



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

# MONTHLY UPDATE

September 2023

Mary Schreiner, Editor and PIO  
twainhartecert@gmail.com

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## NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

by Carol Hallett

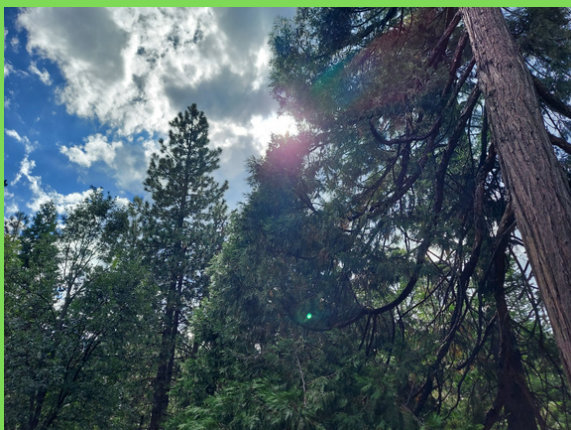


September is a change month and we have sure experienced that phenomenon this month.

We see changes in our little town of Twain Harte with the ribbon cutting and start of the addition to our park. We see it with the new businesses in town, or soon to be (VIVA and The Villa). We see it with the end of summer marked by Labor Day, which means most of the summer tourists are going home. We see it with the beginning of school with the school busses traveling down the roads, the children walking down the streets with their backpacks slung over their shoulders. Most of all we see and feel the change in the weather, the leaves on the trees starting to change colors, and the crispness in the air.

We still have time to prepare for the upcoming winter. Time to get those "Before Winter" projects completed. Remember to clean out your flue so that when you light your first fire in the fireplace you can just enjoy and not worry. Remember to make sure your eves are cleaned out so that the rain will flow nicely through your down spouts. Make sure you have plenty of firewood cut and stacked prior to the winter storms.

We don't know what the winter will bring this year but one thing we can count on is the change!



Calm after the lightening storm

# FIREFIGHTER REHAB DEPLOYMENT

by Mary Schreiner, Public Information Officer



The last day of the month is typically busy for me; the newsletter is due and it seems like no matter what I do to try to get it finished early, there is always something I need at the last minute. As I tried to finish up the August newsletter, my husband, Bob's, phone rang. Mike Mandell was calling with a need for a volunteer to do Firefighter Rehabilitation at a structure fire in Sonora. Bob said he was available and I, never missing an opportunity to skip out on my "homework", said, "I'm available too!" I figured the more the merrier, plus Firefighter Rehab is one of my favorite deployments with CERT.



Bob Schreiner in the FF Rehab vehicle, "heading out" to the Isom Fire

So we jumped up and got ready to meet Mike and Carol Hallett down at the Tuolumne baseball field. They would pick us up on the way to the Isom Fire. We arrived at the ball field at about 3:30 and the Firefighter Rehab vehicle showed up a few minutes after we did. We headed down to the location of the fire and Carol made contact with Incident Command (IC) to see where we should set up.

Once the vehicle was situated where IC requested, we prepared for our first "guests", firefighters who had been on the scene for a few hours already. We handed out water to firefighters who were on their way back to

their fire stations and checked vitals and provided water and snacks to those who were still there to help with mop up.

It's been a while since this team was deployed but we responded quickly, succinctly and provided a much-appreciated service as well as we were there to support our firefighters.



Carol Hallett checks in with Incident Command



Firefighters on the scene of the Isom Fire



We refer to this as being "voluntold"

# TRAINING UPDATE

by Margaret Lawrence, Training Officer



Due to the the upcoming holiday season, we don't have any training scheduled for the rest of 2023, but know that we are busy preparing our training calendar for 2024. Our plan is to once again bring you some informative and useful training next year.

Look for our 2024 training calendar in the December issue of this newsletter.



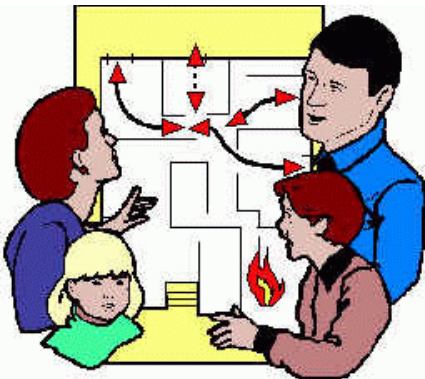
# OCTOBER SAFETY

by John Buckingham, Safety Officer



October is fire safety month so Be Prepared and Be Aware, especially during the fall months, for fire. If you are asked to evacuate, promptly do so.

