

TWAIN HARTE AREA



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

MONTHLY UPDATE

January 2023

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NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER



January has been the month for rain, the pitter patter of the rain drops on our tin roof sounds so rhythmic and exciting, at least for the first few days.

Rain does so many beautiful things. Clears the air, that wonderful fresh smell is intoxicating. It fills our aquifers, reservoir, creeks and lakes...which means great outdoor activities this summer. We got 25.4" of rain in December and 11" by the first week of January. It is a real wet season this year.

I declare we call this season "Winter". We have not had one is so long that we all forgot what it was like. The ones that were most happy with the foul weather were the pluviophiles (they are rain lovers) and rain gives them a feeling of happiness.

For THA-CERT, the rain motivated us, we met and worked on our January training, we ordered lots of necessary supplies and deployed to help our community. All-in all it was a very full month.

We hope you enjoy this month's issue. Our goal is to provide information to the community, focusing on safety and health.

If you have a suggestion for future articles, please contact twainhartecert@gmail.com for consideration of the topic by the board.



SHARP NEW UNIFORMS

by Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief



We have a new look! We have added "dress" uniforms to our CERT wardrobe.

Yes, we love our sexy green vests and shirts, but in the hot summer they are not so comfortable. Carol wanted to give us an option for a cooler shirt, I spoke with Business First and we came up with a nice ash colored shirt with the yellow CERT logo. It is printed on the front left and large on the back. It is available in long sleeve and short sleeve.

We also added a green fleece vest, with a patch sewn on the left side. We sure looked sharp for our basic training.

The green (casual) shirts are still available, also in long sleeve and short sleeve. Remember that when we deploy or meet for training you will be asked to don your CERT attire.

All shirts are \$10. The fleece vest is \$25.

If you are interested in purchasing any of these, please email me in care of twainhartecert@gmail.com. I may have some in stock or I may have to order them.



Bob Schreiner models the New "dress" CERT uniform



Front and back of new dress shirt



Front and back of classic green "work" CERT shirt



WELLNESS CHECK IN TWAIN HARTE

by Mike Mandell, Team Leader



Rain is the theme for January and it came down in buckets. It is a beautiful thing and we all know that we need the rain but 40 days and 40 nights is a bit much.

On January 4th, we had a request to have members on call over night just in case we needed to do evacuations and/or wellness checks. We had 3 people available around the clock for three days. Luckily we were not called.



Storm damage in Twain Harte

The rain kept coming; the land got saturated and then along came the winds. Not a great combination. We had some dead standing trees in Twain Harte that just could not take the stress and they came toppling down. They took out power lines, internet cables, and hit a couple of houses. The crews from THCS, PG&E, TUD, AT&T and THFD were all out at 2:30 on the morning of January 8th to survey the situation, set priorities, accomplish the goals, and get to work.

THA-CERT received a call to help at 10:50 that morning. The need was to do wellness checks on the residents in the area most affected. We had two teams available within 5 minutes and the first team deployed and was on-scene in 10 minutes.

The second team was deployed an hour later. We spent the next 5 hours knocking on doors. Our goal was to tell the residents what the situation was, determine how many people were in the household, assess their current situation, and deliver water as needed.

In the end we knocked on approx 255 doors and delivered water to all who needed it. We met at Twain Harte Fire Station so that we could warm up and do our paperwork. THFD made dinner for us that night...well they ordered pizza! It was the best pizza I have tasted in a long time. Since most of us had not eaten lunch, by 5:00 in the evening (and after all that walking) we were pretty darn hungry.

It was great to be able to do the wellness checks for the residents of Twain Harte. This is something that THA-CERT have trained for and to be able to work with our partners, THCS & THFD, made it even better.

Thanks to THA-CERT members Carol Hallett, Bob Schreiner, Lise Lemonnier, and Matt Kain, who joined me in performing the wellness checks.



Bob Schreiner (above) heads up to a house to check on the residents



Lise Lemonnier (left) and Matt Kain team up to do wellness checks

SMOKE DETECTOR INSTALLATION

by John Buckingham, Safety Officer



One of the most important safety and life saving devices in your home is your smoke detectors/alarms. You can cut your risk of dying in a home fire by half by having smoke detectors in your home. You should have smoke detectors in every bedroom of your home and in each hallway outside of sleeping quarters. Every floor of your home should have a smoke detector.

THA-CERT have been given a grant to help Seniors and the disabled in our area have smoke detectors installed in their residence at no charge (FREE!).

To take advantage of this offer please contact CERT at: twainhsrtecert@gmail.com for an appointment, or call Mike Mandell, CERT Team Leader, at 209-770-2674.

We look forward to being of help to you!



DONATION FOR PREPAREDNESS

by Bob (Pops) Wagner, Financial Section Chief



A Proactive sponsorship was made to help THA-CERT support a preparedness project. This project is in alignment with the Tuolumne County Community Health Implementation Strategies (CHIS) for calendar year 2022.

