

CERT NEWS LETTER

June 2015



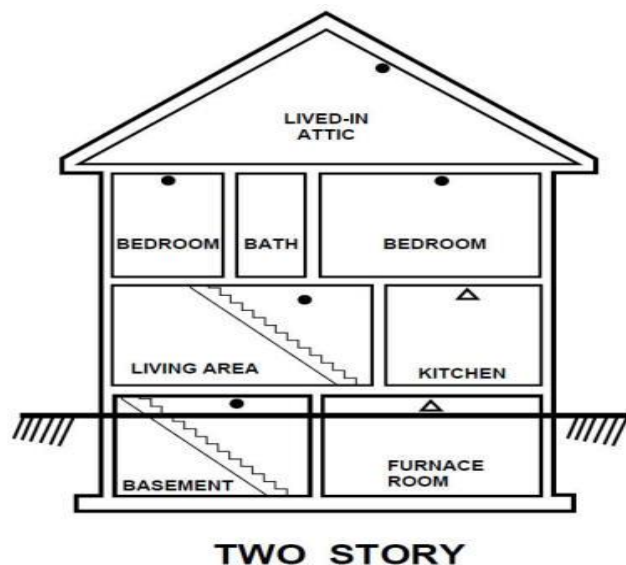
48 CERT members attend May 16th Training

48 of our CERT members attended the May 16th skills training to learn techniques in the use of Stokes Litters (Basket Stretchers) and generators. In addition, members obtained training in the use of our CERT base radios, now in all neighborhood containers. We now have 7 of the basket stretchers distributed in various CERT containers around town. If your team needs a Stokes Litter, one should be a radio call away. These litters are standard equipment on most rescue units and can facilitate the transportation of victims to a medical treatment area.

EVERBRIDGE Alert sent too early! We send Everbridge CERT alerts prior to training drills to test the system. On May 16th, we learned important information. The system allows us to pre-designate a time for an alert to be sent, such as when we might need volunteers for a search at sunrise. We discovered this option was pegged to a different time zone. We have made adjustments, so this problem should not occur again. Our apologies for the 6 a.m. alert which was intended to be sent at 8 a.m. **Remember** that the system will continue to attempt contact until you acknowledge receipt of the alert via phone, cell, text or e-mail.

A Home Fire Escape Plan Will Save Your Life

It is late at night, when suddenly you are jolted awake by the shrieking blare of a smoke detector. Your heart races as you instantly come to the frightening realization that there is a fire burning in your home. Do you know what to do? Does your family? The actions you take in the next few seconds will determine whether you and your family survive the fire, or join the thousands who die each year in home fires. When a fire is pumping deadly smoke throughout your house, it is too late to think about a plan to get everyone out alive. Early warning and pre-planning are the two key elements to survival in a fire! First: adequate smoke detectors. The second element of surviving a fire is to develop and regularly practice a home fire escape plan. The toxic smoke produced in a house fire is deadly with one breath. Most fire deaths occur at night, while occupants of a home are asleep. In a fire, seconds count. This makes it essential that households have a smoke detector in every bedroom. In addition, there should be a detector on each floor of the house and in the hallway outside the bedrooms. Multiple smoke detectors make the difference in giving your family the early warning they need to survive the fire. Smoke detectors need regular maintenance. Make sure you change the batteries twice a year. An easy way to remember: Change the batteries when you change your clocks for daylight savings time. Replace any detectors that are more than ten years old. Develop and Practice your escape plan: There is only one thing to do in a fire! **GET OUT!!** Sit down with you family and discuss what everyone will do when the smoke detector sounds. Teach everyone to crawl low on the floor to stay below the deadly smoke. Make sure everyone knows two ways out of each room in the house. Have a meeting place outside where everyone knows to gather so you can be sure everyone got out safe. **DO NOT STOP FOR ANYTHING. GET OUT!!!** Call 911 from a neighbor's house. Practice your plan regularly by actually pushing the test button on a detector to alert everyone. Even small children can be easily taught what to do when the smoke detector sounds. This is a fun family activity, it takes only a few seconds, and it will save your life. **Remember, in a fire, the best rescue a fire department can make is a well-prepared family standing on the sidewalk when the first engine arrives.**



Your CERT radio MUST be re-programmed if not already updated.

Tim Mcfaddan has diligently worked to re-program over 70 CERT hand-held radios. If you own a CERT radio and it has NOT yet been re-programmed by Tim, this must occur for your radio to function properly with our CERT radio frequencies (channels). Monitor your e-mail for the next opportunity to have your radio re-programmed. **Our sincerest thanks to Tim for his hard work in maintaining and updating our radio system!**



CERT member Tim Mcfaddan

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday August 8th. You're invited to the CERT summer potluck at the Casanova Oak Knoll Park, 735 Ramona Street, Monterey from 11-2 p.m. Come, enjoy and celebrate the summer and the Emergency Preparedness efforts throughout our communities.

CERT team members and other volunteer and professional first responders, families, friends, neighbors & public officials are invited to attend. More information will follow.

NEW CERT CLASS: A 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.

We have a new co-team leader for the Foothill CERT Team. Forest Weber has joined Chuck Foss and Bruce Mendenhall in the team leader role. Sincere thanks to Ronn Rygg for his past service as a Foothill CERT Team Leader.

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=KwV3e1Xf>

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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Contact Monterey CERT anytime by e-mail at:

montereycert@hotmail.com

“Doing the most good for the most people ”