



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

# MONTHLY UPDATE

March 2023

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## NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

by Carol Hallett



March Madness, oh don't you know it!

Seriously, tornado, flash flood, hail storm, thunder & lightening storm, rain, and of course let's not forget the snow! And Mother Nature plans on more over the next 4-6 weeks. Somebody better apologize to Mother Nature very soon or we may not have a spring at all.

I will say that on the sunny days I am so happy to get out and visit, see people, talk, smile. We are such community people that we are almost stifled without our village around us.

THA-CERT hosted a communications training and we have an active Radio Net here in Twain Harte. I urge you all to see if you can be part of it. It is an answer to communications when everything goes down.

We were deployed during the month and it felt good to be out helping our community. We have a lot that we are planning and we are hopeful that the weather will allow us to continue to grow. I hope you enjoy reading about the things this wonderful team has accomplished.

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.



To some a pothole to others a hot tub.  
Always look for the beauty in life!

# PLANNING MAKES FOR AN IDEA

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager



You can practice, plan and prepare as much as you can but when it is time to deploy you just go for it. PACE is the answer. Have a Plan, an Alternative plan, a Contingency plan and an Emergency plan. And when it is time to deploy, you just become creative.

CERT was called to action on a Monday morning at 10:57. It was an ASAP deployment in Twain Harte. We got a crew of 3 people at the site by 11:20. The emergency was a sewage overflow that needed to be cleaned out. The manhole cover was in the middle of the street so we needed to completely stop traffic.

We had a few issues. Our trailer was moved down the hill because it cannot survive the snow loads. All of our equipment was in the trailer, so we had no stop signs.



Our Alternative plan was to use our

visibility hats to get the drivers attention. As it turned out Jason Karney, THCS D had two signs in his truck so we went with the Contingency plan.

We also did not have our radios and did not have time to go pick them up. We had used the radios in our Communications Training Class on Saturday and they were at one of our member's home, her plan was to put them away this week. So our Alternative plan was to use our cell phones. I set up a conference call and we left the line open while THCS D staff did their job.

The drivers were very patient and the work went fast, it only took them 11 minutes to clear out the pipe and everything was flowing again, including traffic.



Kids at Camp or CERT volunteers, you decide

Special thanks to Matt Kain and Randie Revilla for quickly jumping into action with me. The THA-CERT volunteers are amazing and always ready to help.

# OUT OF THE SNOW?

by Mike Mandell, Team Leader



We decided to relocate the Trailer down the hill a bit to keep it out of the snow. I took it to my house in Soulsbyville. It was really a good idea, based on how much snow fell in Twain Harte, but we were not immune either.

The good news is that the trailer did just fine during this crazy weather and the even better news was that it was right on my property when I had to go out and shovel off the snow. We are all looking forward to the day when our storage unit can be delivered and our trailer can be converted to a mobile cooling/warming station. We still need to build a structure to protect it from the weather but it will also be easier to move around.



Snow in Soulsbyville

We were not able to do vehicle maintenance checks this month...the vehicles were buried under the snow. We will schedule it for April.

# NEW TRAINING OFFICER

by Mike Mandell, Team Leader



I am so excited to report that we have a new Training Officer, Margaret Lawrence. She is a delight to work with, very organized, and always ready to learn more. She was the Traffic Control Unit Leader but we needed more help with coordinating training. She has already proven to be a true asset.



# COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING

by Margaret Lawrence, Training Officer



In March, we had an excellent training presented by Rich Combs on Emergency Communications. This training was very informative and hands on. About 25 people attended the training.

It was a good mix of CERT and the public. We learned about the different types of radios, frequencies or channels, what type of antenna you should have, and when you need an FCC license. We even practiced with radios to ensure we understood how to use them correctly.



The major take home was when using a



radio, think about what you want to say before you hit the transmit button and then be clear and succinct.

We also learned that being part of a local radio net doesn't have to cost a lot and can help give us insight into what is happening in our community.

## JOIN OUR NET IN TWAIN HARTE

by Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief



Every Sunday morning at 9AM, I open up a radio net on Channel 17-0. I ask for everyone to check in with their first names and location (street). This radio net is meant for us to practice radio protocol and to test our radios. Sometimes I hear from someone in Columbia, but most of the time I hear from a few local downtown Twain Harte radio operators.



I hope that by practicing radio communication every week, we will all become comfortable using our radios. When there is an emergency, it will be comforting to know what we are doing.

If you are in the Twain Harte area and have a GMRS or FRS radio, monitor Channel 17-0 on Sunday morning at 9. Chime in and let me, Lise on Gina Street, know you are out there.

