



# MONTHLY UPDATE

September 2022

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## NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

by Carol Hallett



September was a busy month, the heat almost took the life out of us all and certainly made it more challenging to get things done but as you will read in this newsletter our team got things accomplished. And then it rained...you just gotta love Mother Nature...she is definitely in control.

It was busy from the very start with the re-establishing the pancake breakfast, appreciating the Columbia College Academy Students, refurbishing the Power Wagon, attending Red Cross Training, Traffic Control deployment, to hosting a training at the end of the month. We had several of our volunteers go on vacation this month, I can't wait to hear the vacation stories. I am really not sure what a vacation is...the reality is that I live on vacation everyday.



We are so blessed to live in this beautiful community.

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.



# PANCAKE'S ARE GREAT

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager, THA-CERT



It was wonderful to see that the Firemen's Pancake breakfast returned to Twain Harte over Labor Day weekend; the tradition has been missed and it came back with enthusiasm. After weeks of planning, shopping, cleaning, and collecting items to pull off the breakfast (over 300 volunteer hours), the day of the event arrived and went off without a hitch.



Ellen, Mike Mandell, John Bagnal, Ben Wagner, Margaret Lawrence

When we assigned a task to a volunteer, they took that job seriously. Ellen made sure that everyone was served milk, juice, butter and other condiments, she did it with a smile. Margaret Lawrence made sure we never ran out of hot delicious coffee donated to us by Motherlode Coffee.

We had CERT volunteers, Columbia College Academy Students, citizen volunteers as well as the firefighters helping to ensure our neighbors enjoyed their Sunday morning breakfast.



Lee Smith

Lee Smith made sure that the pancakes were made just right; they were delicious. Thank you to Sportsmen Cafe for donating the batter.



Mike Mandell, John Bagnal

The Columbia College Academy Students came in force (seven volunteers) to support this event. They were a breath of fresh air and a tremendous help. The young men were helpful, respectful, courteous and fun! It was a pleasure to have them around. This group are going to make wonderful firefighters.

This is a family event and a way to reconnect with community.

People came to visit, eat and spend time together. We even had people playing cards.

It was a comfortable environment to spend time with neighbors.



Academy Students, Steven, Dale & Luis serving Lee Smith with a watchful eye of Mike Mandell

We sure hope you can join us next year.

Donations were made by: 7-11, El Dorado Septic, Twain Harte Market, Business First, Sportsman Cafe, Motherlode Coffee. I would like to send out a special thanks to Lise Lemonnier for all the planning that went into this event. Without her, this event would not have been pulled off.

It's all about community helping community!

# MORNING VISIT TO COLUMBIA COLLEGE

by Mike Mandell, Team Leader, THA-CERT



We were so thankful for the volunteers that came from Columbia College to help us make our Pancake Breakfast such a success that we paid a visit to their classroom to thank them. Carol Hallett and I took a trip to the campus for an early morning visit.

Carol gave a talk about how small the world is and that the firefighting world is even smaller. She gave examples of how connected even this class was to people in our community. She talked about CERT and the relationship between Fire and the CERT volunteers. She spoke about the different ways that CERT contributes to the community as well as ways the students can add to their skill set through CERT if they are inclined.



Carol Hallett

Carol created Certificates of Appreciations (signed by her and Twain Harte Fire Chief Gamez) that the students can use to help build their resumes. She explained that the classes they take, trainings they engage with, and volunteering that they do all together will help them stand out from other candidates when they apply for jobs.

## Academy Student Volunteers



Chase Dubnerke, Vince Lee, Jesse Hart-McNeal, Steven Sherzline, Blake Greener, Luis Stancec, Dale Stancec III

with Mike Mandell & Carol Hallett from THA-CERT



# Columbia College

# POWER WAGON IS RUNNING GREAT

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager, THA-CERT



The 1951 Power Wagon has come a long way, it still has a bit to go before we call it a project completed but this was a real mile stone month for the Power Wagon. Dave Hallett changed the points and timed the engine so that it runs down the road smoothly, slow but smooth. He also changed the master cylinder and bled the brakes. Now the truck stops without putting your foot through the floor board.

