



# MONTHLY UPDATE

June 2021

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## IN THIS ISSUE...

We start with a message from our leader, Program Manager Carol Hallett; next Carol tells you what we do when everything seems to be going wrong during a deployment.

Volunteers are a crucial element in all CERT organizations and this month we talk with two volunteers who have given us many hours of their time, and more! John Buckingham gives some tips for staying safe in hot weather and then updates us on the Twain Harte Library hours; you'll learn about what goes on during the Basic Training Hands On Module; and in June we said goodbye to two of our founding members, Frances and Bill McManus. Karen Caldwell, from the Firewise Council, tells us the advantages of being a Firewise Community; and last, but not least, we get an update from Lise Lemonnier on our volunteer hours for the month and we see what events are coming up in July.

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](mailto:twainhartecert@gmail.com) for consideration of the topic by the board.



Sunflowers on a Summer day

# NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager, THA-CERT

June is a hot month from many different vantage points, each hotter than the next. HOT temperatures: This June we had some really HOT days, one right after the next. Usually in Twain Harte the evenings are cool so we get a reprieve and that makes enduring the hot days a bit easier. There were many days when the HOT days also had HOT nights! CERT opened a cooling center at the request of Fire Chief Gamez. That is one way to cool down.

HOT celestial skies: To escape the heat four of us went up to the Donnell lookout and enjoyed a picnic dinner. The view from our picnic table was spectacular. The winds were cool and the skies were gray and moist. Believe it or not this was a June evening! We had a feeling that if we stayed one more minute we would get soaked so we packed up and hiked back to the car. On the way down the hill we were hoping to get a glimpse of the Strawberry Moon...it seemed like maybe we were not going to see it when all of a sudden there it was! We stopped on the side of the road to take a few pictures. The motto for that night was: Good friends, good food, good memories and it was a HOT time!



A Strawberry moon rises over Tuolumne County

HOT trainings: We had two HOT trainings this month, the Nugget and the CERT hands on training...you will read more about them in the newsletter. Let me just remind you that the CERT trainings have restarted. We do them the last Saturday of the month and they are open to everyone. The idea is to train our community to be more prepared when a disaster happens. We will post information in the newsletter about our trainings. You are welcome, join us, it is a HOT time!



Evening at Donnell Vista

# NUGGET LIVE FIRE TRAINING

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager, THA-CERT

Deployments rarely work out according to a plan but that is part of getting us prepared for an emergency, something will happen that is unexpected no matter how well prepared you are for it.

CERT received a request from Captain Schuller, approved by Chief Gamez, to support the Nugget Live Fire Training June 2nd, 3rd, & 4th. The request was for CERT to refill the SBCA tanks for both the students and the instructors. We would need 2-4 volunteers from 0800-1700 (5:00PM) each day. That was plan "A". Mike Mandell contacted our CERT volunteers with the request and started to create a schedule according to availability. As time got closer, it was evident that the temperature was going to be hot and we received an additional request for CERT to set up a Cooling Station, so plan "B" went into effect.



June 2nd, the first day. Our team arrived at 0800 so we could set up the Cooling Station and get trained on using the compressor to fill the tanks. The volunteers included myself, Lise Lemonnier, Allan Hancock, Bob Schreiner, Mary Schreiner, Charli Freeman, and John Buckingham. I was the lead and had a plan but needed to wait to confirm with Captain Schuller prior to executing. As it turns out Captain Schuller's wife was in labor and he was not going to be attending, enter plan "C". Captain Slater was taking his place. I confirmed with Captain Slater the plan for the Cooling Station etc. He approved and we all got started making

it happen. It was already warm so it seemed like a really good idea to have the cooling station going.

We set up both the cooling station and canopy for tank filling with ease since we have done it many times as a team. We got the cooling fan in place and let it run all day long. As it turned out, no one used it except the CERT team to eat lunch.

It was decided that we would not spend the time the next day to set up the cooling station, plan "D". Added to our obligations that day Lise was on crosswalk duty (plan "E") so she had to leave for about 30 minutes...no problem Mary & Bob stayed in case we needed to fill tanks. We decided to take down the bulk of the items prior to Mary & Bob leaving so that Lise and I would not have to do it alone later in the day. We used the sUAS vehicle to take the heavy items from one end of the campus to the other, which worked well until all of a sudden the truck would not start, plan "F". Did I mention it was hot?

