



Your Encinitas CERT October 2018 Newsletter  
Series 2, Volume 10

All perspective Board of Director candidates please attend the October 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Also we hope to see all of you at this month's Membership Meeting! If you want to submit an idea or an article (and we really hope you will), let us know at [newsletter@enccert.org](mailto:newsletter@enccert.org). All stories, articles and other submissions are subject to review and editing by the editorial staff. ...and never forget, You Can't Predict, But You Can Prepare!

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

October 9

Encinitas CERT Board Meeting – All Encinitas CERT members are welcome.  
5:30p.m. @ Encinitas Community Center

October 13

Encinitas Fire Department's Open House. *See article below for details!*  
10a.m. @ Fire Station #5

October 17

CPR Class @ Encinitas Fire Dept., Station 5, 540 Balour Drive. *See the city's webpage for details. [Click here.](#)*  
5:00p.m. – 9:00p.m. An R.S.V.P. is required as space is limited!

October 18

The Great California Shakeout! *See article below for details!*  
10:18a.m.

October 22

Encinitas CERT Membership Meeting – All Encinitas CERT members are welcome and encouraged to attend.  
6:15 p.m. @ Encinitas Community Center

**NEXT MONTH...**

November 13

Encinitas CERT Board Meeting – All Encinitas CERT members are welcome.  
5:30p.m. @ Encinitas Community Center

November 17

Skills Refresher Class with Captain Josh Gordon  
9:00a.m. Topic and Location TBD

November 18

Encinitas Fall Street Fair – *Volunteers Needed!*  
9:00a.m.

November 22

Thanksgiving

*For the most current and updated event information always check the [website calendar](#).*

If you want to know what's happening around town, take a look at what is on the City's calendar, [click here!](#)



**Recurring Amateur Radio Nets**

Amateur radio operators are encouraged to participate in the North Coastal CERT Nets, held the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 7:00 PM. We start on the Del Mar repeater 446.880 – (114.8 PL) and then move over to 146.550 (simplex).

## THE GREAT CALIFORNIA SHAKE OUT



On the 18<sup>th</sup> of this month, the State will be staging its annual “Great California Shake Out.” That may be a little misleading as this event is not only nation-wide (all 50 states) but also a multi-country event. Countries such as Canada and Japan also participate in this event.

In addition to preparing yourself, your family, your home and your supplies for an earthquake, the three things you should do when you feel the shaking start are: Drop; Cover; Hold On. This supersedes the idea of standing in a doorway, which has been deemed ineffective and dangerous.

Unfortunately, very few of us practice how we are going to cope with various disasters, whether it's earthquakes or fires. In reality we should be well prepared and rehearsed for disasters, especially considering this organization we've joined. Everyone that's prepared for a disaster, raise your hand!

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## AIRBAG RECALL

Modern vehicles are equipped with airbags to protect passengers from injury during a collision. But as you may recall, there have been vehicles whose airbags have been defective in a number of different ways. Put your mind at ease. Airbagrecall.com can check the status of recalls for all of your vehicles.

You can enter your information on their website either manually or use your smart phone to take a picture of your V.I.N. or license plate. You will get immediate results as to the status of recalls for your vehicle. Speaking of smartphones, they also have an app available for both Android and Apple devices. Below is a list from the Airbag Recall website of the most dangerous vehicles on the road. The threat is very real.

These vehicles pose an “extreme risk for injury or death”.

2001 – 2002 Honda Accord  
2001 – 2002 Honda Civic  
2002 Honda Odyssey  
2002 Honda CR-V  
2002 – 2003 Acura TL/CL  
2003 Honda Pilot  
2006 Ford Ranger  
2006 Mazda B - Series

<https://www.airbagrecall.com>

## THE QUARTERLY REMINDER

Well it seems strange to think that we are already in the fourth quarter of 2018, but it's true. ☹️ Once a quarter we like to remind our members to take a few moments and check out your CERT gear. And as long as you're at it, take a look at any emergency supplies you have set aside. Check for damage, expiration dates, etc.

