



SERVING TUOLUMNE COUNTY

MONTHLY UPDATE

October 2020

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NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

by Carol Hallett

There are so many positive things happening in our County, especially with Twain Harte Area & Groveland CERT. I am so proud to be a part of and to see all the developments and am enthusiastic about the relationship between Twain Harte Fire Department & THA-CERT.

The reason for that enthusiasm is our new Fire Chief. Chief Gamez has worked hard to put his arms around his new job while looking at the big picture and determining new ways that our teams can work together. It is a pleasure to work with Chief Gamez, to listen to his ideas and his thoughtful way of dealing with issues. I feel confident that together we will see great growth in how CERT can contribute and help our community.

Groveland CERT is pulling together nicely, looking at getting volunteers trained and putting together an executive staff to help organize the team. They have established the Groveland Facebook page and email address. We are working closely with Groveland CSD to ensure that the needs of the community are met. Very exciting news, Groveland CERT has a Firefighter Rehab Vehicle!

CERT is growing fast and Tuolumne County citizens are always eager to step up and help their neighbor; it is one of the common traits we see and is part of the reward for being a CERT volunteer.



TRAFFIC/CROWD CONTROL

by **Mary Schreiner**

Our ongoing activities have had little change this month. Twain Harte School has now gone back to their regular, five days a week, schedule. Our CERT volunteers have stepped up once again to ensure that the students are able to cross safely every afternoon.

We also assist the Twain Harte Rotary with their ATCAA food bank distribution once a month. Our members assist with not only traffic control, but unloading the food truck, packing and distributing the food, and clean up. The members of the Rotary are always very effusive in their thanks. In October, we provided enough food for several meals to over 60 families, for a total of 146 people.



GRANT MONEY FOR sUAS UNIFORMS, TRAINING, AND ADDITIONAL UAV (UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE)

By Carol Hallett

The UAS unit is intended to promote the safe, efficient and lawful operation of the Twain Harte Fire Department (THFD)/THA-CERT's small Unmanned Aerial System (sUAS) program. Safety is a primary concern in each and every operation.

It is the mission of THFD and THA-CERT personnel, who are trained in the use of the sUAS to protect the lives and property of citizens and first responders in full compliance with the applicable laws and regulations, including but not limited to, applicable State and Federal Constitution and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations.

The use of a sUAS can support first responders in situations which would benefit from an aerial perspective and enable responders to detect dangers that could otherwise not be seen.

It has been determined by THFD Fire Chief Neil Gamez that for the safety of the sUAS Unit we must wear a protective uniform when deployed. THA-CERT did the required research to ensure that we were selecting the proper clothing while still maintaining a unique color combination so that we can easily be identified from other responders at a scene. THFD will provide the training shelters (and do the training needed for THA-CERT crews) and the brush coats that will also be required. Both THFD and the sUAS crews will share in the costs but we need some additional help. The total cost for these uniforms and two sUAV for training purposes is over \$12K. THFD is donating over \$2K of equipment and also supporting us with training, the team members will donate \$3K. We are attempting to get a grant to cover some of the other costs. Right now we are about \$6K short!



NEW BUILDING AT THCSD

By Carol Hallett

If you have been by the Twain Harte Community Services Building to drop off a payment for your utility bill, you may have noticed a new structure in the parking lot. The plan has been in the works for sometime but now it is finally come to fruition.

Twain Harte Fire Department (THFD) and Twain Harte Area Community Emergency Response Team (THA-CERT) needed more indoor space. We wanted to be able to put some vehicles inside to protect them from the elements. Twain Harte Community Services District (THCSD) had some land on Vantage Pointe property to house the building.

The concrete slab was poured and then within a few weeks the crew came out to construct the metal building...it went up fast and looks great! We are waiting for the concrete apron to be poured and then we are ready. We will have a moving day in mid November to see what vehicles will fit based on the needs of THFD and then THA-CERT. We are so grateful to have everyone working together to make this happen...luckily before winter hits!



DEPLOYMENTS

By Mary Schreiner

October has been a very busy month for THA-CERT. Aside from our ongoing deployments at the school and with Twain Harte Rotary, we participated in several other deployments both in our own area and assisting Groveland CERT.