## NUGGET LIVE FIRE TRAINING, cont'd

We called Mike Mandell who was **not** supposed to volunteer that day but was on call and we utilized his knowledge multiple times. This time he said, 'I will be right there with jumper cables and a battery charger'. As we were waiting for him, the CSD guys drove up and offered to use this as training for one of their new operators, plan "G". He came over with a battery charger attempted to get the truck started...click was all we heard. Mike showed up and hooked his battery charger to the truck thinking that his was better than the other brand...click was all we heard.

It was decided that the starter was probably bad and needed to be replaced...so we (Bob, Captain Slater, Jason, Lise, and I) pushed the truck (with Mike in the driver seat [the editor would like it noted that she was very busy taking photos of the entire process and was, therefore, unable to assist]) out of the way till we could look at it, which was going to be when the weather cooled a bit!

We filled some tanks during the day but we seemed to be able to keep up with the flow...so we let most of the volunteers go home, plan "H". Lise & I stayed behind thinking this would be an easy shift. That is when the tanks started coming in to be refilled and they kept on coming. We filled and filled until we could not pick up another tank. We left at



PUUUUSH!! THA-CERT team members Lise Lemonnier, Carol Hallett, and Bob Schreiner get assistance pushing the truck from THCSO employee Jason, Captain Slater, while Mike Mandell steers.

1830 (6:30pm). I started out the day with my back feeling a little sore; by the end of the day I was just barely walking. I knew I was not going to be much help the next day so plan "I" went into effect.

I called Lise to see if she would be the lead, and she agreed. I called out to other CERT members to see if I could get some extra help. Of course the CERT members rose to the occasion. Ron Kessler would arrive the next day from 1300-1500 (1-3) and Wes Jordan would do the same hours on Friday. Now we had extra help so I could stay home and rest my back...which I did!

## NUGGET LIVE FIRE TRAINING, cont'd

June 3rd, We got approval to start at 0900 instead of 0800 the following day, which was better. Lise did a great job as leader and things went relatively smoothly. The instructors asked us to keep the compressor off in the morning while they were teaching, reviewing drills and demonstrating, plan "J". We did our set up and waited. We did not have to set up the cooling station but instead used the tents to shade the volunteers filling tanks, we made sure we had plenty of water for the volunteers and used the mister fan to help keep



the air cooler...another hot day.

We started filling bottles but again the demand was not that great.

There was an issue with keeping the compressor running and it we were told by the technician to put a block of wood in a specific location and that made the difference. Plan "K" included Charli doing crosswalk duty for Lise, since Lise was the lead for he team. Ron came and was a great relief for the team. Everyone went home at their scheduled time, with Lise and Bob remaining...and then the tanks started coming in... one after the other...stacking up, Bob & Lise filling as fast as the compressor would allow. Carol

called to see if they had finished, Lise told her that they had 3 more tanks...an hour later they were still filling. Finally at 1900 (7:00) they left. That was a long day!

Carol got debrief from Lise, then contacted the Chief to say that it would make more sense for the CERT volunteers to show up later and stay later. Carol informed the team to start at 1000, plan "L".

June 4th, Lise showed up at 0900 and helped Mike with the truck... while it was cool. Mike wanted to trouble shoot a bit. He got under the truck so he could hear the click sound to locate the starter motor.



## NUGGET LIVE FIRE TRAINING, cont'd

Lise got in the truck, turned the key and it started! Mike was surprised...luckily he did not have his hat on at the time.

The team showed up at 1000 and popped up the canopies around the work area for shade, set up the mister fan, chairs etc so that the team could be comfortable while filling tanks. The team filled tanks as required. Carol showed up after her meeting with the Chief, just to thank everyone for rising to the occasion. Since Carol was there Lise left for crosswalk duty. As it turns out the compressor would not come up to pressure so we could not fill tanks. We called the technician, we had CSD workers look at it,

Fire Captains Zeff & Tucker looked to see if they could make it work. Carol made the decision that the CERT team would breakdown and put things away, plan "M".

She told Captain Zeff that if he got the compressor up and running she would have a team back there within 30 minutes to support them but it was too hot to have people just sitting in the sun. He agreed to call. Moments later Chief Gamez called with the exact same



thought...plan "N" was executed. It was soon decided that the compressor was not going to be functional the rest of the day and Carol informed the team to stand down.

The Nugget Live Fire Training continued and was a success; these are just the things that happen in the background.

# VOLUNTEERS WITH SOMETHING EXTRA

by Mary Schreiner, PIO, THA-CERT

CERT could not exist without our volunteers. They each come with different skills and talents and volunteerism takes many different forms; there is no one "right" way to do it. This month I spoke with two people who have donated many hours of their time to THA-CERT...then some.