- Do you know where your CERT gear is?
- Have you checked it recently to make sure that nothing is damaged and everything is in good working order?
- Is there anything broken or worn? Replace it A.S.A.P. Damaged gear will be of little or no use if you have to deploy.
- Have you added anything that is perishable (batteries, water, food or snacks) and have they expired?
- Have you considered upgrading any of your gear? (i.e.: headlamp, gloves, spare respirator, etc.)
- Have you considered adding new gear or supplies? (i.e.: water, batteries, first aid supplies, etc.)
- Do you have items in your bag (or ideas for items) that you find to be useful? Please, share them!

This article will reappear in January.

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## THE REPLACEMENTS

If you haven't heard, our President and Vice President will be stepping down in the near future and we need to find their successors! Do you have good leadership skills? Have you served on a Board before? It is helpful, but not really necessary. All interested parties should attend the October Board meeting.

Doan and Dave have been serving on the Board for a number of years now. Our bylaws require the officers to be replaced every two years. Some of you might wonder why, and others may know why these folks have served so long. It's simple; no one else was willing to step up.

It may sound daunting to some, taking over one of these positions, but you do have two existing Board members to help and the outgoing officers are willing to help guide you and get you situated.

The October Board meeting is October 9, 5:30p.m. at the Encinitas Community Center. See you there!

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## OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

We are really looking forward to seeing and hearing from all of you at this month's meeting as well as our CERT comrades from the coastal area (Solana Beach/Del Mar/Rancho Santa Fe). We do have a lot to discuss. As was mentioned last month and in the preceding article, there is some reorganizing that needs to take place including replacing Board members.

We are planning on doing some specific skills training such as: communications, scene set-up, scene size-up, etc. as time allows.

The meeting will be Monday, October 22 @ 6:15pm, at the Encinitas Community Center, 1140 Oakcrest Park Drive. See you there!

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## OUR PUBLIC PERCEPTION

It's always in the best interest of our group to be seen in a positive light. To that end, we would like to echo AAA's relatively new campaign to dissuade drivers from texting while driving. We are all aware of the dangers of drinking and driving. It's reasonable to assume that our members are also aware of the dangers of driving while texting, emailing or making phone calls without a hands-free device, aka distracted driving, but it can't hurt to remind everyone.

This reminder isn't just for our members. Remind others, especially 'younger' drivers of the dangers of driving distracted. Let's all be safe out there!

## **PREPARE FOR WET WEATHER!**

Well, here we are once again, heading into fall... we might as well get a jump on wet weather preparations. Whether the speculations about this being a wet winter are true or not, let's go over the steps we can all take to avoid headaches this fall/winter.

### **Your Vehicle**

**Tires.** Your tires are a good starting point and the one thing that will help you the most when trying to keep control of your vehicle in wet weather. If you aren't sure if your tires are in "good condition", then stop by Discount Tire, Evan's Tire or Pep Boys, all of which are within a block of one another on El Camino Real.

If you see cracks in your tires (the sidewall), they need to be replaced. An expert can check for sidewall cracks. If you want to check the tread of the tire, take a penny and place the edge of it upside down in the groove between the treads. If you can see the top of Lincoln's head, you need new tires. Even if your tires appear to have plenty of tread, the rubber breaks down over time and it can be deceiving.

**Wiper Blades.** With all the sunshine we have here in Southern California, your wiper blades take a beating. They should be replaced annually, about this time of year.

**Lights.** Checking all of your exterior lights is also a good idea. Whether it's to help you see or be seen, indicating your change of direction or letting others know you need help, it's a lot easier and less stressful to do it ahead of time. Spare bulbs (and fuses) are a good thing to keep in your car! Also take a look at your headlights. Plastic headlight lens covers are commonplace these days. Auto parts stores have do-it-yourself kits to get rid of the haze and restore headlights to new condition.

Last but not least, how long has it been since your vehicle has undergone "routine" maintenance? This again is one of those things you can do now to avoid a big headache later.

### **Your Home**

**Rain Gutters.** Keeping your rain gutters cleaned out is an excellent idea all year long. Eliminate a source of ignition during fire season and water damage during the wet winter months!

**Chimney.** You may not be able to get Dick Van Dyke to clean out your chimney, but there are chimney sweeps about. Avoid a creosote fire and get your chimney cleaned!