DEPLOYMENTS, cont'd

GROVELAND FLU CLINIC

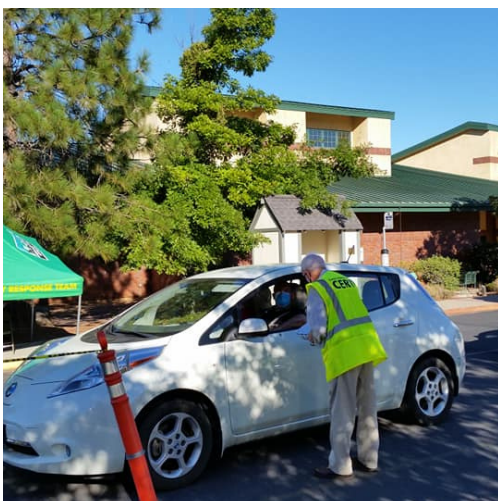
Tuolumne County Public Health hosted a drive-thru flu clinic in Groveland on Wednesday, October 7th and requested assistance from CERT for traffic control. Dozens of Grovelanders stopped by and were greeted by CERT volunteers, who ensured they were masked and had the correct forms completed before moving to the Public Health stations for vaccination. One hundred seventy-six members of the community received free flu vaccines.



SONORA FLU CLINIC

The second Drive-Thru Flu Clinic hosted by Tuolumne County Public Health was held at the Sonora Library/Senior Center on October 13th. As with the Groveland clinic, CERT were asked to provide traffic control and THA-CERT members were happy to volunteer.

The flu clinic is always a popular event and this year's proved no different, despite the accommodations required by COVID-19 safety protocols. People started lining up about an hour before the clinic was open and waited patiently for set-up to be completed. Those arriving in the first few hours faced a long line and a wait of several minutes, but people were happy to have the chance to get a free flu vaccine and stayed cheerful and pleasant throughout the day. In all 453 people, adults and children over the age of 2, received their flu vaccines.



DEPLOYMENTS, cont'd

TWAIN HARTE OPEN AIR CHRISTMAS MARKET

By Carol Hallett

During a normal year, Twain Harte would have hosted the Oktoberfest and the Sonora Christmas Fair would have been held at the Mother Lode Fair grounds in Sonora. Of course, this year is anything but normal and both events were cancelled.

Brothers Productions (who promote both the July Summerfest in Twain Harte and the Sonora Christmas Fair) thought Twain Harte might be a great venue for an Outdoor Christmas Market.

THA-CERT staffed the pedestrian crossing at the corner of Meadow Lane and Meadow Drive. The event was run with COVID protocols in place. All the vendors were required to wear masks and all customers were requested to wear masks and were offered one if they did not have them. Social distancing was enforced and hand washings stations as well as hand sanitizing stations were placed throughout the venue.

Lots of people came to town to shop and we saw lots of bags being carried out to the cars. In speaking to the merchants in town they all seemed to have a good weekend in terms of sales. In fact several made record sales! One of the restaurants asked, “why we don’t always have events like this one”?

The answer, the promoter did a great job of letting people know about the event. They made sure that they did not have too many food vendors so that restaurants could do well and made sure that they had vendors for Christmas gifts but took into consideration what our stores carried so they did not duplicate (as much as possible). It was a great success for our town and CERT made sure that people were as safe as possible when crossing the street



DEPLOYMENTS, *cont'd*

COLUMBIA COLLEGE FIRE ACADEMY BURN IN TRAINING

Our last deployment of the month was for what has always been one of our favorite events... assisting the Columbia College Fire Academy with their Burn In Training Days.

CERT provides Fire Fighter Rehabilitation, SCBA Tank Fill, and sUAS support for this event and this time saw the debut of our Fire Fighter Rehab Vehicle.

We finally had a chance to provide rehab in the vehicle and find any kinks that needed to be worked out. We were able to rehab up to 5 fire fighters at one time and I'm happy to report that everything ran very smoothly and the vehicle is going to be a great asset for our program. Aside from being a very comfortable place to cool off and get rehydrated, this self-contained unit will be ready to deploy at a moment's notice.



While it isn't as glamorous as doing rehab in a new (to us) vehicle, filling the SCBA tanks was another vital task that CERT took on. The students practiced in a variety of settings, including entering a 500-900 degree "burn box", so making sure they had air tanks filled and ready was crucial. Team members filled 60-75 tanks a day over the two day training.



DEPLOYMENTS, cont'd

COLUMBIA COLLEGE FIRE ACADEMY BURN IN TRAINING, cont'd

UAS UNIT TRAINING

by Michelle Wagner

Our UAS Unit deployed for two days of concentrated training at the Columbia Fire Academy Training Burn. We exercised all three of our aircraft for various missions. We kept tabs on and recorded smoke drift from the live burns, tested out different settings on our infrared camera, and recorded different training scenarios for later use by the academy instructors.

Everyone worked very hard and we learned a ton about the capabilities of each aircraft and each other. Most importantly, though, we had a lot of fun!



