



Dear Newport Beach CERT members,

For those members I have not met, my name is Matt Brisbois and I am the newly appointed Community Preparedness Coordinator responsible for all aspects of the Newport Beach CERT program. This e-mail is being sent to all current Newport Beach CERT graduates who have been active over the past two years and have given the Fire Department their e-mail address. Over the next few years, the Fire Department hopes to greatly expand the number of CERT volunteers. Since its inception in 1999, over 500 Newport Beach residents have participated in the CERT program with over 250 graduates. To date, there are only about 80 active CERT graduates. Over the next two years, I will be trying to bring the other 170 former graduates back into the program. Part of the problem lies with the re-certification process. Once you graduate from the Newport Beach CERT program, your certification is valid for two years. To re-certify all you must do is come to one our final "Drill the Skills" days. Our next drill date is Saturday, April 14, 2007 from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM at Newport Beach Fire Station #3 (right next to the Police Station in Fashion Island). I encourage all of you to attend this drill. If there are enough former CERT graduates, I plan on holding a separate drill for this group.

Aside from the upcoming drill in April (and making sure that each of you remember to re-certify once every two years) I also have additional training opportunities for you to participate.

(1) The American Red Cross is hosting a Super CPR Saturday on April 28, 2007 for Adult/Child CPR certification. The flier for the event is attached. If this date does not work, the Orange County Red Cross offers First Aid and CPR classes throughout the year that are listed on their website at [www.oc-redcross.org](http://www.oc-redcross.org).

(2) FEMA offers a host of on-line disaster preparedness classes that are free of charge to U.S. citizens. If you are interested in taking any of these classes I encourage you to take ICS 100- Introduction to the Incident Command System and ICS 700- National Incident Management System. Attached is a word document that explains how to enroll in the FEMA classes for those interested.

### **Livescan Background Checks**

Following the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, for grant funding, the Department of Homeland Security requires that past and future pass a basic Livescan background check. The Winter 2007 CERT class is the first group of Newport Beach CERT members to go through the basic check. Throughout 2007, I am hoping to put all former CERT members through the Livescan check. The Livescan background check is very simple to do and takes about 10 minutes. All the check requires is that you fill out a one page application (that I will provide) and schedule a time (with Matt Brisbois) to be finger printed at the Newport Beach Police Department. For Newport Beach CERT members, the Livescan background check is free of charge and only needs to be completed once. The checks are costly and time consuming and I am hoping to put all 80 current CERT members plus participants in the Winter 2007, Spring 2007 and Fall 2007 CERT classes through over the next year. I will be sending out additional information regarding the Livescan check to former CERT members in the near future. However, I will not be able to issue new Newport Beach CERT ID badges (see below) until you have passed a Livescan background check. If you are interested in scheduling an appointment for the Livescan or have any questions please call me at (949) 644-3381 or send me an e-mail at [mbrisbois@city.newport-beach.ca.us](mailto:mbrisbois@city.newport-beach.ca.us) and I will set-up an appointment time for you and mail you the application. The process is very simple and only needs to be done once.

### **CMAP- CERT Mutual Aid Project**

I am also excited to announce a collaborative mutual aid project with all CERT programs in Orange County. Over the last eight months, I have actively participated in the formation and development of the CMAP organization. Throughout 2007 and 2008, additional training opportunities will be available for CERT volunteers that wish to participate at a county-wide level. Participation in CMAP (becoming a CERT mutual aid provider) is entirely the choice of the volunteer. Below is a brief explanation of the history of CMAP and the different levels of training. Essentially, if you are interested, after you have graduated from the Newport Beach CERT program, you can opt to also participate at the county wide level. Through a new grant from the Department of Homeland Security, all CERT programs in Orange County recently received a new ID badge system. The new Newport Beach CERT ID badge (similar to a drivers license) will first be used for the Winter 2007 CERT graduates at the Saturday, April 14th drill. Over the next year, I am hoping to get all former Newport Beach CERT members such as yourself issued the new ID badge. Similarly, for those of you interested in helping on a county-wide level, there is another CMAP ID badge that you would receive. To receive either ID badge you must pass a Livescan background check through the Newport Beach Police Department.