<https://www.amazon.com/Retevis-Waterproof-Floating-Flashlight-Rechargeable/dp/B08GGYSK7N>

# TWAIN HARTE OUTHOUSE RACE RETURNS

by Terry Northcutt, President Timberline Env



Its official... Spring has sprung here in the mountains! In fact it is still springing all over us. The thermometer has now moved into double digits and the Snow flowers are starting to bloom (not that you can see them under 6 ft of snow).

Everyone is starting to think about all those fun summer time activities like snow shoeing, cross country skiing, and that all time favorite shoveling to the wood pile. Yes, there is nothing like shoveling 2 feet of Spring off your walk way. So what do you do when mother nature throws you a snow ball? What else, you get ready to Race Outhouses!



That's right World Class Outhouse racing is returning to Twain Harte CA. Terry Northcutt the self proclaimed King of Crappers and owner of Timberline Environmental Services Inc (a division of Freg Em All industries) is proud to be helping organize this fun filled family event June 10th, 2023. All net proceeds are donated to a nonprofit here in our community. This year's recipient is THA-CERT (Twain Harte Area Community Emergency Response Team).

The event Twain Harte Championship Outhouse Race, formerly known as The Royal Flush Crapper Derby, will be held at The Eproson Park right here in Twain Harte. Contestants come from all over the world (at least as far away as Tuttle Town) and are World Class athletes. Twain Harte's own 5-time World Champion Dung Fu Warrior will be taking on the likes of 2-time World Champion Potty Train, sponsored by The Dolan AutoGroup out of Reno, NV, Commander Commode, from Virginia City, NV, and The Bar Stool, from Auberry, CA, just to name a few.



This event will have Craft vendors (yes Craft not what you were thinking), local eateries, beer, margaritas and lots of family fun. All contestants will be vying to see who rises to the top of the heap to see who is really number one at number two? If you feel so inclined to put together your own Racing Outhouse we can help or, if you just want to help push someone else's stool, there are always teams that need help.

For information Rules and Sign up contact:  
[twainhartecert@gmail.com](mailto:twainhartecert@gmail.com) or  
[mountainmeadowproductions@gmail.com](mailto:mountainmeadowproductions@gmail.com)



See flyer in this newsletter for more details.



# CRAFT VENDORS

Meadow Frago, Mountain Meadow Productions



👽 TWAIN HARTE OUTHOUSE RACE 👽  
★ VENDOR OPPORTUNITIES ★

We are super excited that Twain Harte Area Community Emergency Response Team – THA-CERT is bringing back the Twain Harte Outhouse Race!

- Saturday, June 10, 2023
- Twain Harte at Eproson Park.
- Parade at 9am
- Races 11am-4pm
- Family Fun Community Event
- Artisan Vendors
- Twain Harte Eateries
- Margarita's & Brew's
- All proceeds benefit THA-CERT



Now ACCEPTING ARTISAN VENDORS for this fun event!  
For a Vendor application and more info, please message or email: [mountainmeadowproductions@gmail.com](mailto:mountainmeadowproductions@gmail.com)  
#amountainmeadowproduction

# MIDNIGHT CALLER

by Mike Mandell, Team Leader

At midnight on March 15th, I received a frantic call from a woman whose smoke alarms were going off. All of them! Her smoke alarms were all connected with each other, so that in the event of a fire, alarms all over the house would go off, not just the one nearest the fire. The problem with that was that she couldn't get away from the noise.

Due to the nature of her "emergency", I decided to go out to her house then, rather than wait until daylight. The first obstacle was that she lived in a gated community in Jamestown and the intercom wasn't working. My caller finally realized what was taking me so long and buzzed me in. Next, there was the gate to her courtyard, which was locked. The lady thought she had unlocked it for me and, again, it took her a little while to figure out why I wasn't at her door yet.

You never know what you are going to find when you go out on these calls and there was one more surprise for me...the house has 16' ceilings. Fortunately, this lady had a ladder that would reach high enough and I was able to check all of the alarms. The lady said that her son had just changed all of the batteries, and none of the alarms were over 10 years old. I found the one causing the problem and, because I didn't want to get called out again at 2 a.m., I replaced the entire smoke alarm for her.

It was an unusual and challenging night, but I was able to get it done. I think my trusty helper, Bob, was happy that I didn't call him to help me on this one.



