Thirty-Seven CERT Members Respond To Tsunami Alert.

On Saturday, January 15th a tsunami alert was issued for the coast of California. Monterey CERT activated to provide coastal spotters to warn citizens to stay clear of the beaches. The Monterey Bay Area suffered significant damage, particularly in the Santa Cruz area. On the Peninsula, wave surges pushed water high onto local beaches. The tsunami was caused by a volcanic eruption near the island nation of Tonga, approximately 5,000 miles away!

Above: Santa Cruz Harbor area.

The Santa Cruz Harbor suffered significant damage as tidal surges pushed water into the marina parking areas. Businesses in Capitola also suffered damage. On the Monterey Peninsula, tidal surges pushed water high onto beaches. CERT remained on station at Wharf 2, Cannery Row, Lover’s Point and Asilomar Beach until the recall was issued at 3:15 P.M.
The beach area east of Monterey Municipal Wharf 2 was inundated by tidal surges, pushing water halfway up the sand berm. In the photo below, note how the water line is high up on the sand berm next to the Wharf.

PHOTOS BY CERT TRAINER ISABELLE PRETI

CERT Team 4 stops to pose for a photo at Wharf 2
New CERT Class For Monterey Peninsula Residents will occur over three consecutive Saturdays, March 5th, 12th and 19th. Time each day is 8:30 A.M. to 5 P.M. We are returning to the in-person, three consecutive Saturday instruction format, subject to the Pandemic situation. There will be a strong emphasis on hands-on skills. This training for new volunteers will occur in Monterey. Participants must be COVID-19 vaccinated and a resident of Monterey, Pacific Grove, Carmel, Sand City, DLI, NPS or adjacent communities. Interested persons may email: training@montereycert.org

CERT members Cynthia Byrne-Sellars and Sarah Blackstone coordinate communications at a CERT event. Monterey CERT has an advanced radio system & repeater to greatly enhance our communications.

CERT Training Video: Safety In The After Disaster Environment. When a major storm, earthquake or other disaster occurs, the post event environment can be as or more dangerous than the actual occurrence. The CERT Video, “Safety In the After Disaster Environment” is a must view for all members. Use this link to access the video:

Safety in the After Disaster Environment - YouTube
CERT Calendar of Events:

On-air radio drill:  Monday February 14th at 7 P.M. on CERT Channel 4

CERT training for Mid-Carmel Valley residents: Dates subject to COVID-19 Pandemic. To enroll email: demekastros@msn.com to enroll

Skills refresher for all members: Originally planned for February 5th, this exercise has been postponed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Details for the location and format to be announced.

CERT training for Monterey, PG, Carmel area residents: Three consecutive Saturdays, March 5th, 12th and 19th of 2022, 0830-1700 hrs. each day Email: training@montereycert.org to enroll. Dates subject to the Pandemic.

CERT training for TORO Park area residents: Interested persons send an email to: demekastros@msn.com and please put TORO CERT in the subject line. Dates will be established when we have 25 people enrolled.

Major Fire Closes Highway 1 South of Carmel, Forces Evacuations!

Highway 1 at Bixby Bridge, January 2022
No one predicted that the Big Sur Coast area would endure still another fire in JANUARY! This absolutely underscores the need to be prepared at all times. Sheriff’s Rescue Team members conducted nighttime mandatory evacuations of Palo Colorado Canyon and areas along Highway 1 from North of Rocky Point to Bixby Bridge. Monterey CERT coordinated with the County Office Of Emergency Services (OES) so we could assist with evacuations if the fire started to move northward to more populated areas such as the Carmel Highlands. Sections of Highway 1 south of Carmel remained closed for several days.
Angel, the CERT & Rescue Dog, Reminds You To Prepare For Your Pets In Case Of Emergency or Evacuation.

Click this link to access the ready.gov pet preparedness website:  Prepare Your Pets for Disasters | Ready.gov

Remember that besides food for your pet, most shelters do NOT allow uncaged animals in the shelter so have a portable pet carrying case. If you have large animals, such as horses, you need to have a way to transport the animal and know where to take them in an emergency.
A New CERT Team Is Being Formed In The Toro Park, Serra Village and Creekside Areas

Your Monterey CERT instructors have been working with area neighborhoods to assist them in forming their own CERT response groups. This benefits all areas of the Peninsula as not only do we have more trained, organized response teams, but we can help each other with “Mutual-Aid”. In addition to the Peninsula, there are outstanding CERT responders in Carmel Valley, The Santa Lucia Preserve and Big Sur. All have been trained by FEMA certified CERT instructor and Nationally registered EMT Isabelle Preti.

We are working to establish a CERT group in the Toro Park area. **If you know someone who lives in the area and would want to participate**, please have them email: demekastros@msn.com to express interest. Put TORO CERT in the subject line. There is no cost to enroll. **Training dates will be scheduled when we have sufficient enrollment.**

This training will be open to residents of Toro Park, Serra Village, Creekside, San Benancio and adjacent communities
The City of Monterey and good safety practices requires that we follow COVID-19 protocols. In the event of a major incident, or for those of you on the Everbridge Alert Group, when responding to an alert, please following these safety standards:

1. Do not respond if you have a fever and/or flu like symptoms
2. Respond to Staging as directed.
3. Wear your CERT vest when driving to an alert so police will recognize you and allow you access through barricades
4. Wear a mask at all times
5. Use hand sanitizer prior to exiting your vehicle
6. Maintain 6' of spacing from all other persons present
7. We will conduct a visual sign-in. Approach Staging, state your name and we will sign you in.
8. Return any equipment, such as radios, issued to you prior to leaving the scene and follow instructions as to how and where to leave the items.
9. Travel to and from your assigned areas of operation in separate vehicles
10. Use MURS channels to communicate within your team. MURS are channels 11 thru 15 in our CERT radios.