Essentially, for CMAP mutual aid status, you need to complete the classes listed below. There will be two designations for CMAP CERT volunteers: Basic and Advanced. Descriptions of the classes needed for both are listed below. If you are interested in becoming a CERT mutual aid provider I encourage you to first take the FEMA on-line classes ICS 100 and ICS 700. Over the next year, Newport Beach and other cities in Orange County will be hosting some of the newly created classes such as the CMAP Mutual Aid Module, CMAP Neighborhood Assessment Module, CMAP Medical Operations III Module and the American Red Cross Shelter Management class.

### **CMAP Background**

In May of 2005, jurisdictions across Orange County began meeting to coordinate Community Emergency Response Team training as well as support and monitor other Citizen Corps programs (Neighborhood Watch, Volunteers in Police Service, Medical Reserve Corp and Fire Corps).

CERT Mutual Aid participating jurisdictions collaborated in training CERT volunteers, created an Orange County model for Train the Trainer programs, shared resources and created the concept of operations for CERT Mutual Aid Volunteers for response in a disaster for Orange County.

The future vision of Orange County CERT programs is to coordinate and train at an operational area level to increase volunteer participation levels throughout all Orange County jurisdictions.

CMAP volunteers are identified in two categories:

§ Basic CMAP volunteer – completed the 20-hour basic CERT training (FEMA model), ICS 100 and NIMS 700, and completion of the CMAP Mutual Aid Module and has received a CMAP Identification Card. CMAP volunteer must pass the approved CMAP Livescan background check prior to deployment.

§ Advanced CMAP volunteer – completed all of the above and also the CMAP Medical Operations III Module (under development), CMAP Neighborhood Assessment Module (under development) and the American Red Cross Shelter Operations coursework to include: Introduction to Disasters, Mass Care and Shelter Operations and Simulation.

### **American Red Cross Shelter Management class**

For those of you interested in additional training opportunities, the Newport Beach CERT program in conjunction with the Costa Mesa CERT program will be hosting the 12-hour Shelter Management class on Tuesday, April 17, Thursday, April 19, Tuesday, April 24, and Thursday April 26 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Newport Beach city yard (in the same classroom CERT classes are held). Participants must attend all four nights to receive their Shelter Management certificate. As you can see, the Shelter Management class is one of the classes required for Advanced CMAP volunteers. In Newport Beach, we need a cadre of trained Shelter Managers to assist following a major disaster. This class will teach you basic Shelter Operations and will certify you as a Shelter Manager. If you would like to register for this Shelter Management class, call (949) 644-3381 or send me an e-mail.

### **Neighborhood Disaster Preparedness Class and other presentations**

In addition to my CERT responsibilities, I also present a Neighborhood Disaster Preparedness class to any requesting group in the city. The 2.5 hour class covers all the disasters that might impact Newport Beach, the City of Newport Beach Emergency Management plan, and what residents need to do to best prepare themselves, family, and community for unexpected disasters. I also give presentations of any length on disaster preparedness to any requesting group in the city. Thus, if your Home Owner's Associations or any other civic group would like a presentation on disaster preparedness please give them my contact information and encourage them to call me.

### **THANK YOU**

Lastly, **THANK YOU** for your continued involvement and support of the Newport Beach CERT program. For the CERT program to continue to foster and develop I am going to need you input, guidance and support. I feel that this is just the beginning. Ideally, over the next several years, the Newport Beach CERT program will continue to evolve into one of the largest, best trained CERT programs in the United States. As such, our community will be much more prepared to handle the inevitable unexpected major disaster. Furthermore, I encourage all of you to give me a call or send me an e-mail to introduce yourself. Though the Newport Beach Fire Department can lead the way, the development of the Newport Beach CERT program will only go as far as CERT volunteers merit. Thanks for your time, I look forward to hearing from you all and meeting you in the near future.  
Matt Brisbois

*Matt Brisbois*  
*Community Preparedness*  
*Newport Beach Fire Department*  
*3300 Newport Blvd.*  
*Newport Beach, Ca 92658*  
*(949) 644-3381*  
*[mbrisbois@city.newport-beach.ca.us](mailto:mbrisbois@city.newport-beach.ca.us)*