



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

# MONTHLY UPDATE

February 2024

PIO: Leo Marroquin  
Editor: Carol Hallett  
Proof reader: Lise Lemonnier

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## NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

by Carol Hallett



February is usually a sweet month with gifts of chocolate, flowers, and dinner with your sweetheart (February 14th) but this year I feel like it was a bitter sweet month. It was cold, wet and white so many of our projects got put to the side for a while.

A bitter sweet moment was, Mary Schreiner taking a back seat but then Leo Marroquin stepped up... sweet! Another bitter sweet moment was losing the FF Rehab vehicle but the team pulled together to make the transition and come up with plan B... sweet! It was a lot of work to put on our training this month (Margaret Lawrence is amazing) and then the local firefighters showed up to support, very sweet!

Throughout this news letter you will read about the sweet and bitter sweet moments that we have had this month. Our team are busy bees that work so well together, it is a sweet vision. You will see them everywhere.

They definitely know how to make lemonade out of lemons.



We hope you enjoy this month's issue. Our goal is to provide information to the community, focusing on preparedness, safety and health. If you have a suggestion for future articles, please contact: [twainhartecert@gmail.com](mailto:twainhartecert@gmail.com) for consideration of the topic by the board.

# TWAIN HARTE FIRE DEPARTMENT CORNER

by Neil Gamez, THFD Fire Chief

## 200 TRAINING HOURS

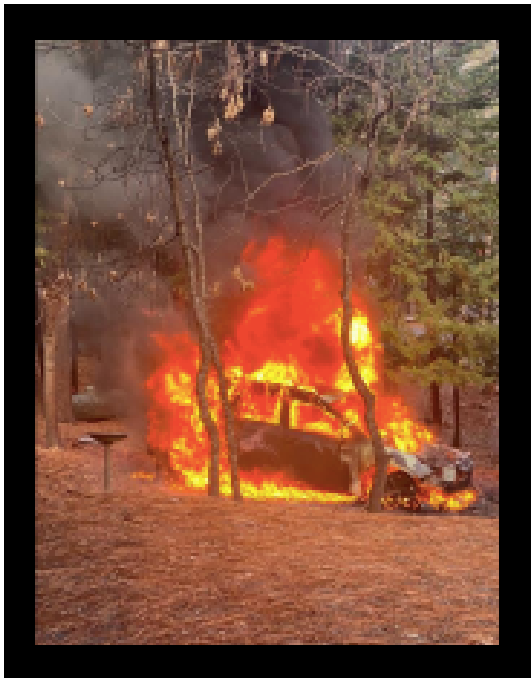


## THFD STAFF

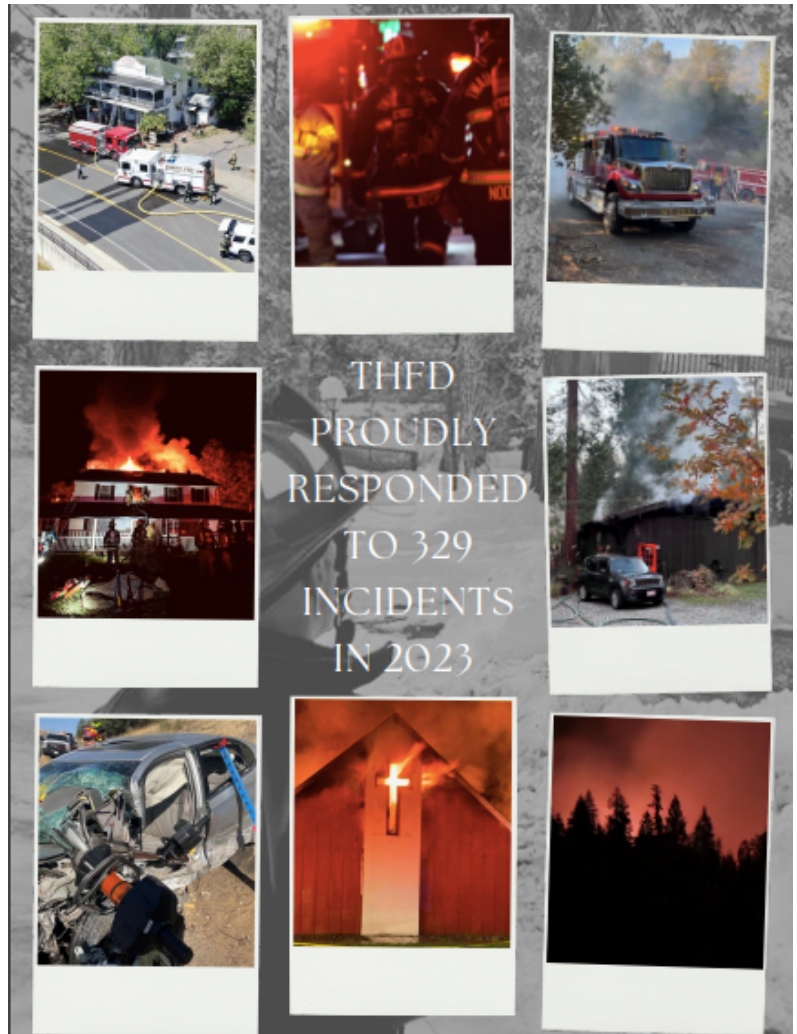
- Full Time Chief - 1
- Full Time Captains - 3
- Seasonal Engineers - 3
- Relief Captains - 4
- Reserve Firefighters - 4
- Intern Firefighters - 2



## 24 RESPONSES



E-721, and C-720 responded to a vehicle fire in the cedar ridge area.





# THCSD GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

by Tom Trott, THCSD General Manager