Here are some things to consider:



## Prior to Evacuation:

- Have your “go bag” with all vitals in a place with easy access (go to [thacert.org](http://thacert.org) for a video on how to pack a go bag or [ready.org](http://ready.org) for lists on what to include in your go bag)
- Pre-plan an escape route from your home and office and consider escape routes from each room in your building. Practice these routes with your family and coworkers
- Have a designated meeting point outside of your home or office and make sure everyone knows where it is.
- Place pet carry cases in a place with easy access

## If Requested to Evacuate:

We at THA-CERT like to say “leave early, leave often”. This means, leave at the “evacuation warning”, rather than wait for the “evacuation order”. You can always return home if the evacuation warning is cancelled. By leaving early, you can avoid the need to rush and the traffic that the evacuation order will create.

- Grab go bag, assist others including children and pets, and evacuate quickly
- Close all windows, interior doors, vents, etc.
- Shut off gas meters, pilot lights, propane tanks
- Turn on all lights on the building to increase visibility in heavy smoke
- Check for any embers, sparks or fires to report

Be aware and be prepared!



# PHONE LINES DOWN

by Mary Schreiner, Public Information Officer



The end of summer brought some unwelcome excitement to Tuolumne County. Electrical storms, lightning strike fires, power outages, and a fiber optic communication line was cut and phone service, including 911 service, within the county was disrupted.



Examples of GMRS radios (above) and FRS Radios (below)



What to do when you can't reach anyone by phone? Radios to the rescue! For those on a neighborhood radio network, the disruption was just proof that having a radio and being part of a network are indispensable in Tuolumne County. With either a GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service) or FRS (Family Radio Service) radio, you can connect to one of the radio networks in your area to access information in an emergency. These networks have proven their worth many times in the last year alone, with severe weather, power outages, and now telephone outages, leaving people isolated and without the ability to communicate with their neighbors or first responders via telephone, while the GMRS & FRS radios worked.

The Twain Harte Radio Net meets twice a week, Wednesday at 7:00 pm and Sunday at 9:00 am. For more information on a Neighborhood Radio Watch in your area, contact TCARES at: <https://tcares.net> (Read about the Great Shake Out Drill on page 11).

## BE PREPARED

Yes, this is an ongoing theme with us, but you can't be too prepared for an emergency. Have you signed up to receive emergency alerts? Everyone in your household should register separately at <https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/1170/Emergency-Alerts>.

Hardening your home and property against wildfire is another way in which you can be prepared. Retrofitting your home with a roof made of metal, clay, or tile; installing metal gutters (and ensuring that they are clear of debris); upgrading to dual-paned windows with one pane of tempered glass, and metal screens on roof vents will help defend against fire from wind-born embers. Maintaining defensible space around your home and all structures on your property is another way you can reduce your risk of loss from wildfire. Even if you have created defensible space in the past, you need to maintain it on a regular basis. Adequate defensible space creates a barrier that can slow a fire; it can also provide firefighters with more time and space to do their jobs. Go to [readyforwildfire.gov](http://readyforwildfire.gov) for more information on what you can do to protect yourself and your home from wildfire.



## BE PREPARED, cont'd

This is also the perfect time to prepare your home and property for the upcoming winter:

- Prepare your home to keep out the cold with insulation, caulking and weather stripping. Learn how to keep pipes from freezing.
- Install and test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors with battery backups (Remember that THA-CERT can help).
- Gather supplies in case you need to stay home for several days without power. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Remember the needs of your pets.
- Have extra batteries for radios and flashlights.
- Have your wood stove or fireplace chimney swept to reduce the risk of a chimney fire
- Clean rain gutters of leaves, pine needles, and other debris



### Winterize your vehicle:

- Create an emergency supply kit for your car. Include tire chains, a shovel, jumper cables, sand, a flashlight, warm clothes, blankets, bottled water, and non-perishable snacks.
- Keep a full tank of gas.

### Generator Safety:

- Generators and fuel should always be used outdoors and at least 20 feet away from windows, doors and attached garages.
- Install working carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that can kill you, your family and pets.
- Keep the generator dry and protected from rain or flooding. Touching a wet generator or devices connected to one can cause electrical shock.
- Always connect the generator to appliances with heavy-duty extension cords.
- Let the generator cool before refueling. Fuel spilled on hot engine parts can ignite.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions carefully.



