



CERT-Scene

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Calling on *Volunteers* in the Community

With the decrease in COVID-19 infections, we can again provide in-person volunteer opportunities to our CERT grads. Among the organizations at which volunteers have important roles is the Ventura County Chapter of the Red Cross.

The VC Red Cross, based in Camarillo, needs volunteers for a number of projects, including: emergency shelter operations, residential smoke alarm installation, community outreach, the Disaster Action Team, health services response, registering/processing other volunteers, and assisting with specialized functions such as IT.



The Ventura County Human Services Agency (HSA) oversees emergency shelter management, though on-site shelter operations are handled by the

Red Cross. In 2020, HSA implemented the Temporary Evacuation Points (TEP) program to process residents into shelters during COVID-19. Last December, an exercise was held at one of the HSA's designated TEP sites at the PV Recreation and Park Community Center (left photo); this summer, a number of Camarillo CERT grads participated in another TEP drill. TEPs are expected to be integral to post-pandemic shelter operations.



COUNTY OF VENTURA
TEMPORARY
EVACUATION
STAGING AREA

Through the years, CERT grads have participated in many trainings and community events. This has included emergency water distribution, triage, Stop the Bleed, animal rescue and sheltering with VC Animal Services, emergency radio operations, and presentations on matters such as active shooter incidents. CERT participates in community events such as the Emergency Expo and CSUCI Safety Fair (below).

CERT grads have also assisted at emergency shelters, performed house-checks for our special needs residents during electrical outages, distributed food, water, and masks during fires and the pandemic, assisted police officers with escorts of residents into their homes after fires, restocked and cataloged the City's mass casualty (MC) trailer, and assisted residents during winter storms.



On Saturday, November 13, the Red Cross will host the *Ride for the Red*, which is again happening in Camarillo. The *Ride* is a great event that raises funds for county military veterans, with different courses/distances for biking enthusiasts. CERT grads participate in the event (left), providing refreshments for riders along their routes.



On Monday, **August 30**, an in-person meeting will be held at City Hall regarding Red Cross volunteer opportunities. The meeting begins at 6 pm, and will include staff from the Red Cross to discuss their volunteer projects with Camarillo CERT. More information on the meeting will follow.

As noted, we're excited to get back to in-person training with our CERT grads, which will include emergency water distribution at the City's water reservoirs (right). That said, welcome back to CERT volunteer activities, and thank you again for your commitment to the safety of Camarillo. If you have any questions, please contact Heidi Zahrt at 383-5688, or at Hzahrt@cityofcamarillo.org.

