



BusinessScene

September 2017
Volume XII, Number 4

Check Out Free **CERT** Training for Your Employees

As we've watched the awful impacts of Hurricane Harvey in Texas, many of us have probably considered what could happen in Ventura County in a major emergency. Your business could be better prepared with emergency response training for at least some of your employees. Over the past decade, over 800 Camarillo area residents have received valuable free training through the CERT program.



What is CERT? CERT is the **Community Emergency Response Team**, and anyone 18 years of age or older is eligible to take part in this excellent training.

Camarillo's CERT program begins another series of classes on Tuesday, September 12. CERT classes are taught by members of the Ventura County Fire Department at their training center at Camarillo Airport.

September is National Preparedness Month, so get your employees involved. CERT instruction includes triage, first aid, extinguishing fires, search and rescue, cribbing (in the right photo - to remove injured persons from beneath heavy objects), terrorism response, and more. During emergencies, fire and law enforcement personnel may request the services of CERT-trained persons.



The CERT classes will be held weekly, at 6:30 p.m., from September 12 through October 17. The final field course will take place on Saturday, October 21.

Everyone who participates in CERT receives a backpack, a course manual, vest, field gloves, helmet, goggles, flashlight, and a *Camarillo CERT* T-shirt. CERT is funded by the Department of Homeland Security, so the training and materials are provided to participants at no charge.



To register for the next CERT course, please contact Heidi Zahrt at 383-5688, or hzahrt@cityofcamarillo.org. Class sizes are limited, but if this one fills up, another CERT course will be offered in Camarillo early in 2018. There will be a waiting list for that course.

For information on emergency preparedness, please visit www.ReadyVenturaCounty.org. Every person with a cell phone should register for **VC Alert** to receive important updates during emergencies. Registration is free, and the information is on the Ready-VC website.