conditions still persist in the Pacific Ocean. Pauses in the adverse weather activity are part of the normal El Nino weather patterns. During the major El Nino of the 1990's, there were significant periods with no rain. These breaks in the forecast do not, by themselves, signal an end to the severe weather. More rain is predicted for this winter and expected to continue at least through March, perhaps longer. Keep your emergency supplies stocked! Be prepared!

Neighborhood Team Leaders Train For Your Safety! On Saturday, February 20th, twenty-five of your CERT Neighborhood Team Leaders gathered at the Skyline CERT container for refresher and update training on how to better supervise their teams during an emergency. The key component was keeping team members safe.



Photos courtesy of CERT member Thor Rasmussen

New CERT Class Starts March 10th. This is our evening format. Interested persons can send an email to: monterevcert@hotmail.com **If you need to make-up a missed class, a schedule of classes is at the end of this newsletter. Call Deme with any questions.**

CERT Training: How to Light a Road Flare

You have probably seen road flares in use. They are highly effective for warning approaching motorists of danger. You may even have some in the emergency kit in the back of your car. But have you ever lit one yourself? It's not hard, but like changing a tire, it's best if you practice and know what to expect before you need to use them.

Have a location in mind to place the flare before you light it. A level, paved surface, free of dried vegetation, is best. If you are lighting the flare for roadside use, you should place multiple flares well behind the vehicle, so that oncoming traffic has time to move over. A hundred steps behind or "upstream" of your vehicle is a good distance for the first one. **Make certain there is no gasoline leaking from any cars nearby and if there is gasoline leaking, DO NOT use a flare. Gasoline fumes are heavier than air and can flow along the ground to an ignition source.**

Locate the cap at one end of the flare. It will generally have a rough striking surface on the outside edge. Remove the plastic lid or cap to expose this surface, if necessary.



Look at the cap. Often, the caps are designed with a fold-out tabs or a flat side that will help prevent the lit flare from rolling around. Identify this feature and get it ready before lighting the flare.



Remove the cap, exposing the end of the flare. You may need to twist gently. The end of the flare will have an ignition surface or "button". This is the end you will light.



Hold the flare as far away from your body and face as possible. Stand with your left or right shoulder facing into the wind. Point it away from yourself and others. Also, remember to hold the flare by the middle, with your hand away from the end you will be lighting.



Light the flare much the same way as you would light a match. Rub the end of the flare briskly against the coarse striking surface on the cap. There is no need to strike too firmly. **Remember, the flare will spray ignited, molten material from its end so if you are wearing good clothing you may damage your clothing**

Carry the lighted flare pointed downward and away from yourself, so that no burning residues can drip back onto your hand. Keep the burning end of the flare away from hair and clothing.

Replace the cap on the back end of the flare (the end that is not burning).

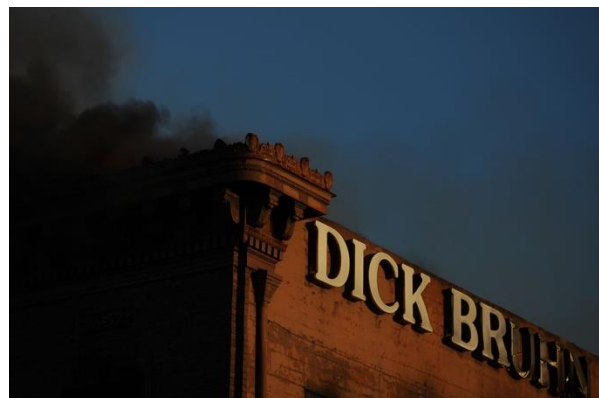
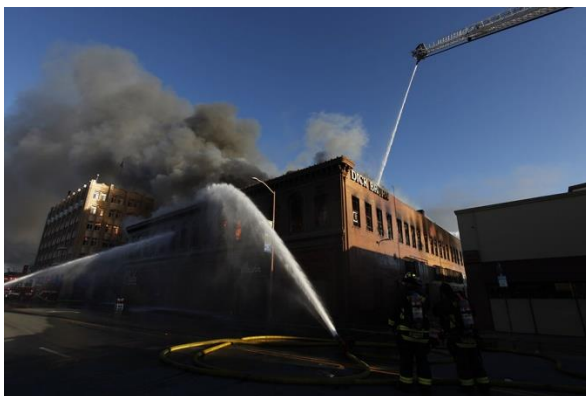
Set the flare on the ground, away from vehicles and flammable materials and be sure that it will not roll. Do not drop it. If you drop the flare you will have less control over its location, and the flare could break. If you think you need to extend the burn time of a flare, you can stack one burning flare over the other non-burning flare (bottom of burning flare crosses over the head of the non-burning flare)



Make sure that the flare is extinguished before leaving the site. If you wish to extinguish a lighted flare before it burns out, either douse it completely with water or tap the lighted end against the ground to break the burning part off of the rest of the flare. Smothering the flame is unlikely to be effective.

Remember! ALWAYS wear your basic CERT safety equipment, especially when engaged in activities such as lighting a flare. Minimum safety equipment includes your CERT helmet, vest, eye protection and work gloves.

Personal safety tip: The recent fire in the Salinas Dick Bruhn store demonstrates that not all buildings are fire safe. When booking a hotel, ask if that facility has a full fire sprinkler system. When entering any facility, note where the exits are and make sure you know how to get out in an emergency. **NEVER USE ELEVATORS WHEN EXITING IN AN EMERGENCY!** Some local venues that can accommodate large numbers of people do **NOT** have fire sprinkler systems. Be cautious when entering a building and know what kind of building you are in and how to quickly exit if necessary. I personally avoid unsafe buildings.



Radio Net March 14th at 8:00 P.M. We are returning to our regular schedule of conducting the radio nets on the second Monday of each month. This month's net will occur Monday, March 14th at 8:00 P.M. on CERT Command Channel 3. Radio nets allow us to test and evaluate our radio system, plus practice our skills.

Video Reviews November CERT Drill With Sheriff's Search & Rescue Team.

When a loved one suddenly disappears, families panic and chaos ensues. In this video, Sergeant Joseph Moses, of the Monterey County Sheriff's Department, conducts a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) drill focused on search and rescue technique. While this particular drill was developed for the Monterey CERT program, the fundamental skills and methods described therein are valuable for CERT programs everywhere.

The various essential aspects of search and rescue work described include:

- Understanding the command structure
- Grid searches
- Deploying teams
- The importance of documentation and relevant forms
- Tracking team members
- Team safety techniques
- Use of radios

Methodically searching empty fields for clues might seem tedious, but with his story about "the man in the mud," Sergeant Moses dramatically demonstrates how the process serves the mission.

CERT volunteers may want to review this video occasionally to refresh their knowledge of these important techniques and methods. Here is the link to access the video on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vCY2N2Q7cXY>

Our thanks to the Community Emergency Response Volunteers (CERV) for sponsoring this video.

Schedule For Upcoming CERT Class. All classes occur Thursday nights in the EOC from 6:20 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.:

March 10th: Introduction to CERT. Maintaining disaster supplies. Securing basic utilities. Conducting a home fire escape plan. Basic skills: Generators, flares and safety.

March 17th: Emergency medicine, Module 1

March 24th: Emergency medicine, Module 2

March 31st: Basic firefighting, psychology of a disaster, terrorism and CERT

April 7th: CERT structure and communications. Incident Command System Basics (ICS).

April 14th: Neighborhood search and rescue

April 21st: Final exercise

If you have previously taken part of the CERT class but not sure which classes you missed, send an e-mail to Demetrius at: montereycert@hotmail.com

“.....Doing the most good for the most people