UAS NEWS

by Michelle Wagner

It's been another productive month for the UAS Unit. Aside from the training with Columbia College, Flight Crew leaders conducted a couple of really great trainings in October. We practiced some night operations, which present their own unique problem-solving opportunities, AND we tried out some payload delivery ideas. We now know we can deliver a walkie-talkie to someone who is stranded and without communications, and we even practiced small water drops (thanks to Grover for volunteering as our target). You never know when and how these skills may come in handy!



DONATIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY

By Carol Hallett

MASK SALES AT THE HARTE OF THE KITCHEN

Carlene Smith has been making masks and keeping The Harte of the Kitchen in Twain Harte stocked in since the early days of the pandemic. Store owners Carol and Allan Hancock have been selling them and donating all of the money to THA-CERT.

To date, the donation is approx \$2,000.00. There is no adequate way to thank these great people for continuing to support the community and THA-CERT. If you are tired of wearing the same old masks, stop by The Harte of the Kitchen to find a fresh new look and support your local CERT unit at the same time!

THFD DONATES HOLSTERS TO THA-CERT

When THA-CERT deploys we need to have radios for communicating with each other and the first responders. THFD wanted to make sure we could use them and still have hands free, so they purchased 6 radio holsters for us. We were able to use them during this past month's deployment and they worked perfectly! Thank you to THFD.

THFD PICKS UP THE TAB

We have been working hard to keep the batteries charged up on the Firefighter Rehab Vehicle. We took it in for a diagnosis and it was decided that the 3 batteries were too old and needed to be replaced...to the tune of almost \$200 each. THFD stepped up and said they would help us out and pick up the tab. We could not ask for a better partner.

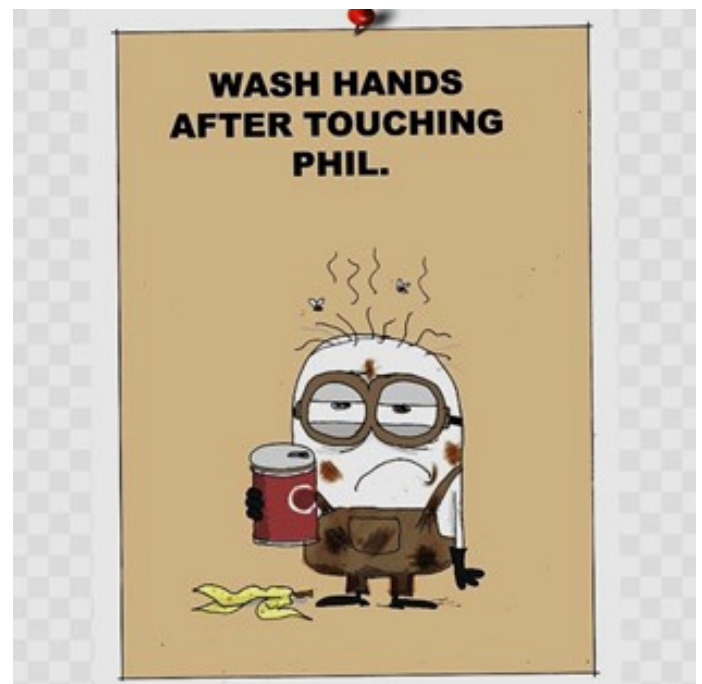


STAYIN' ALIVE DURING THE HOLIDAYS

by Nancy Stevens

COVID-19 is still with us, so don't forget safety precautions for you and your family and friends: use masks, keep social distance, wash hands frequently. If you're in a situation where you think others may not be as safety-conscious as you, keep your distance. With the upcoming holidays, let's all make sure we enjoy the season while also keeping safety front and center.

We've had a very challenging year, and whenever CERT was requested for assistance, we performed our jobs well and with safety always in mind. Keep it up!



TRAINING NEWS

by Carol Hallett

Things are forever changing especially during 2020, it seems. The pandemic has had an impact on most of us and for the most part not in a positive way.

But even during hard times there are positive things that arise from our challenges. We became more innovative. We learned that technology could help us reach out to our families, friends and neighbors and allow us to see each other via video conferencing. We found ways to help those that needed support, caring and/or assistance more than we did. People came up with ways to continue their education.

CERT is no exception to that innovation. An online Basic Training course was developed in Utah and accepted by FEMA as a viable source of training during COVID. We will be taking advantage of this. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates people about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Online CERT is developed to provide the FEMA standardized 2019 curriculum to learners across the United States, meeting the lecture portion of the CERT training requirements.

Once completed, you just follow up with your local CERT Coordinator to complete the hands-on practical portion and receive your full CERT credentials. 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. How do you start?

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

You will receive your CERT ID number and will be enrolled for the hands on portion to complete your training. Training in Groveland is scheduled on November 21, 2020 and on January 16, 2021 in Twain Harte.

JOIN CERT