Ron Edson first learned about CERT from his hiking group...some of whom are CERT members. He heard about the work they were doing in assisting at the Public Health drive-through vaccine



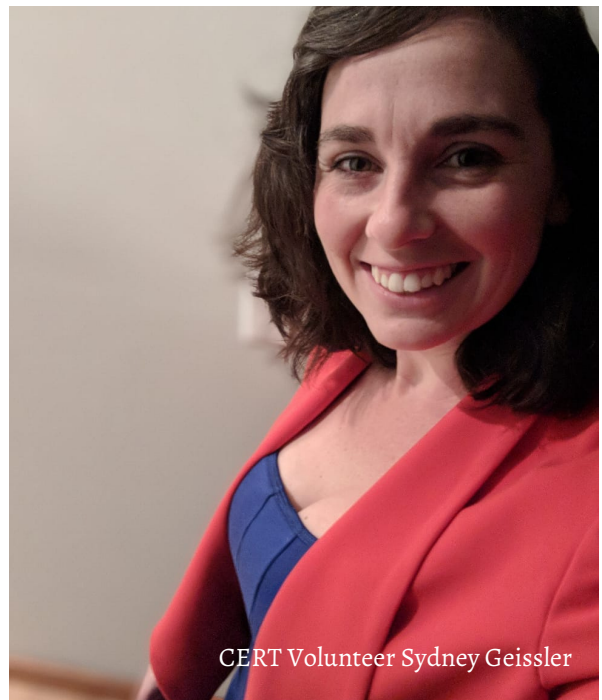
clinics and wanted to do his part to support the vaccine efforts. Not only did Ron volunteer several hours working at the clinics in various capacities but, as part of Chevron's Active Retiree Grant Program, he also arranged for a grant of \$500 for 20 hours of his volunteer service to be donated to THA-CERT via the Sonora Area Foundation.

Volunteering comes naturally to Ron. Not only has he donated time to CERT, he also volunteers at our local radio station, KAAD-LP in Sonora.

CERT volunteer Ron Edson

Oh, and did I mention that Ron isn't an "official" member of CERT? Yes! You, too can volunteer with CERT, in certain capacities, without completing the Basic Training.

Another "unofficial" CERT volunteer is Sydney Geissler, although I think she deserves special dispensation due not only to the number of hours she has volunteered, but also her mom is our very own powerhouse, Lise Lemonnier. Sydney has volunteered with cooling stations and POD clinics, and completed some of the firefighter rehab training. She also has done part of the Basic Training, but she relocated outside of Tuolumne county before she could complete the course. Of course, she didn't let that stop her from volunteering countless hours helping with tasks that can be done remotely such as creating fliers, scanning documents, and updating member lists, along with anything else she can do to assist. Through Sydney's employer, Medtronic, she is able to not only match any monetary donations she makes, but also can get donations for her volunteer hours.



CERT Volunteer Sydney Geissler

The donations really add up, as Medtronic will donate \$200 for every 6 hours of her time that Sydney donates.

Ron and Sydney are just two examples of how you can help your community without being an official CERT member. Interested in learning more about volunteering with THA-CERT? Please contact: [twainhartecert@gmail.com](mailto:twainhartecert@gmail.com).

# SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

by John Buckingham, Safety Officer, THA-CERT

Always be aware of your surroundings and potential safety risks.

Hydrate often and frequently during these warm summer days, avoiding caffeine and sugary drinks.

There are tourists in our area who are unfamiliar with where they are going or local driving practices, so drive defensively and safely.

And remember to always be aware of fire danger and practice fire safety!



# TWAIN HARTE LIBRARY

by John Buckingham, Secretary, High Country Friends of the Library

Just a reminder that the Twain Harte Library is open 5 days a week:

- Tuesday: 2pm to 6pm
- Wednesday: 2pm to 6pm
- Thursday: 2pm to 6pm
- Friday: 10am to 2pm
- Saturday: 10am to 2pm

The main Tuolumne County Library in Sonora, and the branch libraries in Groveland and Tuolumne are also open. Go to <https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/416/Library> for all locations and hours.



# TRAINING UPDATE

by Dawn Cronin, Training Unit Leader, THA-CERT

On Saturday, June 26, we offered a Hands-On Training session to all Twain Harte Area and Groveland CERT trainees. Training took place at the THCSO facility on Vantage Point. Overall, there were 16 CERT attendees and 3 or 4 Twain Harte Fire Personnel. Topics covered were:

**Medical** - Instructed by TH Fire Captain Mark Slater

Capt. Slater showed participants techniques for bandaging a head injury, splinting a leg injury, and immobilizing an injured arm.

