

CERT NEWS LETTER

August 2015



Search For Missing Santa Cruz Girl Ends in Tragedy

A search begun Sunday July 26, 2015 for a 8 year old girl missing in Santa Cruz ended with the tragic discovery of her body not far from where she went missing. Our hearts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Madyson "Maddy" Middleton. CERT has previously assisted in a successful search for a missing child and remains ready to do so again. Our service to community extends well beyond disaster response. I thank each of you for your service.

CERT trailer on the way! The Monterey 2015-16 fiscal year budget includes \$15,000 for a trailer & inventory to help meet the increasing responsibilities of CERT. The trailer gives us mobility, allowing CERT members to rapidly move important tools, radios & equipment wherever needed. We hope to have the trailer available for response by the end of 2015.



El Niño Predicted For This Coming Winter



El Niño occurs when ocean water temperatures rise above normal across the central and eastern Pacific, near the equator.

This winter's El Niño could be one of the strongest in the past 50 years, leading to a return of meaningful but not necessarily drought-busting rain in California.

"El Niño has steadily strengthened over the past month and is now approaching strong category strength," stated AccuWeather Senior Meteorologist Brett Anderson.

"Confidence continues to grow that this El Niño will be one of the stronger El Niños over the past 50 years," Anderson said. **"El Niño typically reaches its peak during the December through February period."**

"Latest long-term climate modeling is very aggressive in strengthening this El Niño to near-record levels," added AccuWeather Meteorologist Ben Noll.

"The strongest El Niño on record since the beginning of the 20th century occurred during 1997-98," continued Anderson.

California was the target of frequent storms during the winter of 1997-98 with February being the wettest month. February rainfall records were set in many locations from San Francisco southward with some communities registering all-time monthly rain records.

Many of us who have lived in Monterey for a long time have heard all this before only to experience mild to moderate winters. The next few weeks and months will be important to monitor.

CERT REMAINS READY for winter emergencies. Our containers stock sandbags and rolls of plastic to help in diverting water. We have 55 sets of rain gear at the EOC to equip CERT members with proper clothing when assembled to deal with storm conditions. In addition, each CERT container has six sets of rain gear. All of our CERT containers now have base radios powered by batteries charged from solar panels. Most have generators. This allows CERT to maintain effective communications regardless of storm conditions, power outages or other adverse effects.



Mission Fields, Carmel, CA 1998 during the last major El Nino

KNOW IF YOU LIVE IN A FLOOD ZONE! Remember CERT starts at **home**. Know if you live in a flood zone. Obtain separate flood insurance as standard homeowners policies do NOT provide for protection from flooding. Copy valuable documents and keep those copies in a safe location, such as a safe deposit box. Keep valuable items in second story locations or elevated to minimize water damage. Monitor storm conditions carefully during adverse weather by tuning into U.S. Weather Service radio broadcasts at **162.550 and the website accuweather.com** Be prepared to evacuate at all times!

- **NEVER ATTEMPT TO DRIVE OR WALK ACROSS WATER!**
- Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling.
- Six inches or less of moving water can knock you over when walking!
- A foot of water will float many vehicles

- Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles (SUV's) and pick-ups.
- Do not attempt to drive through a flooded road. The depth of water is not always obvious. The road bed may be washed out under the water, and you could be stranded or trapped.
- Do not drive around a barricade. Barricades are there for your protection. Turn around and go the other way.
- Do not try to take short cuts. They may be blocked. Stick to designated evacuation routes.
- Be especially cautious driving at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.
- Constantly be looking for downed wires, trees and mud slide dangers.

SAVE THE DATE, CERT Potluck: 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. To attend, contact CERT Team Leader Sarah Blackstone by e-mail at: sarahblack@aol.com

NEW CERT CLASS: A CERT class is scheduled for new volunteers. This is our weekend series. 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 the September newsletter. Enrollees will receive a confirmation email.

EVERBRIDGE Alerts: When we need to ask your participation in a CERT operation, we use the Everbridge Alert System. This will come to you as a phone message, e-mail and text. The opening verbal will say: **“THIS IS A MESSAGE FROM YOUR ORGANIZATION...”** The message will then continue to give you the nature of the emergency, such as a search for a missing child and then the Staging area, such as the Emergency Operations Center (where CERT classes are instructed). **Remember** that the system will continue to attempt contact until you acknowledge receipt of the alert from any one source, your phone, cell, text or e-mail. The phone number from which you will receive an Everbridge Alert is: **555 555-5555**. If you program this number into your cell phone as “CERT ALERT” so when the phone rings, caller I.D. tells you the origin of the call.

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. This is a great opportunity to become familiar with our radios. CERT is the eyes of emergency planners in a widespread emergency, giving critical radio reports of conditions in the neighborhoods when all other forms of communication fail.

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

http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1435858485564-e30064c404ba04d82bbcae7eaac8bb2b/pm_combined_final_508_063015.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:

<https://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

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Contact Monterey CERT anytime by e-mail at:

montereycert@hotmail.com

“Doing the most good for the most people ”



CERT members Broeck Oder, Gene Rizzo and Maya Rizzo administering first-aid to a citizen at the PG Feast of Lanterns event in July