

TWAIN HARTE AREA



& FIRE ASSOCIATION

MONTHLY UPDATE

November 2022

Mary Schreiner, PIO & Editor
twainhartecert@gmail.com

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NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER



November, a transitional month is one of the most colorful months of the year. I absolutely love the fall colors, the crispness in the air and the idea of sitting by a warm fire drinking hot chocolate with friends and family. In my case it would be a glass of wine but that is for another story.

CERT is always busy this time of year with hanging flags to celebrate our wonderful veterans for Veterans day, preparing our vehicles for winter, decorating the town with Christmas lights which encourages the holiday spirit and preparing for the Winter Wonderland Parade in Twain Harte. It is a busy month.

Taking time for the Thanksgiving holiday is always a treat...it is one of my favorite holidays full of food, fun, friends and family big emphasis on the delicious food!

We can feel the weather changing, the cold air circling around us with a glimmer of hope that snow will be in the near future. We see people with lots of layers on to keep warm while hurrying around. I always notice that the animals have changed into their winter coats as well.

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 for consideration of the topic by the board.



Fall Colors in Twain Harte

A STORM IS COMING

by Mike Mandell, Team Leader



Unlike "Chicken Little" I watch the weather report so we can protect our fleet of vehicles as winter approaches it looked like we were going to possibly get hit with a nice amount of rain and snow early November, a bit unusual but a welcome concept. There was a bit to do to prepare for the storm but my schedule did not allow me to participate. I called Carol Hallett (Program Manager) and she said, "No worries. I got ya covered!"

Carol got a hold of Chief Gamez to see what we could do with the CERT Trailer. When I took the trailer in for its 5 year check up, they showed me that the snow was starting to bend the reinforcing struts. We need to keep it out of the snow from now on.

The Chief was quick to come up with a plan that included moving a fire truck from station 2 to station 1, moving the power wagon (Antique Truck) out of App Bay (Apparatus Bay) 2 so that the fire truck could be moved into that bay and the Fire Chief gave up his parking spot so that all the other vehicles could be kept safe from the storm.



The on duty fire crew moved the afore mentioned vehicles around while Carol recruited Randy Revilla to help her. The two of them made a plan to cover up the back of the UAV vehicle. Carol said that working with Randie was a pleasure, she is smart, clever and strong. Between the two of them, the weather elements did not have a chance.

They used 2x6 boards, blankets, a huge red tarp and bungies...this cover is not going anywhere. Carol said that they made quick work of the project as even while they were working, the storm clouds were moving overhead. The job was done with precision as if they had done this a thousand times before.



I know these two ladies and I never get in their way...and neither did "Mother Nature".

Carol also recruited her husband Dave to move the trailer into Station 2. That is where it sits until we can execute the long term plan.

A special thanks to Chief Neil Gamez and the Twain Harte Fire Department for their continual support of us and the community.



CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS UP

by Margaret Lawrence, Traffic Control Unit Leader



It always amazes me the things that THA-CERT is involved in, it is always about the community but sometimes it is sky high!

We received a call from Twain Harte Rotary to help with traffic control while they hung the new lights for the beloved Twain Harte Christmas Tree.



The deployment was approved by our Program Manager & our Fire Chief so I got into action recruiting volunteers. We had 4 people sign up, we planned on doing 2 hour shifts with the morning shift starting at 10:00.

Mike Mandell (Team Leader) and Carol Hallett (Program Manager) elected to take the first shift. They decided to meet at 09:30 at Vantage Point to pick up signs and cones. Carol said that as she drove through town the crew were already there and scoping out the project. Mike and Carol made quick work of gathering the needed supplies and headed to the Christmas Tree.

The crew which consists of Twain Harte Tree Service and Rick Ramet Construction were already getting under way when THA-CERT staff arrived. They made quick work of blocking off a lane and keeping traffic flowing while keeping the crew safe.

The crews worked fast, efficiently and quickly accomplished the task of hanging new lights on the tree. The afternoon staff (Bob Schreiner & Bob Wagner) from THA-CERT were called off since the job was done by about noon.



I cannot wait to see the lighting of the Christmas Tree at the Twain Harte Winter Wonderland Parade on Friday, December 2nd starting at 1730 (5:30 pm).

