



NEWPORT BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT

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JEFF BOYLES
Fire Chief

October 14, 2020

«First» «Last»
«address»
«city», «state» «zip»

RE: Annual CERT letter and 2021 Mandatory CERT Re-certification classes

Dear «First»,

Two thousand and twenty has proven to be an incredibly challenging year for everyone. The global pandemic and statewide wildland fires have placed more demands on the Newport Beach Fire Department this past year than ever before. Due to the nature of the COVID pandemic, we postponed all in-person Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) activities, drills, and events. We made adjustments to meet the new social distancing requirements by hosting our CERT "All Hands" and neighborhood meetings utilizing Zoom, a web-based video conferencing tool. We also conducted our fall 2020 program using both an online learning portal and Zoom. We hope to hold future "in-person" meetings and events, as well as the hands-on portions of the CERT programs in late spring or early summer of 2021.

The year 2021 will mark the 21st year of our CERT program and we would first like to thank you for being one of our 450 active CERT volunteers. We expect 2021 to be another challenging and demanding year for our Fire Department and CERT program. Both the spring 2021 CERT programs will continue using the online learning portal and Zoom.

Again, we hope to be able to resume our hands-on training as soon as possible, in a safe, socially distanced format. We will hold the 13th annual State of CERT Awards banquet on Wednesday, January 27 at 6:00 pm as well as our quarterly CERT "All Hands" meetings via Zoom. We hope the online format will allow you to participate and enjoy from the comforts of your own home. Please sign up by logging on to your account through our CERT Volunteer Management system, Better Impact.

To remain active as a Newport Beach Fire Department CERT volunteer, you are required to attend a mandatory re-certification every two years. Due to the ongoing pandemic, we will hold the CERT mandatory re-certification classes via Zoom until it is safe to hold them in-person. Please note that we will hold them in-person and not via zoom, when deemed safe to do so. Eight mandatory re-certification classes are scheduled in the first half of 2021, see below for dates and time. Please sign up for one of the classes by logging on to your account through our CERT Volunteer Management system, Better Impact.

- Tuesday, February 9 (6:00-8:00 pm)-CERT Mandatory re-certification class #1
- Tuesday, March 9 (9:00-11:00 am)-CERT Mandatory re-certification class #2
- Wednesday, April 14 (1:00-3:00 pm)-CERT Mandatory re-certification class #3
- Saturday, April 24 (9:00-11 am)-CERT Mandatory re-certification class #4
- Tuesday, April 27 (6:00-8:00 pm)-CERT Mandatory re-certification class #5
- Monday, May 3 (9:00-11:00 am)-CERT Mandatory re-certification class #6
- Tuesday, May 18 (6:00-8:00 pm)-CERT Mandatory re-certification class #7
- Tuesday, June 1 (6:00-8:00 pm)-CERT Mandatory re-certification class #8

In addition to the mandatory re-certification classes, you are required to log into the volunteer management system website (Better Impact) and update your information. All CERT related information and activities, such as the annual calendar, schedules, CERT drills, classes, or meetings are accessible through Better Impact. You can also enter your CERT volunteer hours each year through the on-line portal. You can access the site from our CERT website, www.nbcert.org (scroll to the bottom of the page). If you do not remember your username or password, please email nbcert@nbfd.net.

For the past 21 years, Newport Beach CERT volunteers have assisted the fire department in getting our message of community preparedness, self-sufficiency, and "Neighbors-Helping-Neighbors" to the Newport Beach community. Over the past 21 years, we have held 84 CERT programs with over 2,200 participants. Although 2021 will likely present more challenges, we will continue to fulfill our mission to better prepare the Newport Beach community for any unexpected emergency. Thank you for everything you do to better prepare yourselves, your family and our community.

On behalf of the entire Newport Beach Fire Department, we wish you a wonderful holiday season. We are looking forward to another productive year for our CERT program and hope you will remain an active CERT volunteer. Once again, we thank you for everything you do to better our CERT program and prepare the Newport Beach community. You epitomize the resilient "Newport Strong" theme. Stay safe, we will get through this together.

Sincerely,



Jeff Boyles
Fire Chief



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