## GM REPORT

February 14, 2024

### ADMIN ACTIVITIES

- THCSD Median Household Income Survey
- Transition from Physical Server to Cloud Server
- Implementation of New Water & Sewer Rates
- Senior Project and Eagle Scout Project Coordination
- Operator 1 Recruitment
- Personnel Policy Manual Review
- FEMA Storm Damage Reimbursement Coordination

### MEETINGS OF INTEREST

- 1/19 County Drought Task Force
- 1/24 Community Center ADA Parking Design
- 1/25 FEMA Storm Grant Coordination
- 1/31 CSDA ChatGPT Training
- 2/1 County Drought Resiliency Plan

### CAPITAL PROJECTS

#### Motor Control Center (MCC) Upgrade

Budget: \$185,000

Construction submittals to replace the MCC at the water treatment plant are finalized. After manufacturing delays, we anticipate construction in March/April during low water demand months.

#### Twain Harte Meadows Park

Budget: \$3,000,000

The majority of grading and underground utilities for the new, grant-funded community park is complete, as well as the pavilion foundation and some planting. Planting, pavilion and underground work will continue this month dependent on weather. Project completion is anticipated in early fall 2024.

#### Million Gallon Tank #2 Rehabilitation

Budget: \$1,275,000

All major work for this grant-funded project is complete.

#### Tennis/Pickleball Court Improvements

Budget: \$310,000

Construction of pickleball courts expansion using a sport grid surface and tennis court resurfacing with clay is anticipated in late spring/early summer 2024.

#### Community Center Improvements

Budget: \$74,000 Fire / \$74,000 Park

Kitchen remodel, ADA bathrooms, flooring and exterior repaint is complete. Front doors and entryway redesigned to meet ADA requirements. Parking lot is anticipated to be complete by spring.

### PLANNING PROJECTS

#### Water System Evaluation/Analysis

Budget: \$777,151

Hydraulic model, water loss analysis, condition assessment and identification of priority capital projects is complete. Design of Sherwood Forest water lines replacement is almost 90% complete.

