Fires Devastate Our Communities! The River Fire, Salinas Valley, as visible from Monterey (photo below by Demetrius Kastros) on August 16, 2020. Mandatory evacuations occurred in the Corral De Tierra, San Benancio and River Road areas, including Las Palmas. Other major fires in Carmel Valley, Santa Cruz and across the State drew down all resources.

Many homes were lost in the fires. Resources from across California responded to provide mutual-aid assistance with the fires. We owe all our firefighters an enormous thanks.
Monterey CERT Deploys 34 Members For Fire Watch During Predicted Thunderstorms, Sunday August 23rd. At the request of the Monterey Fire Department, CERT was activated Sunday August 23rd in anticipation of predicted thunderstorms across the Peninsula. 34 members responded to the Everbridge Alert and were deployed to various forested areas across Monterey, Pacific Grove and Carmel. Fortunately, the thunderstorm activity did not materialize, but with local and Statewide firefighting resources at maximum drawdown, CERT members were in several locations to quickly report any fires that might have resulted from the predicted lightning strikes.

Monterey CERT Coordinated with Monterey County OES To Be on Stand-By For Evacuation Assistance in Carmel Valley. CERT coordinated with Monterey County Office Of Emergency Services (OES) to be on stand-by in the event we were needed to assist with evacuations in Carmel Valley.
Training: Recognizing Early Warning Signs Of A Stroke:

F.A.S.T. is an acronym used as a mnemonic to help detect and enhance responsiveness to the needs of a person having a stroke. The acronym stands for Facial drooping, Arm weakness, Speech difficulties and Time to call 911.

Being able to recognize the warning signs of a stroke AND TAKING ACTION is lifesaving. If you suspect you or another person are experiencing stroke symptoms, call 911 immediately!

If you have a CERT radio, PLEASE remember to tune into CERT Channel 3 during fires, storms, power outages, earthquakes and other regional emergencies. This will allow you to receive updates on what is occurring, and check-in to report incidents in your neighborhood.

Next CERT Radio Drill Monday September 21st at 7 P.M. Tune in on CERT channel 3. Be prepared to make area damage reports from your neighborhood (Simulated).

Remember: ALWAYS follow your Coronavirus safety protocols. ALWAYS WEAR A MASK WHEN RESPONDING TO A CERT ALERT OR WHENEVER YOU ARE OUTSIDE YOUR HOME OR CAR. IT IS NOW THE LAW. Wash your hands, use sanitizer and practice distancing. If you have flu-like symptoms, do not respond to any CERT alerts. Contact your doctor immediately. Follow their instructions!
CERT Behind the Scenes. Much occurs behind the scenes to make Monterey CERT one of the premier Community Emergency Response Teams in America! CERT has ten neighborhood containers in Monterey, one in Pacific Grove and one in Carmel. **The respective cities pay for their containers.** In the past year, Monterey has worked to maintain their containers. This is no small undertaking that includes surface preparation, priming and painting. Each container was installed at the cost of several thousand dollars to the sponsoring city! Our respective City Leaders should be commended for their continued support of CERT!

Monterey Vista Team Leader **Lisa Alameda** with the recently painted CERT container at Monte Vista School. Team Leaders provide a vital role in maintaining their containers and the inventory therein. They are the core of the CERT organization and provide all the training and management for CERT. **No salaries are paid for Monterey CERT!** Being a team leader, or Zone Captain, as we refer to them, takes hundreds of hours of volunteer time each year.

**CERT Team Leaders** hold monthly meetings to coordinate our activities and assure we remain ready to respond anywhere on the Peninsula, anytime, day or night. CERT members are always working to coordinate communications, equipment maintenance and deployments. **CERT has no boundaries and will respond to Fire or Police agency emergency requests for assistance anywhere across the Peninsula.**
CERT In Action!

Carmel CERT Team Captains (above) Wanda Vollmer and Scot Smythe, along with additional Carmel CERT team members were activated August 2nd by Carmel PD to advise visitors of the City’s newly enacted regulations limiting use and access to the beach due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. (Photo by Demetrius Kastros)

CERT Members Receive Safety and Deployment briefing prior to the August 23rd lightning watch deployment. (Above photo by CERT member Isabelle Preti)