**Fire Suppression** - Instructed by TH Fire Chief Neil Gamez, assisted by Intern Jacob Tucker  
Trainees participated in hands-on instruction of how to handle a fire extinguisher to extinguish a small fire, and the importance of teamwork for safety when entering a fire scene.

**Light Search and Rescue: Cribbing** - Instructed by Doug Simmons, assisted by Operations Section Chief Mike Mandell

Doug taught participants methods of using basic objects as leverage and cribbing to safely and securely rescue an individual from under weighted objects such as debris or a collapsed structure.

(NOTE: While CERT does not anticipate being called upon to fight fires or rescue and treat injured people, these skills are valuable in our personal lives, and the basic knowledge may help us assist fire personnel appropriately when we are deployed.)

Afterward, Carol Hallett gave us a review and tour of our Firefighter Rehab vehicle, a very robust and well-stocked retired ambulance which we purchased through grants and donations. And last, we were given a review of our UAS fleet (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) and a brief flight demonstration by our UAS Unit Leader Michelle Wagner. We are assembling an impressive fleet of aircraft, capable of very important tasks to help fire personnel find and put out fires and hot spots, among many other uses.



Capt. Mark Slater demonstrates proper sling technique to THA-CERT members Linda Postma (standing) and Jan Morris



(Left) Cribbing training with (clockwise from top) Mike Mandell, Doug Simmons, Scott Belser, Teresa Doty, and Keith Martin

# TRAINING UPDATE, cont'd

For 5 attendees, this was the final step towards receiving their completion certificate and becoming a CERT Member. Congratulations, new Members! Sincere thanks goes to all who attended, and helped set up and break down. It was a very hot day, but there was a lot of enthusiasm and a lot of smiles.

If you have friends, family, or colleagues that are interested in CERT Training, please have them contact us at [TwainHarteCert@gmail.com](mailto:TwainHarteCert@gmail.com) or visit <https://www.twainhartecsd.com/twain-harte-area-cert>. Watch our newsletter for announcements of future training sessions.

Carol Hallett (below, right) shows off the Firefighter Rehab vehicle to (clockwise from right) Teresa Doty, Len Otley, Cathy Parker, Doug Simmons, Mike Mandell, Scott Belser, Matt Kain, and Keith Martin



First Aid training with (clockwise from top) Capt. Slater, Keith Martin, Teresa Doty, and Scott Belser



CERT 2021 Basic Training Participants (from left)

Back Row: Bob Asquith, John Buckingham, Teresa Doty, Len Otley, Scott Belser, Doug Simmons, and Mike Mandell  
Front Row: Michelle Wagner, Jan Morris, Dawn Cronin, Carol Hallett, Cathy Parker, Matt Kain, Keith Martin, and Randie Revilla

# A FAREWELL TO A GRAND COUPLE

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager, THA-CERT

You have probably heard this story before because I have told it so many times but it is my favorite story to tell. CERT is in Tuolumne County because Dore Bietz brought it to our county by starting the very first CERT at the tribe. She shared the concept with then Chief Todd McNeal who immediately saw the value in the program and decided to see if we could start another CERT. The idea was to have CERT throughout Tuolumne County but that did not get traction so Twain Harte Area CERT (THA-CERT) was born.



Above, The Founding Members of THA-CERT: Back row (left to right): Todd McNeal, Doug Tucker, Eric Marvel, Susan Marvel, Gary Sipperley, Rich Knudson, Bill McManus, Francis McManus, Bill Schiavo Front row (left to right): Wes Jordan, Carol Hallett, Marilyn Knudson, Alan Wallace, and Dore Bietz.

Thanks to Dore, Todd, Dennis Lewis and Eric Marvel (instructor and founding member) for teaching that first class back in April 2014. There were 12 people in that class which we fondly refer to as the Founding Members of the Twain Harte Area CERT. At the end of training we looked at each other and said, “now what do we do?” We had many different ideas, tried out lots of them and those concepts became what THA-CERT is today. Those founding members are the foundation upon which we built THA-CERT. All that we have accomplished was a direct result of those ideas and tasks completed. Bill and Frances McManus were in that original class and are two of our founding members. They

contributed to the growth of our team as well as out reach to the community.

Bill was our original Safety Officer and helped to ensure the safety of our members and community at events, trainings and meetings. Bill started telling us about the possibility of a pandemic back in the beginning, we loved to tease him about being “chicken little” but one of the goals of CERT is to be prepared. So we added that to our



Sterling Brown (left) with Bill and Frances McManus

## A FAREWELL TO A GRAND COUPLE, *cont'd*



accomplishments...Bill not only helped train preparedness in our basic training classes he was instrumental in the development and teaching of our Preparedness workshop. Those workshops helped a good number of us be more prepared for the pandemic that we all lived through.

