40 Members attend January 20th CERT exercise!  The January Quarterly Exercise was a great success. Members received a detailed review of the CERT Trailer which can now be towed by a small group of members using their personal vehicles. After the trailer review, members were divided into four teams, given a search area and grid map, and sent into their respective areas to look for injured persons. Each team located one victim with serious injuries, successfully treated the injuries and then safely transported each victim to Staging. This was an outstanding example of CERT personnel effectively demonstrating and practicing a core skill of locating, treating and moving a victim to a medical treatment area. In addition, the trailer served as the field Command Post, maintaining communications with each team during their deployment. The CERT radio system once again proved to be an outstanding asset in performing our mission of neighborhood search and reporting conditions. Also, Cynthia Byrne-Sellars put her skills to work as a previous CHP dispatcher to staff the trailer base radio.
The CERT Trailer has an inventory similar to the neighborhood containers and has a full communications capability using Marine batteries charged by solar panels. CERT members use a small response kit to carry basic essential tools and first-aid supplies during their neighborhood search.

These Quality Photographs Courtesy CERT Member Thor Rasmussen. To view the entire inventory of photos, use this link: http://www.gotcomms.com/CERT_2018jan20
Training Refresher: Marking A Building Exterior When Conducting An Area Search (FEMA Standards)

Draw your “X” so it is visible from the street
You’re Driving A Bomb!” This section is a re-write of an article written by CERT member Demetrius Kastros and published in Fire Engineering Magazine, the leading Fire Service Magazine in the World.

You’re driving a bomb! That’s what my dad used to tell me repeatedly when I first got my driver’s license. A car is nothing more than a 2-ton bomb. When you’re driving that car, it’s always a half second away from exploding!

A CERT Alert Activation does NOT let you drive in an unsafe manner. When responding to an alert, you must obey all traffic laws and operate your car in a safe manner. **No law allows you to drive unsafely or violate the rules of the road.**

Many factors affect driving. No matter where you’re located, field of view, reaction times, and stopping distances are major factors in safe driving. The laws of physics are a powerful **force** when driving a 2-ton bomb. You need to understand those laws. Even a minor amount of alcohol consumption affects your reflexes and perceptions.

You should **train** yourself to think not in terms of miles per hour (mph) but in feet per second (fps), which is much more specific and usable. Field of view refers to your total visibility, especially with cross traffic. In **residential** and commercial neighborhoods, posted speed limits of 30 mph (44 fps) are common. That sounds relatively slow, but it isn't when you’re propelling 2 tons of energy at that speed. On our Monterey Peninsula, many of the intersections do not have a clear view of cross traffic until you’re at the intersection. Building construction, fences, walls, vegetation, and parked vehicles are just some of the things that limit your field of view. At 30 mph, the laws of physics will carry you through the intersection before you have time to react and stop for a vehicle or pedestrian that suddenly appears in the crosswalk or street in front of you. The field of view—or your ability to see approaching cross traffic—is often very limited.

Let’s do the math. At 30 mph you’re moving at 44 fps. Your **reaction**, combined with time for the vehicle’s brake system to engage the disks or drums, can take 1 to 1.5 seconds. After first seeing and then reacting to a perceived hazard, you will travel 44 to 66 feet before the drum or disk brakes actually begin to stop your car. I call this the “reaction distance.” One recognized formula calculates that the vehicle speed will reduce 15 feet per second for every second of travel time, or fps per second after
braking begins. With a 1.5 second reaction distance of 66 feet, you then will move forward 44 feet in the first second of actual braking, 29 feet in the next second, and 14 feet in the third second, before stopping. That’s 153 feet to react, engage the brakes, and bring to a stop your 2 tons of moving energy! The math doesn't lie. The laws of physics are NOT in your favor.

An average two-lane residential or commercial street is about 40 feet wide curb to curb. At 30 mph, even if you see a hazard and start to react 100 feet before entering the leading edge of the intersection, you will travel another 53 feet beyond the start of the intersection before stopping. That will take you completely across both lanes of the intersecting street and past the far side crosswalk. Anything suddenly appearing will be absorbing the impact of 2 tons of moving energy. Do you still think it’s okay to bust through a blind intersection at 44 fps? This is not good.

Of course, these numbers rise significantly with increased speeds. Night, wet, or icy roads and fog also significantly affect reaction distance and stopping time.

When your car collides with another vehicle, wall or even worse, a pedestrian or child on a bike, that 2-ton bomb you’re driving explodes violently! You need to do everything reasonably within your power to prevent that.

Remember CERT Priority # One: Everyone returns home safe! That includes the members of the public we encounter while responding to a CERT Alert.

![Typical Vehicle Damage After A Low Speed Accident](image-url)
The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist their families and others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT also participates in searches for missing persons, serves as coastal spotters for persons swept out to sea, storm response and other common emergencies.

Learn These Skills and More:

- Emergency First-aid
- Use of a fire extinguisher
- Disaster Preparedness
- Shutting your utilities
- Rescue and Neighborhood Search
- Communications when phones fail
- Assessing your home or workplace after an earthquake or storm

All classes are taught in Monterey. Anyone may enroll by sending an e-mail of interest to: training@montereycert.org You will receive a confirmation with class details.

The next CERT training takes place over 3 consecutive Saturdays: Classes occur on Saturday February 24th, Saturday March 3rd and Saturday March 10th. Class time each day is 8:20 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. We break for lunch from 12-1 each day.

CERT is free and open to everyone, regardless where you live!