



MONTHLY UPDATE

February 2021

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NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

by **Carol Hallett**

We just finished a short but wild month and are heading into the new third month of the year. The end of winter and the beginning of spring but that is not the first thing that comes to my mind when I think of March. The first time I say or think of the third month of the year, it brings back a memory from my childhood. I think of it each time March comes studding in.

When I was young, my Mom had a heck of a time getting my teenage brothers out of bed on the weekends. She used to go to her collection of records, pull out one, and put it on the phonograph. As it rotated on the turntable she would lower the needle onto the vinyl with the volume up as loud as it could go. Which album you might ask? Sousa's Marches. Now if that did not get you out of bed, nothing would. I always get a smile on my face and think, seven against one was never easy but she had a way to even the odds.

We were lucky here in Tuolumne County, we had a much better winter than predicted. I don't know the snow levels but, again, much better than I thought.

With that in mind, maybe our fire season will be lighter, but we cannot just assume that to be the case.

Preparedness is the key to making the seasons easier. Use March as the transition month that it is and start preparing for the summer.

WALK LIKE A PENGUIN

by **Bill McManus, Acting Safety Officer**

While, as of this writing, skies are sunny and days are beginning to warm up, snow and ice are still a very real possibility here in the Mother Lode until the end of spring. CERT Acting Safety Officer, Bill McManus, shares some excellent advice...

Ya'll be careful now. If only it was that easy. Most of us know how to be careful, but we all lose focus from time to time. The biggest new threat right now is Covid-19. But we all know that we can mitigate that threat by keeping our distance, wearing good masks, washing our hands whenever we touch something that has been touched by others, and getting vaccinated as soon as possible.

We just have to stay focused. A more welcomed danger is all the snow and ice we finally have. When I moved to Twain Harte my doctor said to be especially careful shoveling snow. He said that since it is cold out you don't feel the stress as much and it is common to induce heart attacks by overdoing it.

Trouble was, my 90 year old mother-in-law would help me with the task. She was strong as a bull and had 80 years of experience in the task. It took extreme courage to admit I was bushed and quit before she did.

A couple of years ago some friends from Sacramento came to visit on the day of the year's first snowfall. We had prepped a great dinner but decided to take a walk to show off our beautiful village first. Well, they ended up eating out and staying at a B&B in Murphys. Frances and I spent the night in the ER tending to her broken wrist.

Boy, a little focus sure would have been good then. Also a little tip: don't get injured in late December, you'll pay two years' deductibles! That brings up the title's safety tip. In talking about slippery ice with our son's girlfriend in Mongolia, she said that they had learned to walk like a penguin. I googled it and it's a real thing, complete with lots of cute graphics. You waddle along slew footed (toes pointed out) taking short steps and trying to step down flat footed with your weight over your feet. You keep your hands out of your pockets for balance and if you do slip, you quickly form a ball like you are trying to splash all your friends at the pool. Land on big soft parts of your body, not the skinny or hard parts.

So, in closing; ya'll be careful now!



