

CERT NEWSLETTER

August 2016, "Training And News For Monterey CERT"



New CERT Class: The next CERT class for new members will be our weekend series, occurring on **Saturday September 10th**, **Saturday September 17th** and **Sunday September 18th**. Time each day is 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Attendance over all three days is necessary to graduate. Interested persons should e-mail: training@montereycert.org

We Have An I.D. Card Maker! Thanks to the **Monterey Rotary Club** for donating a substantial amount of funds to allow CERT to purchase an I.D. card maker. This will allow us to issue I.D. cards to all our members who have completed CERT. This is a very valuable asset as we are called upon to respond to late night and other conditions during which having a proper identification is vital. We will be notifying you of dates and times to have your picture taken for your CERT I.D. card.

Soberanes Fire Continues To Burn. As of August 6th, the Soberanes fire was 55,600 acres with 40% containment. Monterey County Office of Emergency Services (OES) continues to list Monterey CERT as a potential personnel resource in the event mass



Photo by Demetrius Kastros

evacuations become necessary in the Carmel Valley or other areas threatened by this fire. CERT members will not be placed in dangerous locations, but can still remain a very valuable asset to help direct and coordinate a mass evacuation effort. Full containment is not expected for an

additional 3-4 weeks. In addition to the acreage, this fire has taken the life of one dozer operator, destroyed 57 houses and Kern County Fire Department lost one engine that was destroyed by the fire. To access the most updated information on this fire, consult the Cal-Fire website at:

http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents_details_info?incident_id=1348

CERT Trailer Now Ready For Deployment! CERT members worked hard to install a communications desk and console, plus store and secure an equipment inventory similar to that of our neighborhood containers, including the same base radio and compliment of hand-held units. All the design and installation was done at no cost by CERT members.



Trailer and inventory are funded by the taxpayers of Monterey.

Photos by CERT member Isabelle Preti.

CERT Training: Wildfire Evacuation Planning

If a wildfire was headed your way, would you know what to do? The best action to protect yourself and your family when a wildfire threatens your area is to **evacuate**.

To ensure you will be able to evacuate quickly, you need to plan ahead.

Know your community's local evacuation plan and identify several escape routes for your location in case roads are blocked; include plans to evacuate people with disabilities and others with access or functional needs, as well as pets, service animals, and livestock. **Remember, most shelters DO NOT accept pets that are not in a carrying cage.**

- Make a list of items you need or want to take with you. Be sure to remember the **Five P's Of Evacuation: People, Prescriptions, Papers, Personal Needs, and Priceless Items**; and
- If you will evacuate by car, keep your car fueled and in good condition. Keep emergency supplies and a change of clothes in your car.

When driving away from a fire:

- Roll up windows and close air vents because smoke from a fire can irritate your eyes and respiratory system;
- Drive slowly with your headlights on because smoke can reduce visibility;
- Watch for other vehicles, pedestrians, and fleeing animals; and
- Avoid driving through heavy smoke, if possible.

Keep your "Grab and Goes" containers ready at all times. When evacuating you need to take basic essentials, such as food, water, prescription medications, toiletries and other important items with you. We showed you a "Grab and Go" kit when you took the CERT class. Have one for each family member and make sure they contain at least three days of essential supplies. You do NOT have time during after an evacuation order to quickly try and throw together supplies. Taking items with you assures you will not end-up without essentials in the first hours or days after an evacuation.

There are several lists available online to assist in assembling your emergency supplies. The CERT participant manual has lists:

http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1446216182939-02eb347496f7038f9856601f42da700b/Section_4_PM_Unit_1.pdf

FEMA has other lists:

http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1390846764394-dc08e309debe561d866b05ac84daf1ee/checklist_2014.pdf

You can also consult sources such as the American Red Cross.

Practice Your Basic CERT Skills. On Sunday, September 18th from 1-4:30 we will be holding the final exercise for our next CERT class. If it has been a couple of years or more since you last took your CERT training, this is an excellent opportunity for you to participate and practice your basic CERT skills of triage, medical aid, rescue, neighborhood search, use of the CERT radios and more.

If you wish to participate, please arrive 15 minutes early with your CERT helmet, vest, backpack, gloves and eye protection. Let us know you are there to practice skills as a CERT graduate.



CERT Participated in City of Monterey 4th of July

Celebrations. Several CERT members participated in the City of Monterey 4th of July celebrations. Members also staffed a booth in front of City Hall to distribute information about CERT and emergency preparedness. A huge thanks to all our members who participated.



CERT members in July 4th parade led by “Angel”, the CERT & Rescue Dog!