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

**SONORA AREA FOUNDATION GRANT - \$15,000**  
Pickleball Expansion Project / AWARDED

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT - \$24,000**  
Median Household Income Survey / AWARDED

**PROP 1 STORMWATER GRANT - \$1.75M**  
TH Meadows Park / AWARDED

**STATE REVOLVING FUND - \$4.5M**  
TH Pipeline Project / Award: Spring 2024

**MULTI-BENEFIT DROUGHT GRANT - \$1.275M**  
MG Tank #2 Rehab / AWARDED

**PROP 68 RURAL RECREATION - \$1.25M**  
TH Meadows Park / AWARDED

**PROP 68 PER CAPITA - \$178K**  
Tennis & Pickleball Improvements / AWARDED

To learn more details, join us at our monthly THCSD board meetings.

# TWAIN HARTE MEADOWS PARK UPDATE

by Kim Silva, THCS D, Administrative Coordinator



We've hit the ground running in the new year and have made some great progress on the Twain Harte Meadows Park Project since breaking ground back in September. Thanks to a mild fall and the late arrival of winter here in Twain Harte, construction at the park site is ongoing. Lead contractor Njirich and Sons, along with the help of two other local contractors-Roberson Construction and Watershed Progressive, have made continual progress at the park site, which includes the following:



- Topsoil deliveries with spreading and grading
- Foundation construction for the pavilion
- Underground utilities-water, sewer, and power
- Restroom building foundation
- Planting of some trees and bushes
- Installation of one rainwater collection tank
- Grading of all basins and bioswales



Construction will continue through the winter as long as the weather remains cooperative. Pavilion construction and planting will likely be on and off through this winter and should be complete in late spring when the restrooms will be set. We are planning for the park to be open in early fall 2024, but if all goes well, we are hopeful that it may be open this coming summer.

As a reminder, we maintain an email list of community members who want to be involved in this great community project and will be sending out regular updates as construction progresses. There will also be opportunities for community involvement with planting activities and opportunities to learn about the different types of stormwater management included in the park. These management practices are simple and can be implemented on your own property to save water, reduce erosion, improve fire safety and improving water quality in Twain Harte. If you are interested in being included in these updates and activities, please email THCS D at [info@twainartecsd.com](mailto:info@twainartecsd.com).



A glimpse at the planting and boulder placement



Underground utility installation



# ADIOS TO FIREFIGHTER REHAB TRUCK

by Mike Mandell, Team Leader

I usually think of Carol as a pretty tough cookie but saying good-bye to the Firefighter Rehab (FF-Rehab) vehicle showed a different side of her.



One of the first goals of the founding members of Twain Harte Area Community Emergency Response Team (THA-CERT) was to purchase a vehicle for FF-Rehab. Soon after the first basic training class in April 2014 the team went to Copperopolis to have training on FF-Rehab and saw their vehicle, which was all it took.

The team worked hard to do fundraising and donations from local organizations to get not only the items needed to do proper FF-Rehab but also stocked away funds to purchase a vehicle of our own. Since we were just starting up our organization there were many items that were needed so it took about six years to have the funds to purchase it. Then there was the challenge of finding one.

Terry Northcutt came to the rescue and help by sharing with us where out of service vehicles could be purchased. He helped negotiate the price and had one of his associates deliver the vehicle from Florida to California. This had its challenges too since it was during 2020 and people were hesitant to cross state lines but one day the driver just said, "I am on my way!"



When the vehicle finally arrived Carol was ecstatic...she even hugged the front of the vehicle to welcome it to Tuolumne County. The vehicle looked great both inside and out. Terry & Dave (Hallett) looked underneath and saw rust but that was to be expected since it came from the east coast. They replaced the oil and filters and greased up everything that they could.

We had a mechanic come and check it out and it got an "A OK". The vehicle was ready to be deployed. Vince Carini at the encouragement of Randie Revilla worked his magic on the electrical components making sure we had lighting, air conditioning and fuses.