We were taking the truck on a test drive and our neighbor saw us and took this picture. When this vehicle goes down the road people stop and stare, wave and yell out how cool it is! It certainly attracts attention. We were able to return the truck to its storage spot until we can accomplish the next step.



Carol & Dave Hallett, test driving the 1951 Power Wagon

# RED CROSS CALL DISPATCH TRAINING

by Matt Kain, Operations Section Chief, THA-CERT



Have you ever wondered how Red Cross keeps track of all their calls? We had a few people ask about that and so Carol Hallett, our Program Manager, called Red Cross to find out. She not only found out, she set up a meeting so that we could see the answer as well.

Debbie Calcote, Disaster Program Manager for Red Cross (Amador, Calaveras & Tuolumne County), hosted a presentation. They use Sales Force, which is a relational database with a custom interface so that the program is easy to use, easy to follow and has a powerful reporting system.



**American  
Red Cross**

Debbie did an awesome job going through how calls come into the system, how they are assigned and how easy it is to set up follows up etc. It was very educational.

# TRAFFIC CONTROL FOR LIBRARY FUNDRAISER

by Margaret Lawrence,  
Traffic Control Unit Leader, THA-CERT



A deployment request came in through our Program Manager and we responded. It was not an emergency but it was for a good cause.

The Friends of the Library for Tuolumne County had a fundraiser at Inner Sanctum Basecamp in Columbia and we oversaw traffic control and parking. We had three volunteers, Ron Kessler, Carol Hallett, and myself.



# TRAFFIC CONTROL FOR LIBRARY FUNDRAISER, cont'd

To our surprise, Bill-Schiavo (Founding Member of THA-CERT) was there to help also.

It was a two hour gig and then we joined the festivities. Rod Harris & the Columbia Big



From Left: Margaret Lawrence, John Buckingham, Carol Hallett, Ron Kessler

Band played some great music, appetizers were delicious, and the beer and wine was thirst-quenching and topped the evening off just perfectly. They had approx. 100 people in attendance. The fundraiser benefits Twain Harte and Sonora Libraries.

As Unit Leader for Traffic Control I could not have been prouder of the job that was done. It went very smoothly...the training has paid off!

*Editor's Note: the next day, all volunteers received a nice email from Friends of the Library VP, and Safety officer for THA-CERT, John Buckingham, that said "Thank you for volunteering at our Library event last night at Inner Sanctum!!! You all did a terrific job that was greatly appreciated! You provided a fun and safe environment for all! Have a terrific week. And a million thanks for your efforts!"*

## SEARCH & RESCUE DEPLOYMENT DRILL

by Michelle Wagner, UAV Unit Leader, THA-CERT

We had a very successful team training this month! We had a total of 15 CERT members from both Groveland and Twain Harte Area CERT including 3 trainers from THA-CERT and two Columbia College Fire Academy Students.

We started the morning off at Vantage Point with some refresher training provided by Carol Hallett on Chain of Command, Radio Operations, GPS, and working in groups. The group then carpoled to Carol's place where we put all that knowledge to work in a search and rescue scenario.

Carol played the role of Incident Commander, Michelle Wagner acted as Team Leader, and Randie Revilla helped out as a floater/observer.



We divided the group into two teams and after a team briefing, we deployed to different areas of the property to search for two groups of missing hikers. Fire Academy Students, Dale and Luis Stanec, acted as our patient transport team.

Britne Gose and Jeff Bagge, both from Groveland, got to practice as group leaders and did a wonderful job.



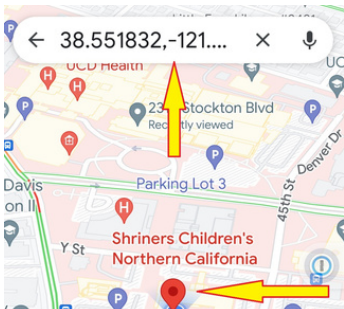
# SEARCH AND RESCUE DEPLOYMENT DRILL, cont'd

The rest of the group acted as “ground pounders” and everyone got practice using radios, reading maps, searching, and locating coordinates using their cell phone GPS.