DEPLOYMENTS

by Mary Schreiner, Traffic/Crowd Control Unit Leader

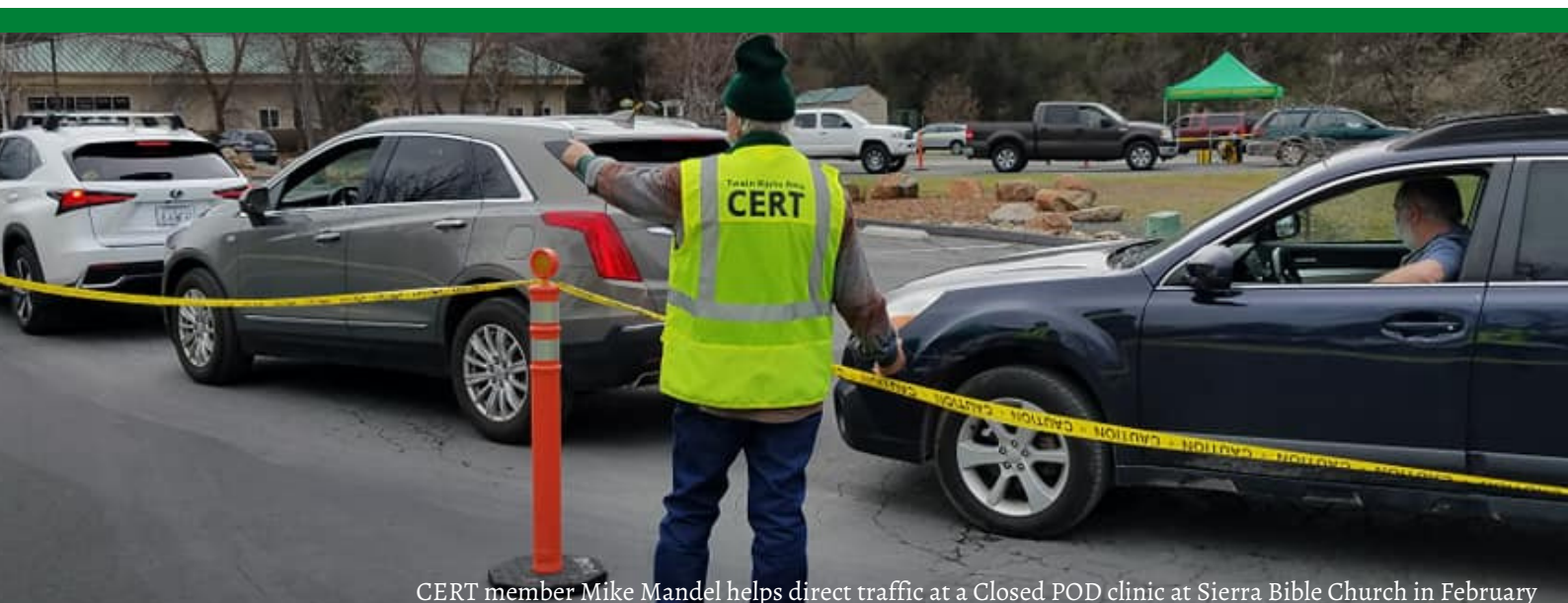
Winter weather, combined with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic mean that our Team have not been as active as it normal is, but that doesn't mean we're all sitting around drumming our fingers. Our Traffic/Crowd control Unit have been busy with the School Crossing Guard duty at Twain Harte School, as well as with the "closed POD" COVID-19 vaccine clinics, hosted by the county's Public Health department.

*"Today we just saved a countless number of lives"
~Bill McManus, CERT Acting Safety Officer*

At least 20% of our county's population have already received at least one dose of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines at either the county clinics, those hosted by Adventist Health, or private pharmacies, such as CVS and RiteAid.

As the vaccine supply chain becomes more reliable, more private pharmacies will be offering the vaccine to their customers. Twain Harte Pharmacy already has started collecting names on a waiting list, in anticipation of receiving doses. The pharmacies are observing the "tiered" protocols for vaccine distribution, so it's not available for everyone, just yet. But with more availability, we'll be moving through those tiers quickly and, hopefully, soon all who desire to do so should be able to receive the vaccine.

We at CERT would again like to thank Sierra Bible Church for providing the use of their facilities for this very important purpose. Having a large and paved facility that also has a safe entrance/exit with a traffic signal is a large part of why the clinics have been able to run so smoothly.



CERT member Mike Mandel helps direct traffic at a Closed POD clinic at Sierra Bible Church in February

DEPLOYMENTS, cont'd

With having to assist at up to two Closed POD clinics each week, stream-lining the process of getting cars off of Tuolumne Road, and making sure everyone there has an appointment, registration form, and photo ID, is a work in progress. As the supply chain becomes more dependable and the number of vaccines received in each shipment here in Tuolumne county grows, the clinics have been serving progressively larger groups. The first clinic with which CERT assisted was for 400 people; the most recent clinic, at the end of February, was targeting 1000 injections.

In an effort to keep on top of the growing numbers, while still maintaining COVID-safe protocols, we utilized "ZOOM" to hold a meeting of all who have assisted at the clinics to share ideas and experiences in order to make improvements to our process while making it as "consumer-friendly" as possible.

In reality, this is what we have been training for all of these years. When you hear "Community Emergency Response Team" one tends to think of fire, flood, and earthquakes, but a pandemic is definitely an emergency for our community and our training in traffic control, Closed POD, and radio communications have come in handy for this other kind of natural disaster.

"Supporting the vaccine clinic was an exhilarating experience" ~John Buckingham, CERT volunteer

BECOME A CERT MEMBER!

One unexpected benefit from assisting at the POD clinics is the number of people who have expressed interest in joining CERT. At every clinic, so far, people have stopped to ask how they can join CERT. If you are interested in becoming a member of CERT you just need to:

1. Send a note to twainhartecert@gmail.com if you want a manual to refer to during the online training.
2. Take the online course: <https://medicine.utah.edu/rmcoeh/about-us/outreach/cert.php>
3. Email completed certification to twainhartecert@gmail.com

Each person who wants to join THA-CERT or Groveland Area CERT can take this online course. This is a 20 hour course that has been reconstructed and condensed to about 12-16 hours on line with one day of hands-on training, the date for which has yet to be determined.

HOSPITAL NEEDS HELP LOVING TUOLUMNE CO.

by Frances McManus, Liaison Officer

Adventist Health Sonora is looking for senior citizens who might need help with clearing yards, downed trees, etc., for the April 24th "Love Tuolumne County" service day.