Over the past almost four years we have made good use of the vehicle. We have been deployed to help our firefighters on a number of fire calls. We have been utilized by Columbia College for the twice a year training for the academy students where we did rehab for them and the instructors. We have had the vehicle in parades and sitting at events such as the Sheriff Nation Night Out to promote CERT as well as describe what FF-Rehab is and how valuable it is for the health of our firefighters.

Having a vehicle has made it much easier on the team to perform the function since it is always ready to go but we got some really bad news.

During our monthly inspections we noticed little things happening like we could not lock or unlock several doors. The hidden unlock switch was no longer working... and then the vehicle would not start. After having 2 different mechanics, each very knowledgeable with International Trucks and diesel engines, told us that the vehicle was going to be a money pit. It cost close to \$800 to get that news. And they said that even after several thousands of dollars there was no guarantee that the truck would be reliable for us. We are a non-profit with no real income so we had to make the hard decision to let the vehicle go. Our bad news becomes someone else's good news.

Carol and I met with Chief Gamez to discuss our options. The Chief told us about a firehouse in Mexico that saw our vehicle once and asked that if we were every to get rid

# ADIOS TO FIREFIGHTER REHAP TRUCK...

of it they would love it! As it turns out they have the facility, the knowledge and the capability to redo the wiring harness, replace rusted out parts and make an entire undercarriage if needed. We will be donating our vehicle to them, which is bitter sweet... we loose our vehicle but at least we know that it will be fixed and used to help others.



Carol (Prog Mgr), Mike (Team Leader), & Randie (Unit Leader)

As we all say good-bye to our FF-Rehab vehicle I can see that the vehicle leaving is hitting Carol pretty hard. I am sure she is thinking about the last decade of hard work, the volunteers that have passed through the organization and the people that have supported us along the way. As for me, I am sorry to see it go too. I liked driving the old International.

That all said we are already regrouped and ready to support our firefighters for rehab when we are called upon. Carol does not let any moss grow she had a plan before we knew which road we were going down. It will be a little more work to deploy but our team is trained and ready to do whatever it takes. We will be looking for a replacement vehicle but this time we will look locally so we won't have to worry about rust problems.



Carol Hallett, Bob Wagner, Randie Revilla, Mary Schreiner, John Buckingham, Linda Postma, Bob Schreiner, Mike Mandell, and Lise Lemonnier salute good-bye

## FIELD DRESSING

by Mary Schreiner, CERT volunteer



We gathered at Vantage Point to say good-bye to our beloved firefighter rehab vehicle when Carol Hallett noticed that John Buckingham was bleeding, he had a cut on his hand. Without hesitation she opened her car, unzipped her CERT backpack and performed medical attention to the wound. Carol has gone through the CERT medical training during our basic training class and was able to utilized her training in the field.



Using proper protocol, Carol asked John if she could take care of his scratch and he was willing participant. She cleaned it and bandaged it in a matter of minutes. She even offered to clean the blood off his face.

You can learn all of this and more in our CERT Basic Training Academy in April. You never know when you will need the skills. It sure comes in handy!





# FIREFIGHTER REHAB TRAINING

by Margaret Lawrence, Training Officer



What a great training we had this month. Twenty-five people attended the FEMA Firefighter Rehab training. Thank you to all the awesome volunteers that gave their time to train us in this invaluable process. We also were so pleased to have both THFD & CAL FIRE crews in attendance.

Carol Hallett opened the training with an overview of what we were going to learn and why it's so important. But before she got talking she introduced Battalion Chief Bill Barteau. He thanked us all for being at the training and expressed his appreciation for the program that helps our firefighters stay safe while they are protecting us and our property.



Deborah Ambrose, a flight nurse with PHI talked about the physiological threats to firefighters, what we need to watch out for to keep them safe.