**TWAIN HARTE AREA**



**THA-CERT SMOKE ALARM PROGRAM**

**SERVING OUR COMMUNITY**

*What/who are Twain Harte Area CERT (THA-CERT)?* We are a dedicated team of community-based volunteers who are trained to support our community.

This team provides the following services to senior and disabled residents in Tuolumne County:

- Free Smoke Alarms/Detectors
- Free Installation
- Free Battery Replacement

If you need a smoke detector installed, need a new battery, or need a ten-year-old smoke detector replaced, we can help for free.

If you are interested, please contact us by sending an email to [twainhartecert@gmail.com](mailto:twainhartecert@gmail.com), or call Mike at 209-770-2674.

<https://www.twainhartecsd.com/smoke-detector-installation>



**Only Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives**

# PAPA SMURF UPDATE

by Bob Schreiner, Logistics Section Chief



The modification of the shipping container, aka “Papa Smurf” is coming along quite nicely. We received all of the construction materials and we had a few “build days” with several volunteers, which made the work go pretty quickly.

We have framed, insulated, and sheathed the interior, with just a few specialized spots to finish, such as the doors and around the “whirlybirds” in the ceiling. That all should be completed in the next few days and then we’re just waiting for the electricity to be run to the container and lights and outlets installed.

Many thanks to all who volunteered: Lise Lemonnier, Mike Mandell, Ed Proctor, Margaret Lawrence, Matt Kain, and Mary Schreiner for their time and labor. I definitely couldn’t have done it without you.



Mike, Bob, and Margaret install framing, while Lise looks on



“Day 1” crew (from left) Bob Schriener, Lise Lemonnier, Matt Kain, Margaret Lawrence, and Mike Mandell



Ed, Mike, Bob, and Matt install sheathing over the insulation



“Day 2” crew (from left): Matt , Ed Proctor, Mike, Mary Schreiner, Bob, and Lise



Matt Kain suits up to work with fiberglass insulation

# 28TH FIREMEN'S PANCAKE BREAKFAST

by Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief



Sunday, September 3rd was the 28th Annual Twain Harte Firemen's Pancake Breakfast at the firehouse in Twain Harte. This has become a favorite event in our community and this year, again, it was very well attended. We served 350 breakfasts and countless cups of coffee.

We received many positive comments on our new set up and how it improved the flow. Chief Gamez said he was proud of the good attendance and all of the CERT volunteers who worked so hard to make the Breakfast a success. The lead this year was Margaret Lawrence who proved that you can do the work and still have fun!



Margaret Lawrence points the way to delicious pancakes, sausage, melon, and more



Lee Smith and Mike Mandell on pancake duty



Ben Wagner, Mary Dearborn, Lise Lemonnier, Alex Osborne, Eileen Sugai, and Bob Wanger await their first customer



Hungry people line up for breakfast



Happy customers

# MANY THANKS



## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



THE  
SPORTSMAN  
COFFEE SHOP

7-11

Twain Harte



TWAIN HARTE MARKET  
THE STORE WITH A HEART



TWAIN HARTE AREA  
CERT  
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY  
RESPONSE TEAM  
SERVING OUR COMMUNITY



BUSINESS  
Printing  
Services FIRST



PriceCo Foods  
Expect Low Prices!  
Sonora



MOTHERLODE  
COFFEE ROASTERS  
EST. 2010



GROCERY  
OUTLET  
bargain market  
Sonora



SAFeway  
Sonora

Special thanks to Margaret Lawrence who worked tirelessly to make the Twain Harte Fireman's Pancake Breakfast a huge success. She worked for weeks in the planning, organizing and reviewing every detail to put on a 4 hour breakfast, it's like putting on a wedding or a Thanksgiving dinner. Margaret did the job and made it look easy but we all know better than that. Thank you Margaret!

In addition to the vendors and organizations listed here, we would like to thank Dennis Mitchell, who donated 20 beautiful ceramic mugs for sale with our swag.

Many generous donations brought us much closer to our goal for purchasing a LUCAS Device (see page 9).

Carol Hallett and Mike Mandell made a trip out to Columbia College Fire Academy to present Stone Strompro and Ben Wagner a certificate of appreciation for the time they volunteered to help with the Pancake Breakfast. Certificates of appreciation were also delivered to Grace Gonzalez and Ava Gummerson to recognize the time they volunteered, too. We received a couple of nice notes in return.