**Furnace and Filters.** Save yourself some money on your electric bill and extend the life of your furnace and change those furnace filters! As long as we're on the topic, when was the last time you had your furnace cleaned?

If you have a ceiling fan in your home try reversing the directions of rotation to help circulate warm air around the room. Might help with heating bills!

According to Popular Mechanics® many water heaters are set to 140° Fahrenheit when installed. Consider lowering the temperature to 120° Fahrenheit. This could reduce your water heating costs by 6 to 10 percent. Heating water can account for 14 to 25 percent of the energy used in your home.

If you need a new water heater, this may be a good time to shop around, especially if you are interested in going with a renewable energy device. Check out the Energy Star website for information on rebates and tax credits, [https://www.energystar.gov/about/federal\\_tax\\_credits#c4](https://www.energystar.gov/about/federal_tax_credits#c4)

## **OKTOBERFEST SUCCESS!**

This year's Oktoberfest saw thousands of people walking, eating, and talking to us CERT folks! We had about thirty people sign-up to be notified about next spring's 'Are You Ready' presentation, and more than forty sign-up for the Spring Academy! A very productive day indeed! Thanks to Dan Drogichen, Karen Koblentz, Brie Cardosa, Doan Hohmeyer and Doug Cochrane for manning our booth and all of their hard work! You guys Rock!



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## **ENCINITAS FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE**

On Saturday October 13, from 10a.m. to 1p.m. drop by Fire Station #5, 540 Balour Drive (across the street from the Community Center). There will be plenty of Fire Department personnel on hand and the always popular Fire apparatus (Engines, trucks, etc.) on display and plenty of great food! Firemen sure do know how to barbecue! Also, stop by the CERT booth and say hi.

## **REMINDER OF THE MONTH**

### **SAFETY DURING SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS\* - PART 3 OF 3**

#### **STEP 5: ESTABLISH PRIORITIES**

After evaluating the situation and keeping in mind that the safety of the CERT member is always the top priority, the next step is to determine:

- What should be done?
- In what order?

Remember your goal: to rescue the greatest number in the shortest amount of time.

**The safety of CERT members is always the first priority and will dictate some of the other priorities.** For example, removing or mitigating known hazards must be completed before teams begin to search. Think through the situation logically to determine how you should approach the situation.

#### **STEP 6: MAKE DECISIONS**

At this point in the sizeup you will make decisions about where to deploy your resources to do the most good while maintaining an adequate margin of safety. Many of your decisions will be based on the priorities established during Step 5. Those priorities are based on:

- The safety of the CERT members
- Life safety for victims and others
- Protection of the environment
- Protection of property

#### **STEP 7: DEVELOP PLAN OF ACTION**

Step 7 is where all of the information you have about the situation comes together. During Step 7, the CERT Incident Commander/Team Leader (IC/TL) will decide specifically how the team will conduct its operation, considering the highest priority tasks first.

An action plan does not need to be written, but when search and rescue operations are required, the situation is probably complex enough that a written plan of some type will be important.

A plan should:

- Help focus the operation on established priorities and decisions
- Provide for documentation to be given to responding agencies when they arrive on scene
- Provide for documentation that will become part of the record of the CERT's overall operation

Keep notes as you develop your action plan. Any changes made to the initial plan based on new information that comes in should also be documented.

#### **STEP 8: TAKE ACTION**

This step involves putting the plan developed in Step 7 into action.

## STEP 9: EVALUATE PROGRESS

Step 9, Evaluate Progress, is the most critical step, not only in terms of evaluating whether the plan works, but also from a safety standpoint.

Remember that sizeup is ongoing and that information gained during Step 9 needs to be fed back into the decision-making process for possible revision of priorities and updated action planning.

\* taken verbatim from the CERT Basic Training, Participant Manual FEMA P-925/September 2012, Unit 5, 'Light Search and Rescue Operations', pages 18, and 19

...and remember, your comments and suggestions are always welcome!

### Encinitas CERT Board

Doan Hohmeyer, President    Dave Tostenson, Vice President    **Your Name Here**, Secretary    Loyd Wright, Treasurer  
Doug Cochrane

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