Do you know of seniors who need help with projects like this, or having ramps built, or fire abatement? This is where the hospital would like to focus their volunteers on that day. The request comes from Mario DeLise, Director of Mission and Spiritual Care at Adventist Health Sonora. If you know of someone who needs this assistance, please contact Frances McManus by phone, at (405) 246-8910, or email to: rosrockred@gmail.com. I will forward the information to Mario for consideration.



RADIO TRAINING CLASS

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager

CERT have realized that having radio skills is an important part of Traffic Control. We have experienced the importance each week as we have been volunteering at the vaccine clinics. With this knowledge we have decided to offer a Radio Training Class in March. Michelle Wagner will be the instructor. We will be using ZOOM to accomplish the training and this class is optional but strongly suggested for those that are deploying each week. We will have instruction as well as virtual radio skills. The date of the class will be Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 1700 (5:00 PM). We will send out invites to the volunteers who have been working the clinics; if you have not been part of that deployment and want to get the training, send a note to: twainhartecert@gmail.com to attend.



UAS News

by Michelle Wagner, sUAS Unit Leader

We missed the last newsletter with this, but I wanted to take a moment and thank our UAS Crews for remaining on standby after the big storm at the end of January. Doug Simmons, Anthony White-Ramos, Dennis Weibe, Nancy Stevens, and Krystalyn Hodson all made themselves available for response, if needed by OES.

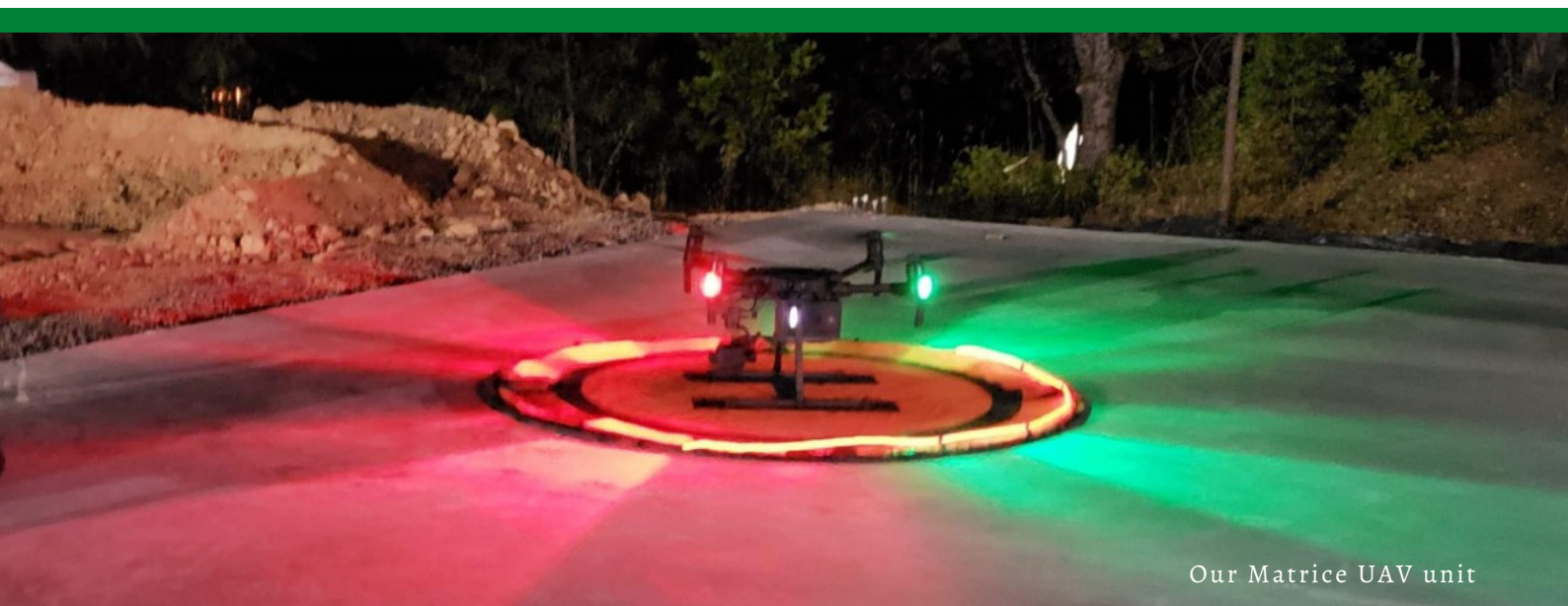
There was a possibility they would be needed to do aerial surveys of areas that were not accessible by vehicle due to downed trees. As luck would have it, I was out of town. Thanks, also, to Carol Hallett for stepping up to cover for me. As it turns out, we weren't needed; however, it was a good exercise in preparedness and flexibility, and dedication of our crew is much appreciated!