"Hello Carol. I wanted to say thanks for presenting me that certificate. That was the nicest award and kindest thing anyone has ever said about me. Thank you so much. - Stone Strompro

"Hi Carol, it was super cool seeing you in class today! I also just wanted to say thank you very much for the award and the praise. It really meant a lot. - Ben Wagner



An example of the mugs donated by Dennis Mitchell





# MANY THANKS, cont'd



Presentation at Columbia College Fire Academy



Presentation to Ava Gummerson

*Valuable is the work you do...*

*Valuable is the work you do.*

*Outstanding is how you always come through.*

*Loyal, sincere and full of good cheer,*

*Untiring in your efforts throughout the year...*

*Notable are the contributions you make.*

*Trustworthy in every project you take.*

*Eager to reach you're every goal*

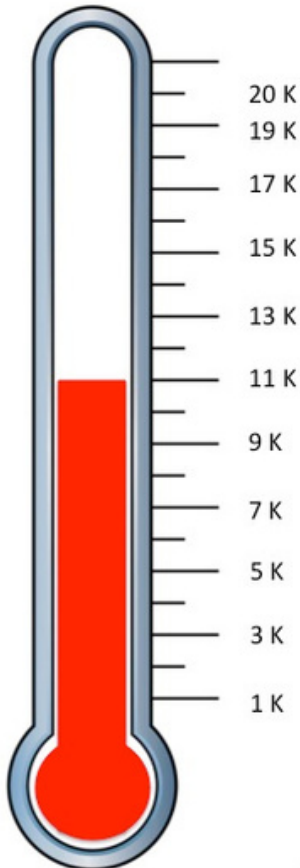
*Effective in the way fulfill your role.*

*Ready with a smile like a shining star,*

*Special and wonderful – that's what you are.*

*Author Unknown*

# GOAL!



# LUCAS DEVICE



We have been working hard to accomplish our goal to get a LUCAS device for THFD and our community. Each fundraiser that we have had has brought us closer to our goal. The Pancake Breakfast was one of our biggest profitable events. We were able to add nearly \$5,000 dollars towards the LUCAS device. Thank you to all the people who contributed and all the volunteers who make these events happen. We are getting really close now. The next event will be the Christmas Market in Twain Harte. Look for our booths at the event.

# TWAIN HARTE FIRE DEPARTMENT CORNER

by Neil Gamez, THFD Fire Chief



## COMMUNITY CENTER

The Community Center has seen a huge change. THFD hired a construction crew to come in and make the changes needed so that the building can be used for community events. THFD and CERT will use it for training classes. It is also available for the community to rent for functions. It is absolutely beautiful, functional and state of the art. To rent the space contact THCS.



## THFD STAFF

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

## STRIKE TEAM



Captain Orozco, Engineer Giglio, and Engineer McNeal deployed to the South Fork Complex Fire in Hayfork, CA.



## VEGETATION ORDINANCE

- Properties Inspected - 210
- Letters of Compliance Issued - 184
- Letters Returned - 1
- Properties Reinspected & Passed - 24



BEFORE



AFTER

Part of the THFD charter is to work with property owners (the land around town that does not have structures on it) to ensure that those properties are compliant with the vegetation ordinance in Tuolumne County. A picture is worth a thousand words.

# WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?

by Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief



The total THA-CERT volunteer hours for are:

Administration =	492
Training =	0
Deployment =	15
<b>Total hours =</b>	<b>507</b>



## Events

Visit Tuolumne County:

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

Twain Harte Chamber of Commerce:

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

## Training

There are no more THA-CERT trainings scheduled for the remainder of 2023; please keep an eye out for our 2024 Training Calendar!

PHI Training with CalFire

Wednesday, October 4, 2023 10:00 AM

Twain Harte Bible Church



**Get Ready to ShakeOut.**  
October 19, 2023 Register now at [ShakeOut.org](https://ShakeOut.org)



Thursday, October 19, 2023 10:19 AM

Radio Drill will take place. Millions of people worldwide will participate. The NRW net will check in, similar to the weekly nets. The HAM will relay info to the net. This is a great simulation of what a real incident will be, your participation will make it realistic

## Meetings

THCS Board Meeting

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

Wednesday, October 11, 9:00 am

CERT & Fire Association Board Meeting

The October Board Meeting has been cancelled. Our next meeting will be Thursday, November 9, 9:30 am

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.

THA-CERT will have booths at the Twain Harte Outdoor Christmas Market to help raise more funds for the LUCAS device.

Please support our efforts.