DONATION FROM THE HOSPITAL

by Bob Wagner, Finance Section Chief



During our last deployment of the Firefighter Rehab Unit we realized that we were missing and/or depleted some of our first aid supplies. This needed to be rectified. We discussed options and decided to see if Linda Postma, our Fund Raising Coordinator, could get a donation for the items.

Linda contacted Adventist Health and found the right person to help us out. We in turn received a donation to make the purchase of the items needed. We will do an inventory and restock the Firefighter Rehab vehicle so that it is ready to support our firefighters and our community at large.



Thank you to Adventist Health for continuing to support THA-CERT, our firefighters, and our community.

"Adventist Health Sonora is proud to partner with Twain Harte Area CERT to support firefighters. Thank you for undertaking this important work."

Lisa Mayers, Sr. Administrative Assistant | Philanthropy

GROWING OUR TEAMS

by Matt Kain, Operations Section Chief



I have 3 units that report to me, Firefighter Rehab, UAV, and Vehicle Maintenance. All three units have fantastic leaders, Randie Revilla, Michelle Wagner and Ron Kessler respectively. We are reorganizing so that no one will be on standby for a week for these units but instead we will deploy based on location and then back fill if the deployment is extended.

If you are interested in helping with any or all of these units please let me know and I will get you in touch with the appropriate leader. Each of the units have specific training requirements that you will learn with the group.

It is exciting to watch these groups grow and to see them deploy to help out the community. If you want to be a part of something positive this is it!

PARADE READY

by Neil Gamez, Chief THFD



This is what you call team work! The power wagon has been back in Twain Harte for a number of years now but it has never looked this good.

The CERT & Fire Assoc under their new leadership has made it a goal to restore the antique truck so that we can drive it in parades and around town. They got the vehicle in working order with a tune up, rebuilding the breaks, changing fluids etc. so that the vehicle runs (and stops) great. The next task was to make it shine. This is where Captain Neftali stepped in.

Neftali said that he would take it on as a project. So for the past few months he (with the help of his crew) took all the gadgets off the truck and gave it a power wash. Then he worked his magic sharing his techniques with the team(s). The transformation is incredible and much more than we expected.

The Twain Harte Winter Wonderland Parade will be the debut for our beloved Antique Fire Truck and I will be proud to drive it in this year's parade.

"Captain Neftali is the artist and has shared a wealth of knowledge during the process".

Jake Noonan



Before



After

LIGHTING UP THE TOWN

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager & President



One of my favorite things to do is to decorate the town with Christmas lights. I always say the more the merrier. This year is no exception. We start with the parade route so that the event is festive. I offer to help any of the businesses that want to add extra lights to the town.

This year we had lots of help hanging lights so the project went very quickly. We had 6 people working two different days for 2 hours each day. I hope you are able to drive through town and enjoy the beautiful lights.



From Left: Bob Schreiner, Matt Kain, Carol Hallett, Cindy Howell, and Mike Mandell (Mary Schreiner was the photographer), get ready to hang lights at Meadow Plaza

Some of us are vertically challenged others don't need any assistance at all to reach the high spots. Some of us have talent in untangling the strands of lights where others love to climb to the top of the ladder.



Carol Hallett, Bob Schreiner, Mike Mandell, and Cindy Howell hang lights

We broke into teams and tackled each building as a separate project. It was fun and fulfilling to see the quick transformation.



Carol Hallett, (front), Carol Jones, and Linda decorate at the corner of Joaquin Gulley and Fuller Drive

Thanks to our crew, Carol Hallett, Mike Mandell, Matt Kain, Cindy Howell, Bob Schreiner, Mary Schreiner, Carol Jones, & Linda The town glows because of your efforts.



FLAGS WERE FLYING

by Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief



Veterans Day means parades and commemoration and FLAGS! Our Flag Setting Up Committee (not an official committee, or title, but it probably should be) knew it was time to get into action. Mother Nature foiled our first attempt to set up the flags; it was cold and rainy on the originally-scheduled day, the 9th, so we rescheduled to the 10th...just in time for the festivities.



Most of our flags are cotton and get very heavy when wet and rain has previously caused some of our flag poles to snap, so keeping our flags dry was of utmost importance.