Next, Firefighter, Jesse McNeal with Twain Harte Fire gave a demonstration on all the gear they wear. Wow, that stuff is heavy, but they need it all to ensure their protection while fighting fires.



THFD Chief Gamez walked us through an incident scene. He also had us do an activity. Since we had 2 fire trucks in attendance we went out and had a tour of the equipment, what a great opportunity. Then Randie Revilla talked about the stations in the Rehab Area. Carol then shared what is involved in the Rehab process to keep our firefighters safe.

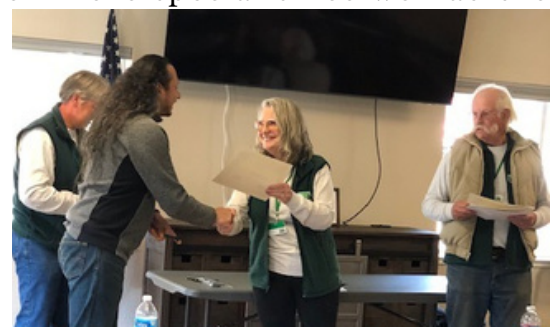


Lise Lemonnier and Mike Mandell wrapped up the training with a valuable hands-on practice session of everything that is involved in the rehab process from set up, checking firefighters into the rehab process, taking vitals and sending them back out to the fire.

That four hours just flew by culminating with certificates for each student. It was made even more special since we had the input from our local firefighters shared experiences.

We have some exciting trainings coming up...for details see flyers later in this newsletter.

Now we have more trained Firefighter Rehab volunteers to support our community and our first responders.



- Fire Behavior with Chief Gamez on March 30
- CERT Basic Training on April 19, 20 and 21 here in Twain Harte



# INTRODUCING OUR NEW PIO

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager

His name is Leo Marroquin. He saw the opportunity to help, he reached out and after talking with him for a while I knew he could and would make a difference for our team.



His background has been an interesting and varied path to get here. His education is in marine biology, but never did anything in that field. He worked as a paralegal for Friend & Walton, LLC. in the Modesto area for eighteen years. Twelve years ago, he decided to move to Tuolumne County to give mountain living a try for maybe a year. He figured that he would either learn to slow down or leave because he was bored. He found a great balance and is living happily ever after in the mountains.

When he first arrived, he started working for Black Oak Casino as a bartender and worked up the ranks into Marketing and stayed there for the next eight and a half years. This was a great job because he could utilize his artistic side, his background in Graphic Design and convert that to marketing. He obviously enjoyed the work because he stayed for over eight years.



Next, he decided that he wanted to try something new that would allow him to give back to the community. He soon found an opportunity working as the HICAP (Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program) Volunteer Coordinator at Area 12 Agency on Aging, a public services organization for older adults. He has now worked at Area 12 for two and a half years. This has given him the opportunity to use his skills in marketing, artistic vision and working with volunteers. Loving it!

Leo looks for opportunities to do things for the community. His artistic nature allows him to see things in an inspiring way. Work and community involvement are a conduit to being involved in things that could make him happy in his career and as a volunteer.

Leo is a very imaginative guy and sees things from a visual perspective. He has already introduced some great and new ideas for Twain Harte Area CERT. I am proud to have him on our team as our new Public Information Officer (PIO).

# TAXING TIMES, THESE!

by Bob Wagner, Finance Officer

Are you joining the kids as they tromp through the puddles? Or do you tromp through your own? Those were the days, eh?



Me? I'm working on closing the books on 2023 and getting ready for the "tax man". Yes, I find having my work reviewed by a set of "disinterested eyes" beneficial. It also provides the opportunity to discuss any changes that may provide better information for the same or less effort going forward. Bigger is not always better, but more for less - that I can get behind. Having trouble gathering all the necessary paperwork? Step back, take a deep breath, maybe two, review the difficulties. What was/were the cause/s? What needs to change? Make it so. Progress. Yes, it is tax season... Keep breathing!