The training was extremely successful with the entire group exhibiting their new skills professionally and to good effect.

Articles of clothing, remnants of campfires, and other “clues” were located along with their GPS coordinates. Several simulated patients were located and safely returned to the treatment area. And, perhaps more importantly, people learned new skills and had fun doing it.



It was extremely gratifying to see how well everyone performed and I am looking forward to the next group training.

## OCTOBER IS FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

by John Buckingham, Safety Officer, THA-CERT



Do you know what steps to take to keep your family safe during a fire emergency? Here are some things you can do to prepare:

**Create a family escape plan.** The entire family should know exactly what to do and where to go in the event of a fire.

**Fire extinguishers.** Please check/test the status of your fire extinguishers. Review locations and how to use the extinguishers with family members

# OCTOBER IS FIRE PREVENTION MONTH, cont'd

**Smoke alarms**, this month is the month to test and change batteries

**Fireplace safety**, Make sure your fireplace and chimneys are clean and you use a spark screen on front of your fire on the fireplace

**Halloween decorations**, should be kept clear of burning candles and heat-induced appliances

**Gas**, check for leaks and open valves.

**Kitchen dangers**, Never leave your kitchen unattended when using a cooking surface

**Fire Safety**, Know how and when to call for safety when confronted with a fire. Review protocols with family members.



## SUPPORT YOUR FIREFIGHTERS

THA-CERT & Fire Association are putting together a fund to help support Twain Harte Fire Department so that they can support and respond to our needs. There are two items that we are working toward:



A Lucas Chest Compression System, which is an automatic CPR machine...which would be invaluable if a person needed to be transported while having heart issues.

An AED with infant/child reduced defibrillation electrode as well as a stair chair pro. The Fire Chief is always looking at the ahead at what the community might need in the future, the future is now!

There are several ways to support this effort.

One way is to shop at the 2 local stores in Twain Harte that carry our memorabilia. The Fire Association created new

swag to sell this year. We have t-shirts, hats, mugs, and pint glasses for sale at The Harte of the Kitchen and Earthly Essentials. Look for the posters in the windows.

Another way is to make a donation to THA-CERT & Fire Assoc.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

# WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?

by Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief, THA-CERT



busy, busy, busy! The total THA-CERT volunteer hours for September were:

Administration =	144
Training =	62
Deployment =	231
<b>Total hours =</b>	<b>437</b>



## Events



### Twain Harte Outdoor Christmas Market

**Day:** Saturday & Sunday  
**Date:** October 15 & 16, 2022  
**Location:** Downtown Twain Harte  
**Time:** 10:00 am -5:00 PM

CERT & Fire will have fundraising booths:  
 Beer, Wine, Margaritas  
 Shirts, Hats, Mugs & Glasses  
 Stop by to support THA-CERT & Twain Harte Fire Association.

Visit Tuolumne County:  
<https://www.visittuolumne.com/events>

Twain Harte Chamber of Commerce:  
<https://www.twainhartecc.com/events>

The Firefighters Benefit Dinner has been postponed until Spring, due to multiple scheduling conflicts. We hope you join us when we hold this fun event next year!

## Meetings

### THCSD Board Meeting

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

**Day:** Wednesday  
**Date:** October 12, 2022  
**Time:** 9:00 am  
**Location:** Vantage Point Mtg Room



### CERT & Fire Association Board Meeting

**Day:** Thursday  
**Date:** October 13, 2022  
**Time:** 9:30 am  
**Location:** Vantage Point Basement Office

## Training

### Columbia College Academy Live Fire Training

**Day:** Monday-Wednesday  
**Date:** October 17-19, 2022  
**Location:** Vantage Point Training Center  
 CERT will be supporting this training with Firefighter Rehab & Tank refill

### Tuolumne County Public Health Department

will be offering a FREE flu vaccination clinic for ages 2 and up

**Day:** Wednesday  
**Date:** October 12, 2022  
**Time:** 9-4 pm  
**Location:** Mother Lode Fairgrounds, Manzanita Building.

In-house clinic will be offering flu shots every Tuesday from 8:30-11:30 am by appointment only (call 533-7401), starting October 18th.