



Redondo Beach

Community Emergency Response Team

Alumni Association

RBCERTAA

February 26, 2010

Written by: **Sandy Marchese, President**

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Executive Board

Sandy Marchese,
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Doug Rodriguez,
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Gary Horn,
Treasurer

Bob Applegate,
Secretary

Board Members:

Phil Gilbreth
Nancy Nickols
Susanne Rengo
Monty Ruth
Courtney Steeneken
Marcelle McCullough,
Past President

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, March 2nd – RBCERTAA Board Meeting (All CERT Members Welcome to attend and contribute information & comments)

Billy's Deli - 190th & Anza, MEETING AT **6:30PM, Socializing at 6PM**

Wednesday, March 3rd – RBCERTAA fund raiser at CPK ASAP (Mention CERT throughout the day)

Thursday, March 4 and March 11th - First Aid Classes (need to reserve space with RBCERTAA)

Saturday, April 10 – Academy #42 Graduation

Sunday, April 25 – CERT Refresher

Saturday, May 8th – Fire Service Appreciation Day

Thursday, October 21st – Shakeout

Saturday, November 13th – CERT Refresher

Notes from Sandy's Desk: CERT Academy #42 is well underway with 40 students. "Thank you" to all that referred people to the class and helped promote enrollment. Another item that we need support is our fund raising activities. All organizations need funds to keep going and RBCERTAA is no exception. Some of the items we pay for are insurance for our vehicle, DMV fees, emergency supplies, fulfilling our wants of equipment, website costs, post office box and other expenses. The board is made up of volunteers that give freely of their time; however we need money to keep the organization going. We would like to see more participation in the fund raising activities. Our recent fund raising at CPK ASAP has been less than expected and I am asking each of you to participate this Wednesday, March 3rd by going to CPK ASAP (see details below).

To this publication I'm adding a section on personal experiences using your CERT training and skills. If you have a story to share please write it up and email me (SRedondoBeach@aol.com) for possible inclusion. The first personal story below was provided by Mike Grady, past vice president and long term board member of RBCERTAA.

MUSIC AND FUN: Our board member Phil Gilbreth joins forces with Redondo Beach Capt. Johnson's Band Friday, March 12th from 7PM to 10PM at Keegan's Pub, 1434 Marcelina Avenue, Torrance, CA (310) 328-3750. This is a neighborhood place with dance floor. Let's show our support and have some fun!!! It could be a RBCERTAA invasion.

FUND RAISING:

CPK ASAP is giving RBCERTAA our own monthly fun-raiser day. So the first Wednesday of the month if you eat in or take out at CPK ASAP (South PCH) they will give RBCERTAA 20% of the sale. MUST MENTION CERT WHEN ORDERING. Please go on Wednesday, March 3rd. Remember RBCERTAA gets funds to help get equipment for our preparedness and it also shows CPK ASAP that we appreciate their support.

BOARD MEETINGS OPEN TO ALL ALUMNI: The monthly meetings at Billy's Deli are **open to all RB CERT alumni**. We encourage each of you to attend the meetings. Since this is a meeting at 6:30 please try to purchase a meal as Billy's

provides us the meeting space without cost. Meetings are the first Tuesday of the month.

IN HIS OWN WORDS - From Mike Grady – CERT Alumni Class 15

On a quiet afternoon I was doing my thing at work when there was a very loud bang like bomb went off on Artesia Blvd. Looking out the front window of his auto shop, Independent Repair, CERT member Jim Chen saw a palm tree shaking and debris flying. A Chevy Suburban had hit a parked Honda Accord at high speed. It is suspected that the throttle was stuck wide open. The poor Honda was about torn in two. The Suburban had climbed about 5 feet up a palm tree went over the Honda and into the fence.

As we ran to help I asked our office manager Susan to grab my medical bag that I keep behind my desk daily and yelled for others to call 911. Hitting the driveway I was joined by CERT member Mark Boutte while Jim called 911. A quick scene size up found a single injured unconscious male behind the wheel with air bag deployment in the Suburban.

Mark and Jim checked for other victims, accessed the situation and together with other shop employees took on traffic control.



Along with an Ocean Life Guard from across the street we were able to use our skills to do a quick assessment and take spinal precaution on the unconscious victim. My assessment led me to believe that oxygen could benefit the labored breathing and head injury of our patient. I sent an employee Jose to my truck to get the O2 system I carry with me. (See footnote below)

As we were busy with our patient and my hands were tied with spinal precautions I instructed Jose on how to rig a non-rebreather and start the O2 flowing. Jose was shaking but was able to take my instruction and get the job done. Oxygen was put on the victim and he regained consciousness and became combative. Working together we were able to restrain the victim and maintain reasonable spinal protection until I looked over to see the familiar face of CERT trainer and Captain Bob Herrera of our own Fire Department. Always the voice of calm I remember him saying "what have you got Mike?" From there it is a blur but I knew my job was done.

Soon after our Redondo Fire guys worked with us to get him on a backboard, put him in the ambulance and headed off to get the help he needed. After a short visit our fire guys were off to another major roll over accident just blocks away.



Be it a major event like the devastation from the earthquakes in Haiti to a simple car accident we as CERT members are lucky that we have taken the time to prepare for disaster and hopefully have purchased those things that can help us to be ready to handle all sorts of emergencies.



I for one would like to thank all the men and women of Redondo Fire for giving me the training and confidence to jump in to any situation and hopefully make good decisions to benefit those in need. I know for a fact that having had my initial training about 10 years ago, the follow up refreshers are what keep me up to date and ready to respond.

I hope that each of you are taking advantage of the free refreshers and keeping your supplies up to date because disasters strike when you least expect it and

DONATIONS

Monetary or Equipment Donations For RBCERTAA are tax deductible. We are a 501(c) (3) Corporation

you will have to face it ready or not.

Footnote "Some CERT members have continued their training by taking EMT classes to increase their scope of practice and gain confidence in medical response" Mike decided to become an EMT after taking the CERT Academy. Contact Mike Grady for more information on EMT training.