# SuperMoist Cornbread



8-10 people



10 min prep

350 degree oven

25-35 min bake

## INGREDIENTS

- 1 box Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix
- 1 box Super Moist Yellow Cake Mix
- All ingredients listed on both boxes



## DIRECTIONS

1. In a large bowl, stir together all the ingredients for the Corn Muffin Mix.
2. Add in all the ingredients for the Yellow cake mix
3. Stir together until well mixed, do not over mix
4. Prepare an 9x11" pan (I like to use glass so you can see the sides brown)
5. Pour mixture into pan
6. Bake 350 for approx. 25 minutes or when the bread is golden brown and a toothpick comes out clean.
7. Cut into squares and serve warm.

## NOTES

This corn bread is moist, sweet and delicious. Cover leftovers, warms up nicely the next couple of nights. The best cornbread every!



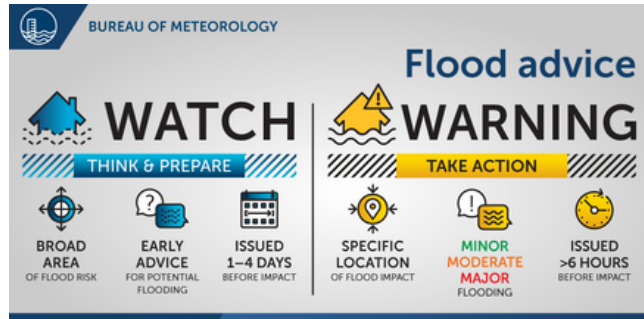
Recipe shared by: Grandma Betty

# SPRING MELT, CAN CAUSE FLOODING

by John Buckingham, Safety Officer



Flooding is a temporary overflow of water onto land that is normally dry. Floods are the most common disaster in the United States. Failing to evacuate flooded areas or entering flood waters can lead to injury or death.



Floods may:

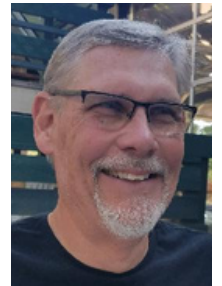
- Result from rain, snow, coastal storms, storm surges and overflows of dams and other water systems.
- Develop slowly or quickly. Flash floods can come with no warning.
- Cause outages, disrupt transportation, damage buildings and create landslides.

If you are in a flood area or you are concerned you can learn how to prepare, what to do during and after a flood by going to: [ready.gov/floods](https://www.ready.gov/floods)

Spring is a beautiful time of year, enjoy it safely!

## BUILDING TRAINING PROP

by Bob Schreiner, Logistics Section Chief



We are in and out of the THFD station quiet a bit and one of the times I was there I was intrigued by a project the team was working on, a Denver Prop. The on duty crew explained that they were building this prop for their training.

The training prop is designed after the actual dimensions of the confined area that claimed 16 year veteran fire fighter Mark Langvardt's life in 1992. Specifically, it is a 'hallway' 28" wide, 8' long with a window at one end that is 20" wide by 28" high and the sill is 42" from the floor.



Aaron & Drew A Crew

The drill is that two firefighters must enter the area to rescue the victim. Firefighter One checks for solid flooring from outside the window with a Halligan tool. Discarding the tool outside, the firefighter moves through the window head first and crawls over the victim to the victim's feet.

I think it is cool that they honor the fallen firefighter by understanding the problem, building the prop and learning how to escape.

## WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?

by Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief

The total THA-CERT volunteer hours for February are:

Administration =	231
Training =	115
Deployment =	0
Total hours =	346





# WHAT'S NEXT?

## Events

Visit Tuolumne County:

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

Twain Harte Chamber of Commerce:

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

## Save The Date!



PRESENTS



# THE WORLD CLASS TWIN HARTE OUTHOUSE RACES

## June 1, 2024

Parade at 9:00 AM - Race 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
Eproson Park, Twain Harte, CA  
(AKA "Flushing Downs")



Firefighter Challenge-Perpetual Trophy  
Wine, Beer & Margaritas  
Local Food Vendors  
Craft Vendors  
Tot Pot Races

For more information:  
[twainhartecert@gmail.com](mailto:twainhartecert@gmail.com)  
(209) 481-5790

For vendor information:  
[mountainmeadowproductions@gmail.com](mailto:mountainmeadowproductions@gmail.com)

This fundraiser benefits: Twain Harte Volunteer Fire Department (THVFD) & THA-CERT.

If you want to race, contact us and we will get you the rules and specifications for building an Outhouse or go to:

<https://www.twainhartecsd.com/twain-harte-outhouse-race-2024>

## Who Let The Dogs Out ... In Twain Harte?

- Dog Parade & Family Day -

Saturday, April 20th  
Downtown Twain Harte

Registration at 10:00AM Parade Starts at 11:00AM



Activities at Pawticipating businesses to follow  
For more details visit [www.twainhartecc.com](http://www.twainhartecc.com)

Sponsored by The Twain Harte Area Chamber of Commerce  
All proceeds from pawticipation benefit local animal shelters

## Meetings

THCSD Board Meeting, 22912 Vantage Point, TH  
<https://www.twainhartecsd.com/board-meetings>  
Wednesday, March 13, 2024 9:00 am



## Training

### Fire Behavior Training

with the Twain Harte Fire Department

Date: 03/30/2024

Time: 09:00-12:00pm

Location: 22912 Vantage Point, Twain Harte  
at the Twain Harte Community Services District Office



Learn how understanding fire behavior could save your life and your families.

Chief Neil Gamez and his crew will instruct us on:

- Fundamentals of fire behavior and how to stay safe.
- Hands on experience on how to effectively and safely use a fire extinguisher to put out a fire
- Learn about wildfire risks living in Tuolumne County and what we can do to lessen these risks
- And so much more...



This class is open to all. If you know you can attend RSVP for planning purposes:  
[twainhartecert@gmail.com](mailto:twainhartecert@gmail.com)

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## Mark your calendar

Tuolumne County Wildfire Preparedness Town Hall  
Saturday April 6th, 2024  
9:00am-2:00pm  
Mother Lode Fairgrounds  
Sierra Building

## CERT BASIC TRAINING

The CERT Basic Training Academy is only offered by THA-CERT once a year. Mark your calendar for April 19, 20 & 21, 2024. More details will be available next month.



Join the weekly:  
Twain Harte Neighborhood  
Radio Watch  
Wed: 7:00 PM Sun: 9:00 AM  
FRSM: ch 18



THA-CERT & Fire Association Board Meeting  
Community Center, 18775 Manzanita Dr, TH  
Thursday, March 7, 2024 9:30 am



# CERT Basic Training

*Are you ready to help yourself, your family, and your neighbors when a disaster happens?*

With the cooperation of the Twain Harte Fire Department we offer an opportunity for you to attend a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Basic training academy. This is a 20-hour training course that will include both classroom instruction and hands-on training. The trainers are subject matter experts.

## Training Includes:

- Personal Preparedness
- Organizing Resources
- Fire Safety/Utility Controls
- Basic Medical Operations
- Light Search & Rescue
- Basic Damage Assessment
- Final Simulation Drill

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## When?

April 19, 2024 1630-2030  
(4:30 pm to 8:30 pm)

April 20, 2024 0900-1700  
(9 am to 5 pm)

April 21, 2024 0900-1700  
(9 am to 5 pm)

## Where?

### Day 1 & 2

18775 Manzanita Dr  
Twain Harte  
(TH Community Center)

### Day 3

22192 Vantage Pointe Dr  
Twain Harte  
(THCSD Offices)

## To register:

RSVP required

[twainhartecert@gmail.com](mailto:twainhartecert@gmail.com)