

CERT NEWS LETTER

May 2015



CERT RECEIVES “TEAM” AWARD FROM UNITED WAY OF THE MONTEREY PENINSULA



CERT Members Lisa Alameda, Chuck Foss, Lee Whitney, Sarah Blackstone, Tim Mcfaddan, Ronn Rygg and Fire Captain Roger Reed are shown with award recipients from various categories during the recent United Way Awards. **CERT was recognized in the Skills-Based Star Category.** More than 250 people came together at the Monterey Hotel Plaza and Spa to celebrate volunteerism at the United Way Volunteer Center Community Service Awards April 23. It was a festive evening filled with inspirational stories of the positive impact dedicated volunteers can make. **OUR SINCEREST THANKS TO ALL CERT MEMBERS!**

CERT DRILL: Saturday MAY 16th from 8:30-11:30 a.m.:

We will be covering new equipment acquired soon to be available in the CERT containers. Staging for the instruction will be the **Emergency Operations Center (EOC)** where regular classes occur. **Training is outside** so please bring your CERT helmet and vest, backpack, radios, **sunscreen** and gloves. **An Everbridge Alert will be sent at 8 a.m. May 16th.**

TRAINING REFRESHER: CERT Hand-Held Radios

CERT has an advanced radio system. A key component in this system is our many hand-held radios. These radios allow CERT to maintain communications in any location regardless of the scope or type of emergency. It is vital that every CERT volunteer is very familiar with the use of the radios. Our hand-held radios have **two basic configurations**, with a screen (left) and without a screen (right).



Both radio designs have two knobs on the top. As seen above, the right knob is the on/off and volume control. The middle knob is the channel control. The antenna is on the left. Antennas appear in 3 basic configurations. We have the solid “rubber-duck” antenna, a standard metal antenna and the high-gain metal antenna. While all three types work, the high-gain 15” antenna is far superior to the other types.

CERT has 3 different radio channels (middle knob) licensed to us by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). These are programmed into your radio in the channel 1, 2 and 3 positions on the radio. Both types of radio will “speak” when selecting a channel. You will hear a verbal announcement stating one, two, three, etc. This is an easy way to assure you are on the correct channel. **REMEMBER: ALWAYS KNOW WHAT CERT CHANNEL YOU WILL USING BEFORE LEAVING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CONTAINER OR STAGING.** In addition to the three CERT channels, we also have programmed 5 public Multi-Use Radio System (MURS) channels into the radios. The MURS channels are in positions 11-15 in the radios. These are short distance, public use radio channels available to anyone. The

MURS channels can be used when a CERT team is operating in close proximity and needs a separate channel for communications, such as when searching a building or directing traffic.

On radios with a screen (left photo above), you can be listening to transmissions on two channels at the same time. To switch to the proper channel, i.e. CERT Tac 1, depress the small red button above the upper left corner of the screen. This is marked A/B. A small arrow will appear to the left of one of the channel identifiers on the screen. In the photo on the left above, you will notice the arrow is to the left of the designation “Fire 1” on the screen. To move the arrow and your transmit capability to the proper channel, depress the red “A/B” button and move the arrow to the channel you will be using during your deployment.

There are 3 buttons on the left side of the radio. The top button is your transmit button. Remember, our radios are NOT like a cell phone in that you must push the transmit button to speak and release the button to hear a transmission. To transmit (speak), push the button **WAIT FOR 1 SECOND** and then while continuing to push the top button, transmit your message. When finished with your message, release the button.

The middle button on the left side of the radio is your scan button. Depress this button to activate the scan function. The radio voice will announce “Scan Begin” or “Scan Stop. The scan function allows you to listen to all channels on the radio at once. This can be confusing. When using a radio, stay on your assigned channel and assure the radio is in the “Scan Stop” position.

The lower of the three buttons on the left of the radio operates the radio flashlight. This drains power so use it sparingly.



Our radios can also function with a back-up “AA” battery pack, shown above. These require 5 “AA” batteries. Our CERT containers have these battery packs and a supply of “AA” batteries. Using the “AA” packs takes practice. Contact your team leader for instruction.

NEW CERT CLASS: A new CERT class is scheduled for new volunteers. This is our weekend series. All instruction will be based at the EOC. The schedule is as follows:

Saturday September 19th, Saturday September 26th and Sunday September 27th. Class time each day is 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We break for lunch from 12 noon to 1 p.m. each day.

Persons wishing to enroll can send an e-mail of interest to: **montereycert@hotmail.com**

For those students who need to make-up a missed module and graduate, the schedule of classes (modules) will appear in future newsletters.

CERT RADIO NET: SAFETY BEGINS WITH GOOD COMMUNICATIONS!

CERT Radio Net exercises occur the second Monday of each month at 8 P.M. on CERT channel 3. If you want to participate in the radio net, but don't have your own CERT radio, contact your team leader about borrowing one. This is a great opportunity to become familiar with our CERT radios and how they operate.

REVIEW YOUR CERT STUDENT MANUAL: Here is the link to the online edition:

http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1839-25045-8729/pm_combined.pdf

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

CONA	Rucello	Richard	rrucello@aol.com
CONA	Brassfield	Michael	monami@redshift.com
Crml	Larrew	Lee	lee@carmelcalifornia.org
DMB	Swisher	Gerald	concretescarecrow@gmail.com

DMB	Brownlee	Sean	sean@globalfms.com
FH	Foss	Chuck	chuckfoss@comcast.net
FH	Mendenhall	Bruce	bmende88@comcast.net
FH	Rygg	Ronald	ronnr7@aol.com
MV	Alameda	Lisa	ken.alameda@comcast.net
NM	Rizzo	Maya	tangorizz@aol.com
NM	Rizzo	Gene	tangorizz@aol.com
OG	Dawson	Mike	mike.dawson.67@gmail.com
OG	Whitney	Lee	lwhitney306@gmail.com
OT	Netzorg	Greg	thezorgs1@comcast.net
OT	Rasmussen	Thor	thor@mbay.net
OT	Mcfaddan	Tim	mcfaddan@gmail.com
PG	Oder	Broeck	bnoder@gmail.com
PG	Zamzow	Heidi	hzamzow@aol.com
S3	Blackstone	Sarah	sarahblack@aol.com
S3	Pressman	Harvey	presstoe@aol.com
SL	Duke	Dennis	dduke01@sbcglobal.net
SL	Kastros	Demetrius	demekastros@msn.com
SL	Pasquinelli	Art	pasquin@redshift.com

Contact Monterey CERT anytime by e-mail at:
montereycert@hotmail.com

“Doing the most good for the most people ”