We are in the process of changing the flags to synthetic materials so that weight is not as much of an issue. Hopefully, synthetic materials will also help give our flags longer lives.

Our team of 6 THA-CERT members made short work of putting up the flags. Thanks to Carol Hallett, John Buckingham, Margaret Lawrence, Mary Schreiner, Bob Schreiner and Lise Lemonnier for ensuring that Twain Harte was dressed up and ready to celebrate Veterans Day.

SAFETY ARTICLE FOR DECEMBER

by John Buckingham, Safety Officer



Enjoy the holidays with these Safety Tips

- Check all holiday light cords to make sure they are not frayed or broken. String only three light cords per extension cord.
- Keep living trees away from any heat source. Check artificial trees for fire resistant labels.
- When using a live tree, keep it well watered for freshness.
- Make sure when decorating outside that the decorations are for outdoor use. Secure and fasten decorations outside.
- If using a ladder be extra careful and properly secure before getting on.
- Don't put electric lights on metallic trees
- Turn off all electric lights at bedtime or leaving the house.
- Don't leave candles unattended. Keep pets and children away from lite candles



Have safe and fun holidays!!

Twain Harte Area



& Fire Association

TRAINING

Are you ready to help yourself, your family and your neighborhood when a disaster happens?

With the cooperation of the Twain Harte Fire Department we offer an opportunity for you to attend a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) basic training academy. This is a 20-hour training course that will include both classroom instruction and hands-on training.

Training Includes:

- Personal Preparedness
- Organizing Resources
- Fire Safety & Utility Controls
- Basic Medical Operations
- Light search and rescue
- Basic Damage Assessment

When?

January 27, 2023
1630-2030 (4:30-8:30 pm)

January 28, 2023
0900-1700 (9 am-5 pm)

January 29, 2023
0900-1700 (9 am-5 pm)

Where?

22912 Vantage Point Dr
Twain Harte, CA
(THCSD Office)

Register:

twainhartecert@gmail.com

This training will prepare you for emergencies here in Tuolumne County or where ever you travel.

WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?

by Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief



The total THA-CERT volunteer hours for November are:

Administration =	215.5
Training =	0
Deployment =	30
Total November hours =	245.5



DECEMBER

Events

Visit Tuolumne County:

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

Twain Harte Chamber of Commerce:

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



Twain Harte Winter Wonderland Parade

Friday, December 2, 2022

Christmas Caroling 5:30

Lighting of the Tree followed by the Parade

Twain Harte Community Dinner

Saturday, December 3, 2022

4:30 pm to 7 pm

Twain Harte Elementary Cafeteria

18815 Manzanita Drive

Twain Harte

This is a free dinner for the Twain Harte community. Please bring your family to celebrate this season of giving.

Sponsored by Twain Harte Rotary

Meetings

Twain Harte CSD Board Meeting

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

Wednesday, 14 December 2022, 9:00 am

CERT & Fire Association Board Meeting

Thursday, 8 December 2022, 9:30 am

EVACUATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT COMMUNITY MEETINGS



PROJECT WEBSITE:



https://bit.ly/TCTC_Evac

Please join us to review evacuation congestion improvement and communication strategies to help Tuolumne County improve evacuation strategies and identify improvements for a more resilient evacuation network!

December 6
5:30-7:00 PM
Sonora Opera House

December 7
5:30-7:00 PM
Groveland Community Hall

December 8
5:30-7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting (ZOOM)

JOIN US IN SONORA, GROVELAND, OR ONLINE!

Tuolumne County Evacuation Needs Assessment and Communication Strategies

Tuolumne County Transportation Council and Tuolumne County Office of Emergency Services are collaborating to understand wildfire risk across the County, identify opportunities to increase evacuation traffic capacity, and enhance communication strategies for more effective and resilient evacuations in the event of a wildfire. We invite you to come share your thoughts and learn more about the study. We look forward to seeing you!

Our Goals:



Reduce evacuation congestion



Enhance emergency communications



Increase wildfire risk awareness



Support vulnerable populations during evacuations

Save the date



CERT Basic Training

Twain Harte Area

January 27, 28 & 29

sign up by contacting THA-CERT:

twainhartecert@gmail.com