



Pat A. Dennen
Fire Chief/Fire Warden



CERT Programs

Unincorporated Communities

- Angelus Oaks
- Big Bear City/Fawnskin
- Devore
- Forest Falls
- Green Valley Lake
- Helendale
- Lake Arrowhead
- Lucerne Valley
- Lytle Creek
- Morongo Basin (Twentynine Palms and Yucca Valley)
- Muscoy
- Oak Hills
- Phelan/Pinon Hills
- San Antonio Heights
- Silver Valley (Daggett, Harvard, Newberry Springs, Yermo)
- Wrightwood

Incorporated

Cities and Towns

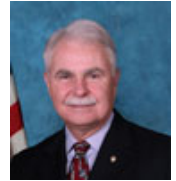
- Apple Valley
- Colton
- Fontana
- Grand Terrace
- Hesperia
- Loma Linda
- Needles
- Ontario
- Redlands
- Rialto
- Victorville

Welcome to the 2009 "CERT Program in Review". This publication is brought to you by the San Bernardino County Fire Department/Office of Emergency Services (OES). This first edition includes articles highlighting news and photos about CERT programs within San Bernardino County.



San Bernardino County Supervisors from left to right: Gary Ovitt, 4th District, Chairman; Josie Gonzales, 5th District, Vice-Chair; Neil Derry, 3rd District; Paul Biane, 2nd District; Brad Mitzelfelt, 1st District

A Message From Board of Supervisors Chairman Gary Ovitt



Volunteers are an important part of building strong communities that are prepared for the inevitability of disasters which can strike at any time. Your participation in the CERT program helps ensure the readiness for yourself, your family and your neighborhood. As Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, I thank you for your dedication to the CERT program and its goals.

FEMA Encourages Individuals To "Resolve To Be Ready"

As the new decade begins, the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Ready Campaign is reminding Americans to *Resolve to be Ready* in 2010. *Resolve to be Ready* is an annual initiative encouraging individuals, families, businesses and communities to make preparedness a part of their New Year resolutions.

During gatherings of family and

friends it is also a great time to talk about the importance of being prepared.

As stated by Craig Fugate, FEMA Administrator, "Families can start small; by ensuring they have a communications plan in place before an emergency happens, a little bit of planning can make all the difference in an emergency. The public is the most critical member of our national

emergency response team, and the more they do now to be prepared, the better our responses." Being Ready for emergencies can be an easy habit to begin and maintain by following three simple steps: 1) Get an emergency supply kit; 2) Make a family emergency plan; and 3) Be informed about the types of emergencies and appropriate responses. Have an emergency supply kit both at

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Ed and Bonnie Ross

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Spotlight On ... Ed and Bonnie Ross Wrightwood CERT



Ed and Bonnie Ross each completed their CERT and Red Cross training in Orange County before they made their permanent home in Wrightwood about two years ago. They are CERTified CERT instructors and as part of their training, have completed multiple Red Cross classes including Introduction to Disasters, Community First Aid and Safety, Shelter Operations, CPR, and more. As Coordinators of the Wrightwood CERT program, they work closely with the County Office of Emergency Services, maintain their community's membership records, develop practices and guidelines for the group, hold monthly CERT meetings for advanced training and run yearly disaster training exercises.



The community of Oak Hills conducted its first CERT training in August/September 2009.

CERT Trailers Stationed in San Bernardino County Communities

A major disaster can wreck lives, disrupt infrastructure and fracture road systems. That makes Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) programs and trailers especially important components of disaster preparedness.

During recent years, the Office of Emergency Services (OES) situated seven CERT training and response trailers around the County. Intended for training and disaster response, these trailers were purchased with the help of federal grant dollars. The trailers are filled with training and emergency supplies to support the CERT basic and refresher training. The trailers and the supplies

can also be used for CERT deployment in response to a disaster.

The trailers are located in the Town of Apple Valley, Big Bear City, the community of Devore, Ontario, Redlands, the Town of Yucca Valley and at the OES office in Rialto.

Last February, San Bernardino County First District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt purchased and rolled out four additional trailers loaded with supplies for emergencies and training. These four CERT trailers are stationed in Oak Hills, Lucerne Valley, Needles and at the Newberry Springs Fire District to serve the communities of Yermo, Daggett and Harvard.



CERT trailers are available for use by any of the CERT programs in the County.

The City of Grand Terrace also has a CERT trailer and earlier this year, Third District Supervisor Neil Derry provided the funding to purchase training and emergency response supplies to stock the trailer.

ExCERpTs

As all CERT volunteers in the unincorporated area are aware, the County of San Bernardino CERT Program requires that its members pass a background check. This is in order to maintain the safety and integrity of the CERT volunteers and the CERT Program. The background check process was initiated one year ago in January 2009, at which time hundreds of formerly trained-CERT members were encouraged to complete the process to become "official" CERT volunteers.

One community really excelled — Lytle Creek. A total of 89% of their CERT-trained residents completed the background check process. This statistic is further evidence the local residents, who give freely of their time and energy, are strongly committed to the mission of the Lytle Creek CERT Program.

Featured Community: Muscoy Joins the CERT Ranks

The path to Muscoy's "CERT"izenship began in 2006 when Dennis West, Emergency Services Officer for the Office of Emergency Services (OES), met with members of the community about starting a CERT program. The program was presented to the Muscoy Municipal Advisory Council members in October 2006. The first CERT course was scheduled just a few months later, and at the graduation ceremony, Fifth District Supervisor Josie Gonzales provided CERTificates of recognition for each of the course graduates. The community of Muscoy (near San Bernardino) has the recognition of being the first CERT Program in the County's Fifth Supervisorial District.

CERT Leaders Meet and Greet at OES Office

The San Bernardino County Fire Department Office of Emergency Services (OES) hosted the first Citizen Corps Sub-Council/CERT Coordinators Meeting at OES in Rialto during the summer of 2009. Coordinators met peers from other unincorporated communities and shared successes of each CERT Program. Participants also shared challenges they faced and sought advice from their peers for best practices and solutions. OES staff members provided an update of the CERT Program at the State and Local level, which included the status of the background checks, grant support, and the newly formed California Volunteers Disaster Corps Program framework.

Is
San Bernardino
County
Prepared?
CERTainly!

FEMA Encourages Citizen Readiness

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home and in the car. These steps will help prepare people for extreme winter conditions.

Kits should include basic necessities such as water, food and first aid supplies to help you survive if you are without power or become stranded in your car. Complete checklists for each kit are available at

www.ready.gov or the Spanish language Web site at www.listo.gov, or calling 1-800-BE-READY or 1-888-SE-LISTO.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to prepare for and mitigate hazards.

LOOK OUT for
the next
Quarterly
CERT
Newsletter in
Spring 2010