While Bill was busy on the preparedness aspect, Frances was our Liaison Officer doing out reach to the community. She opened up opportunities to work with the Faith based community. We did “go bag” demos for the group as well as our preparedness presentation. She took on the task of investigating to find churches throughout Tuolumne County that could be used for evacuation shelters, set up meetings and

toured the facilities. From those visits she created a report that was given to Public Health as resources for the community. She organized some fund raising by getting us “Preview Nights” through CRT.

I could go on and on about the contributions by these two members but suffice it to say that Bill and Frances were there to support our community and CERT at every turn. They volunteered for everything and were always there to support the community that they loved.

These two are fighters and when life events tried to knock them down they just got back up and continued on.

Now the time is right for them to start the next chapter of their life and that means for them to be closer to one of their sons. They sold their house, packed up their things and shipped them off to Colorado. After attending the 100th family reunion (yes, their roots go deep here) they jumped in their trailer and started their next adventure.

We could not be happier for them, being close to family is the most important part of life...but we will miss them with all our hearts.

A toast to a grand couple! Carol Hallett (top) toasts Bill and Frances McManus with (clockwise from top) Gary Sipperly, Bill, Frances, Jan Morris, Rich Knudson, Dave Hallett, and Dawn Cronin joining in



# BECOME A FIREWISE COMMUNITY

by Karen Caldwell, Tuolumne County Firewise Council

**Join your neighbors to reduce your fire risk!**

With catastrophic wildfires becoming the norm, we face the very real danger of experiencing an event like the Car Fire which devastated the town of Paradise, CA. Here in Tuolumne County, we live in fire dependent ecosystems. Wildfire is a natural process in our forests and grasslands. However, there are actions we can take to reduce the risk to our homes and community.

The national Firewise USA® recognition program provides a collaborative framework to help neighbors in a geographic area get organized, find direction, and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their homes and community and to reduce wildfire risks at the local level. Any community that meets a set of voluntary criteria on an annual basis and retains an “In Good Standing Status” may identify itself as being a Firewise® Site.

**By joining together, we can accomplish more than we can individually.**

The Firewise USA Program is free. It is a grass roots effort of neighbors working together to reduce the risk of wildfire damage to their neighborhoods. You can do as little or as much as you can/want. You are already required to do your home clearance (State code 4291), why not take credit for it?

Here are some of the many Benefits of joining a Firewise Community:

- Reduced risk to life and property from wildfire
- Get a Framework for Action
- Community building & citizen pride
- Sharing resources, helping neighbors
- Access to funding & assistance
- Discounts on fire insurance (USAA, CAL Fire Plan, State Farm, Mercury)



**Become a part of the solution!**

There are 8 recognized FIREWISE USA community sites in Tuolumne County and more are in progress. Join the growing network of more than 1,750 recognized FIREWISE USA communities across the nation taking actions to prepare and protect their homes.

## BECOME A FIREWISE COMMUNITY, cont'd



Join with a group of your neighbors to organize and apply for your area to become a nationally recognized Firewise Community.

The program is administered by NFPA® (National Fire Protection Association) and is co-sponsored by the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. While the NFPA® administers this program, individuals and communities participate on a voluntary basis.

For information on getting started contact: Karen Caldwell at [tcfirewise@gmail.com](mailto:tcfirewise@gmail.com), 209-559-9527. Additional information can be found on <https://tuolumnefiresafe.org/>

## WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?

by Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief, THA-CERT

The total number of volunteer hours for THA-CERT for June are as follows:

Administrative: 142.5  
Training: 102.5  
Deployments: 371  
Total hours for June: 616



Instructors and their assistants get instructions from Program Manager Carol Hallett prior to the Basic Training Hands On Module in June

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Local events for the month of July:

## Mother Lode Fair

July 1 -4, 3-11pm

Mother Lode Fairgrounds, Sonora



## Fabulous Fridays

Beginning July 2nd

3-7:00 PM

Downtown Twain Harte

## Concerts in the Pines

Saturdays July 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31

6-8:00 pm

Eproson Park

## July 4th - Independence Day

Reminder: ALL fireworks are illegal in Tuolumne County, including those marked "Safe and Sane". Please celebrate safely and responsibly!

## Concerts in the Park and Outdoor Market

Wednesdays July 7, 14, 21, and 28

6-8:00 pm

Westside Park, Tuolumne

Market beginning at 4 pm

## Community Yard Sale

July 10th

Downtown Twain Harte

## Twain Harte Summer Outdoor Market

July 24, 25th

10-5:00 PM

Downtown Twain Harte