## Volunteers Rock!



# DON'T GET DISTRACTED

by John Buckingham, Safety Officer



If you are in the drivers seat, driving the vehicle is ALL you should be doing!! Distracted driving causes eight deaths per day, or over 3,500 per year. Since our phone devices are our major distraction on the vehicle, here are some tips:

1) place your phone device in the glove compartment while driving to discourage distractions; if your vehicle is equipped for hands-free calling, utilize this feature, when safe, to answer incoming calls

2) If you need to text or check your phone, pull off the road to a safe position first

3) Designate your passenger as a “designated texter”

4) If driving, DO NOT use your device to scroll through apps, social media, e-mails, contacts or texts. Your sole purpose at the moment is to drive the vehicle responsibly



Be safe and drive safe!!!



## Spring 2023 Weather Forecast

What's in store for spring? Here's what we're forecasting for the US and Canada, plus important spring gardening info you need!

Spring 2023 Farmers' Almanac outlook.

Here in the Northern Hemisphere, we welcome spring 2023 on March 20 at 5:24 p.m. EDT, with the arrival of the spring equinox. However, the season and the weather may not be on the same page. The question on everyone's mind is: when will it actually feel like spring? Here's what Farmers' Almanac 2023 is predicting based on our long-range weather formula.





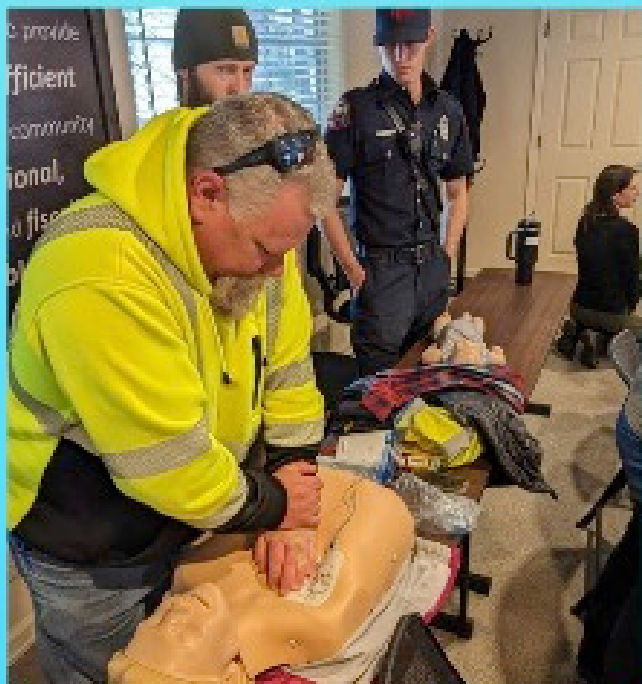
# Please Join Us For A FREE Community-Level CPR/AED Class

This course will be taught by two of our amazing CERT team members and certified instructors, Michelle Wagner and Randie Revilla. You will learn the fundamentals of CPR, how to do it correctly, and will practice doing CPR on adult, child, and infant mannequins.

Because this is a free class you will not be getting a certificate, but the same material will be taught as in the certification class.

You will also learn how to use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

Come join us for this free, educational, and hands on class.



When: Saturday, April 29, 2023  
0900 to 1200

Twain Harte Community Center  
18775 Manzanita Drive, Train Harte  
(behind the car wash on Joaquin Gully)

There is no cost or obligation to attend this event, but space is limited and registration is required to attend. Please contact us at [twainhartecert@gmail.com](mailto:twainhartecert@gmail.com) to register.

# WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?

by Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief, THA-CERT



The total THA-CERT volunteer hours for March are:

Administration = 203.5  
Training = 85  
Deployment = 3  
Total March hours = 291.5



## Events

**Visit Tuolumne County:**

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

**Twain Harte Chamber of Commerce:**

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

## Training

**THA-CERT April Training**

CPR & AED

Saturday, April 29th

0900-1200

Twain Harte Community Center

18775 Manzanita Drive

Twain Harte, CA (behind car wash on Joaquin Gully)

Register: [twainhartecert@gmail.com](mailto:twainhartecert@gmail.com) to attend.

## Meetings

**THCSD Board Meeting**

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

Wednesday, April 12th, 9:00 am

**CERT & Fire Association Board Meeting**

Thursday, April 13th, 9:30 am

## Save The Date!

**Twain Harte Championship Outhouse Race**

Saturday, June 10, 2023

Parade: 0900

Races: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Eproson Park

Food, Drinks & Fun!

**Traffic & Crowd Control Training**

with CHP

Saturday, May 20, 2023

0900-noon

**First Aid Practical Training**

with Michelle Wagner & Mary Kirkwood

Saturday, June 24, 2023

0900-noon



The month of April, traditionally a rainy period, gives way to May, when flowers will bloom because of the water provided to them by the April rains. (by extension) A period of discomfort or hardship can provide the basis for a period of happiness and joy.