CERT Drill For ALL Members, August 28th. On Saturday, August 28th from 0845-1200 Monterey CERT will be holding a live, in-person drill for all members. This drill is our first for all members since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March of 2020. There are important skills that all members should know, so please attend. Staging is the EOC behind fire station 1 on Pacific Street in Monterey. Please wear your CERT vest and have your helmet with you. The drill will largely be held outside, so apply sunscreen and bring a hat. Address for GPS: 620 Pacific St., Monterey.
CERT Class for new volunteers begins September 11th. Interested residents of Monterey, PG, Carmel and Sand City send an email to: training@monterey.org

Carmel CERT Team Activated In Search For Missing, At-Risk Senior. On Friday, June 25th, the Carmel CERT team was activated by Carmel Police to assist in the search for a missing, at-risk senior. In coordination with PD, Team Lead Wanda Vollmer assembled, briefed and assigned members search areas. In addition, Monterey County initiated an alert notification to residents in the Carmel area sending phone, email and texts messages providing a description of the missing senior. The missing person was safely located later in the afternoon. With our ability to put dozens of trained members on scene quickly, together with our radio system, CERT is a huge asset in a search!

Using a CERT team to assist in a search is a core task that is covered under the California Disaster Service Worker (DSW) laws. These laws provide that registered volunteers activated by a sponsoring government agency are covered under worker’s compensation laws should a volunteer become injured during an authorized deployment. CERT teams also provide storm/disaster response, help at COVID-19 events and support firefighters at prolonged incidents.
Disaster In Florida! The horrible building collapse in Florida has shocked us all. Crews continue to search for the missing while questions remain as to how and why a 40-year-old structure suddenly failed so dramatically.

How Would CERT Help During This Type Of Event?
As always, the overriding concern for CERT members and all responders is the safety of those involved. With this in mind, CERT members can provide vital assistance in this type of major event, particularly in the hours immediately after the emergency, before Statewide and National resources can arrive. With our emergency medical skills, CERT members can assist with the injured. CERT can provide perimeter control, support the firefighters on scene with food, water and cooling stations, provide lighting and generators from our many containers and much more. We could also assist with debris removal in those areas where it can be done safely. This would be a very prolonged deployment so CERT members would be organized into shifts and rotated in and out of the event on a regular schedule.
Next CERT Radio Drill: Monday July 19th 7 P.M.
Tune in on CERT Channel 4

Training Refresher: Turning Your Gas Off
(Courtesy PG&E)

How to Locate Your Main Gas Service Shutoff Valve

Knowing the location of your main gas service shutoff valve will help you turn off the gas supply to your entire facility quickly in case of an emergency.

The location of the valve can vary depending on the type of building and when it was installed:

- The gas meter and gas service shutoff valve are together and usually located on the side or in front of the building. If the building has a breezeway, it could be located there.

- In some cases, the gas meter can be located in a cabinet enclosure built into the building or located inside the building. In these cases, the gas service shutoff valve can be located outside on a section of gas service pipe next to the building, or near the gas meter.
If there are multiple meters serving gas to multiple units within a building, there are individual gas service shutoff valves for each unit near each of the gas meters, including a master valve for the entire building where the gas pipe comes out of the ground. Your facilities personnel or your property manager (if you are leasing) might be able to help you locate your unit’s valve location.

If you still are not able to locate the gas service shutoff valve, contact PG&E for assistance to locate the valve.
When to Turn Off Your Gas

Do not shut off the gas unless you smell gas, hear gas escaping, see a broken gas line or if you suspect a gas leak. If you shut off the gas, there may be a considerable delay before PG&E can turn your service on. **Once the gas is shut off at the meter, do not try to turn it back on yourself.** If the gas service shutoff valve is closed, PG&E or another qualified professional should perform a safety inspection before the gas service is restored and the appliance pilots are lit.

How to Turn Off Your Gas

In an emergency, your gas can be turned off at the main gas service shutoff valve normally located near your gas meter. Using a 12 to 15 inch crescent-type wrench or other suitable tool, give the valve a quarter turn; the valve is closed when the tang (the part you put the wrench on) is crosswise to the pipe.

- Know where your main gas service shutoff valve is located
• Keep an adjustable pipe or crescent-type wrench available to turn off the gas in case of an emergency
• Know how to shut off the gas at the gas service shutoff valve
• Leave it off until service can be restored safely by PG&E or another qualified professional

If your gas service is configured differently from the one described and you wish to know how to turn off your gas, please contact PG&E.

**Appliance Gas Shutoff Valve**

Most gas appliances have a gas shutoff valve located near the appliance that lets you turn off the gas to that appliance only. In some cases, turning off the gas at the appliance’s shutoff valve will suffice if there is a gas leak or the appliance needs to be replaced or serviced. You should have an appliance gas shutoff valve installed at each gas appliance that lets you turn off the gas to that appliance only, instead of shutting off all gas at the main gas service shutoff valve. To turn off the gas at the gas appliance, rotate the valve a quarter turn.

• Know which of your appliances use natural gas
• Know where the appliance gas shutoff valves are located, and how to turn them off
CERT Class for New Volunteers Starts in September. This class will occur on weekends and be a combination of live, interactive ZOOM and hands-on in-person skills instruction. Class is open to residents of Monterey, PG, Carmel and Sand City. Send an email of interest to: training@montereycert.org

CERT Zone Captains

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