The proactive donation will help us address the physical and mental health impacts of wildfires and other disasters through training and volunteer engagement. We are so blessed to have such great partners in Tuolumne County. Linda Postma, our Fund Raiser Coordinator, has been at the forefront of interacting with Adventist Health and her great work and dedication was a direct result of the contribution.



We submitted a grant request with Public Health but this year we did not receive a grant. We were looking forward to adding to our video series to help our community to get more prepared...we will have to find some other funding for that project.

Preparedness is one of the main pillars of the CERT program and THA-CERT is ever striving to help Tuolumne County residents to be as prepared as possible.

COME FLY WITH US!

by Michelle Wagner, UAV Unit Leader



You've all heard the phrase, "The future is now." Well...it's true and it's time to start thinking about how we can prepare for it.

We just completed our first Basic CERT Training course in quite some time and I thought it was a great success! What an amazing group of folks with varying backgrounds and interests, and ALL with a fantastic attitude of teamwork and pride in their new skills. I was approached by a number of them, who expressed an interest in becoming a UAS Team member and I couldn't be more thrilled! Our numbers have dwindled due to folks heading back to school, moving out of the area, retirements, etc., and our recruiting efforts, so far, have been less than successful.

The plan, as of now, is to send out an announcement in the spring asking whomever is interested to get together for a meet & greet and start putting together a training plan for the new folks. I will keep you posted as the date gets nearer. Look for an email invite and come fly with us!



TRAFFIC CONTROL UPDATE

by Margaret Lawrence, Traffic Control Unit Leader



The Traffic Control unit did not have any deployments this month, but that doesn't mean we are not busy. I have spent time inventorying what supplies we have and what we might need to keep everyone safe during traffic control activities this year.

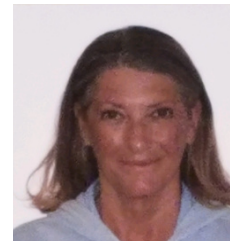
We recently purchased eight new light batons. These will help us be visible during night operations allowing us to better communicate with drivers. We know sometimes it takes a lot to get their attention. We purchased 8 flashing pucks that will sit on top of barricades, again for safety.



We are also trying to squeeze in another traffic control training later this year, watch for an announcement. Safety is key any time we are deployed. Understanding how to properly communicate our intentions and being visible to the traveling public is critical.

BASIC CERT TRAINING CLASS FOR 2023

by Mary Schreiner, Public Information Officer



On the last weekend of January, the 27th, 28th, and 29th, we gathered at Twain Harte Community Services District offices to conduct the 2023 Basic CERT Training Class. We had 11 new students, whose backgrounds ranged from logger, to RN, retired sales & marketing, and professor. It's wonderful to have such a diverse class, as every member contributes their own experiences and perspective and help to make our team even stronger.

Several CERT members, including three members from Palo Alto CERT, were on hand to participate as instructors and to assist with live practice exercises. It's wonderful how the entire CERT community is ready and willing to help each other when necessary.

"The CERT Basic Training course was much more than I expected. It was filled with preparedness content, practicing, and amazing stories but more important was the people aspect, that was a treasure."

Cindy Howell, Basic CERT Training Student

The training course, which is prepared by FEMA and made available to all CERT units nationwide, covered such topics as Disaster Preparedness; CERT Organization; Disaster Medical Operations, Parts 1 & 2; Disaster Psychology; Fire Safety and Utility Controls; Light Search and Rescue Operations; and Terrorism and CERT. To all of these, we added Radio Communications because we use radios for every deployment and for many training exercises.



Disaster Medical Training with Randy Revilla, Mary Kirkwood, and Michelle Wagner

After course review and the final exam, the students got ready for the final exercise, where they got to practice what they learned about search and rescue, triage, and first aid. Making it very realistic was the excellent moulage (creating fake but realistic looking cuts, burns, and other injuries) provided by Mary Kirkwood, one of our newest CERT members, and Michelle Wagner, our UAS Unit Leader. Even knowing those injuries

weren't real, it was still hard to look at them.

This was the first year in which we used a multi-level building for this drill and having stairs and several different rooms to search gave students an idea of what a real deployment could involve.

The students worked in teams, along with a mentor, and had to report to "Incident

BASIC CERT TRAINING CLASS FOR 2023, cont'd

Command" via radio to relay information and request resources. In addition to the teams searching for victims, we had a student assisting in the Command Post, acting as the scribe. This was another aspect of the training that was a first for us and helped make the training feel pretty authentic. We never know which tasks we'll be asked to assist with, or where we'll be assigned. During the exercise, students were assigned to teams and then some were reassigned to different teams, again mimicking real life deployments.

All in all, this year's Training was one of our best to date. It's almost as if we improve with practice...imagine that! We now have 61 CERT volunteers, 35 active, 26 "B" active (have some restrictions).