This month, Doug Simmons finished up the new UAS Cache at Vantage Point by adding shelves and security locks. All of our gear has been moved over and we are now in business at the new location.

Tony White-Ramos and I met with the UAS class at Columbia College to talk about CERT and, specifically, our UAS Unit. The students had great questions and we are hoping to get some more folks involved in our team and maybe collaboration on some training.

And speaking of collaboration, we have a training set up next month, where we intend to look at what kind of mapping/aerial surveying we can do with our equipment, and what some of the community emergency response needs might be. Tony White-Ramos has been instrumental in setting up this training and we will have a number of special guests from Columbia College and various agencies in the county. We all are very excited about exploring how we can work together and discuss what kind of collaborative endeavors we can all benefit from.

Big things happening! Keep your eye to the sky!



Our Matrice UAV unit

FROM THE COUNTY SUPERVISOR'S DESK

by Anaiah Kirk, Tuolumne County Supervisor, District 3

First I would like to thank Twain Harte CERT for their continued service to this community in volunteering at vaccine clinics. Your work is enduring and appreciated.

In January 2021, our board conducted its annual retreat to set priorities for 2021. I am pleased the priorities were reflective of the past two years which will continue momentum in those directions. This year, we dove deeper into the priorities with specifics. We also discussed what success looks like and how we might be able to grade success. Our board agreed to work to set attainable goals while being able to grade success with measurable results moving forward. Please visit my website www.anaiahkirk.com to view the 2021 Strategic Goals & Objectives.

One of the priorities for our board was to support healthy families and in doing so, request local control from Governor Newsom in responding to COVID-19. On that note, I co-authored a resolution with Supervisor Haff requesting State and Local COVID-19 Partnership. You can review the full resolution at www.anaiahkirk.com under “For the Record”.

When campaigning for District 3 supervisor over two years ago, one of the issues I felt was extremely important was the issue of water rights. Now it is as if a once-in-a-civilization opportunity has come knocking on our door. Literally, an opportunity has arisen and now is our chance to secure water rights for our future. On 2/18/2021 Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors held a joint meeting with TUD regarding the current development of possibly obtaining water rights lost in 1914.



Lyons Dam, photo from MyMotherlode.com

FROM THE COUNTY SUPERVISOR'S DESK, *cont'd*

PG&E and T.U.D have been in confidential discussions for T.U.D to acquire the facilities from Pinecrest, Lyons Dam, and below. Should T.U.D pass up the good faith offer, PG&E will sell the facilities and water rights to the highest bidder. You can bet the highest bidder will look to make a profit from your water when selling it to you. Should T.U.D acquire it, they will look to provide water to you at cost. Which do you prefer? Yes, there are major concerns, specifically the purchase price and maintenance costs; many were brought up at the meeting and will continue to be discussed. Under the current 1983 contract with PG&E, we get free water as they generate money off the power portion. Why would we want to buy the “bathtub” which costs a lot to maintain, when we can let someone else own the bathtub and continue to collect free water? It is speculating that a private purchaser would give us free water! That 1983 contract would now be in the hands of a new purchaser and subject to a new contract! Some say it is speculation, but attorneys tell me it’s wrong to assume we would continue to get free water from a for-profit purchaser. People say this will not be easy, perhaps not, but it is here. This opportunity is before us and will not be back again. As a ratepayer, as a homeowner, as a father who hopes his kids will raise their children here, I want the most basic and fundamental life support of water here and available here first for them and the generations to come.

Clean up efforts are still on-going from the wind and major snowstorm in January. After multiple requests to State Officials, unfortunately, people who incurred personal damages will have to go through their personal insurance as the emergency declaration does not cover any losses to private homeowners.

Stay Connected.

Every week or two, I do short Facebook video updates on important issues happening in the community and with the Board of Supervisors. Many folks advised it was greatly appreciated, especially when giving up to date info on the wind and snow damage which occurred in late January. Find me on Facebook at Anaiah Kirk.



Damage from late January storms in Tuolumne County

WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?

Despite not having a lot of different activities going on this month, we certainly have racked up the hours. As the POD clinics get more vaccines and the number of people being seen at each clinic grows, we have had to add additional positions, or double-up on existing tasks, to handle the extra traffic. As you can see by our total number of deployment hours, we have been pretty busy...especially considering that February is a short month. The volunteer hours for CERT members for this month are:

Administration = 313.5

Training = 21.5

Deployments = 575

Total = 914 hours



Nancy Stevens and Tony White-Ramos prepare for a UAS training exercise



Traffic lines up for a drive-thru Closed POD vaccine clinic in February