Special thanks to Twain Harte Fire Chief Neil Gamez and his team for supporting this training all weekend long. Captain Neftali Orozco did a fabulous job with teaching Fire Suppression and Utilities Control and running the fire suppression drill.



Ed Proctor, Cooling/Warming Unit Leader, shows off his "leg wound"

As with any multi-day event, this did not happen overnight and required a huge amount of planning and support. None of this could have happened without our planning team: Carol Hallett, Mike Mandell, Lise Lemonnier, Margaret Lawrence, and myself.

Thanks to all of my fellow instructors, Carol Hallett, Mike Mandell, Randie Revilla, Michelle Wagner, Mary Kirkwood, Captain Orozco, and Chief Gamez for all your time not only presenting your course(s), but also for all of the time you spent preparing for this training. The weeks (in some cases months) you spent preparing certainly paid off.

Thank you to all of the CERT members from Twain Harte Area and Palo Alto who were on hand to assist and answer questions. We could not have done it without you. Thanks to Mark Meyers, from Palo Alto CERT, whose Unit on Search and Rescue was moved up a day (and presented by Carol), due to concerns about the weather, but who came Sunday to assist with the final exercise anyway.



Our fearless students, all geared up and ready to extinguish some fires

BASIC CERT TRAINING CLASS FOR 2023, cont'd

Thanks to all who volunteered as "victims" for our final exercise. We had 12 victims, all with different emergency scenarios, and each person played their part perfectly. By giving your time you gave our students very valuable practice and you looked amazing.

And, last but not least, thanks to our Planning Section Chief, Lise Lemonnier, who seemed to be everywhere at once and without whom we most definitely could not have done this. From obtaining training materials, to making copies, to ensuring that there were snacks available every day for all attendees, Lise was indispensable. Anything requested of her was responded to with a quick, "No problem!"

On the next page you will find the THA-CERT 2023 Training and Events Calendar. As always, all of our training sessions are open to all and are no cost or obligation. I hope you will join us.



BASIC CERT TRAINING CLASS FOR 2023, cont'd



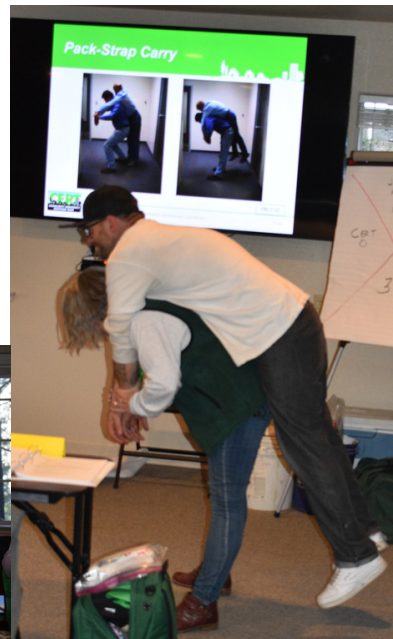
Class of 2023, minus Cindy Howell and Mary Kirkwood



Alex in full PPE



Captain Orozco teaching Fire Suppression



Carol demonstrated "pack strap carry" with Alex





2023 Training and Events Calendar

January 27, 28, 29	Basic CERT Training*
February 25	Emergency Communications Training
March (dates TBD)	Columbia College Fire Academy Live Fire Training*
April 29	CPR and AED Training
May 27	Memorial Day Weekend - No Training
June 24	First Aid - Practical Training
July 22 & 23	Summer Outdoor Market - No Training
August 1	National Night Out with Tuolumne Co. Sheriff
August 26	Go Bag, Emergency Kit, First Aid Kit
September 3	Firemen's Pancake Breakfast
September 30	Search and Rescue Training
October 14 & 15	Christmas Outdoor Market
October (dates TBD)	Columbia College Fire Academy Live Fire Training*
November 25	Thanksgiving Weekend - No Training
December 30	New Year's Holiday - No Training

*Note: all training sessions will be at 9 am at Twain Harte Community Center, unless otherwise noted.
Training held at Vantage Pointe

WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?



by Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief, THA-CERT

The total THA-CERT volunteer hours for January are:

Administration =	300
Training =	392
<u>Deployment =</u>	<u>169</u>
Total January hours =	861

February



Events

Visit Tuolumne County:

<https://www.visittuolumne.com/events>

Twain Harte Chamber of Commerce:

<https://www.twainhartecc.com/events>

Training

CERT Radio Communications Training

Saturday, February 25

9 am to 12 pm

Twain Harte Community Center

18775 Manzanita Drive

Twain Harte

(behind car wash)



Meetings

THCSD Board Meeting

<https://www.twainhartecsd.com/board-meetings>

Wednesday, 08 Feb 2023 , 9:00 am

CERT & Fire Association Board Meeting

22912 Vantage Point, Board Room

Thursday, 09 Feb 2023, 9:30 am