

SERT News

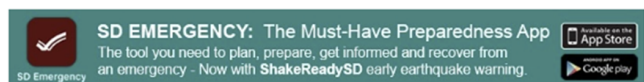
OHCC Safety & Emergency Response Team

President's Message



A month doesn't go by without a resident asking, "In case we have to evacuate where should we go?" The simple answer is SERT DOES NOT KNOW! Many factors play into the decision to evacuate and the order to evacuate will come from the San Diego County Emergency Management System.

The good news is that San Diego County Emergency Management has a website and a free APP that you can download for either an Apple or Android device. The link to this download can be found on their website: www.readysandiego.org



Disaster Preparedness



Click on the icons below to learn more about disasters in the County of San Diego and how to prepare for them:



Once you download the APP you can customize it to meet your needs. The APP will send you notification if there is a Wildfire, where it is located, what your status is for evacuation, where to go if the evacuation is ordered. It even provides you with a map so you can see what is happening.

The APP has been updated so it can send you an alert if there is an earthquake within a specific radius of where you live and if it is greater than a certain magnitude. I have my APP set for 5.0 or greater within 250 miles of my

location. In that way, if there is a significant earthquake on the San Andres fault near Palm Springs and there is a potential that power lines, water, and gas pipelines will be disrupted, I will get notified. This information will help me react accordingly and potentially lead to the activation of the SERT Emergency Response Team.

Another APP that I highly recommend is the American Red Cross First Aid APP. At your fingertips is "how to" guidance to address first aid issues that may arise. It is easily searchable and provides information that you can immediately use.

As members of SERT, I encourage you to have these two APPs downloaded in the case of an emergency. Again, both APPs are FREE!



Tom Porter, President

Emergency Response



John Slayton
Club VP & ERT INCIDENT COMMANDER

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and its various local affiliates are the primary agencies responsible for the development and implementation of plans, processes, and procedures to "protect lives and property, build capabilities and support communities for a resilient California". They primarily support public emergency management efforts, not private communities such as OHCC. I have been associated with OES for the past 30+ years as one of the few private-sector outreach instructors certified to teach Incident Command and Emergency Management.

SERT was recently contacted by a community resident (I don't have permission to use his name so I will call him "Joe") with prior emergency management

experience who expressed his concern that OHCC did not have an emergency response (or any other type of) plan to protect the residents. Joe was advised to communicate with the Master Board on this issue. Joe went one step further and not only sent an email to the Board but also to the San Diego County OES (SDOES) asking what if anything could be done to encourage the Board to establish a plan within OHCC. The SDOES replied that it was not aware if any Keystone Pacific properties had emergency response plans, but, since OHCC resides in the incorporated City of Oceanside, it had forwarded the email to the City of Oceanside's Emergency Manager for review. The response from SDOES also encouraged the resident to contact the City of Oceanside Fire Dept. and the CERT Program for more information or guidance. I know Joe has been in contact with the Fire Department, and I encourage that dialog. The purpose of this article is not only to thank Joe for his concerns and suggestions but to assure you that OHCC SERT leadership is, indeed, in contact with the Oceanside Fire Dept. and the CERT Program. Many of you,

in fact, have also graduated from the CERT Academy, in addition to completing SERT ERT training. An Oceanside Fire Department Battalion Chief has been very involved in the SERT training program, and many of you will recall that the Chief attended the 2021 emergency response drill. (He and I were also instrumental in developing a wildfire evacuation plan template for OHCC that has been sent to the Master Board.)

It's important to note that the SERT mission incorporates resident emergency preparedness and response; we do not have the resources to develop plans. However, we do train, practice, and drill to make sure we are the best we can be to assist the community in a time of need, and SERT is well known – and well respected by both Oceanside Fire Department and Oceanside CERT.

If you are interested in the Master Board's decision regarding the development of a community emergency response plan or its progress in implementing the Oceanside Fire Department's Wildfire Evacuation Plan, please attend the next Master Board meeting and ask.

Neighbor–Helping–Neighbor

The OHCC SERT CLUB Neighbor-Helping-Neighbor Program launches

FAMILY CAREGIVER GROUP

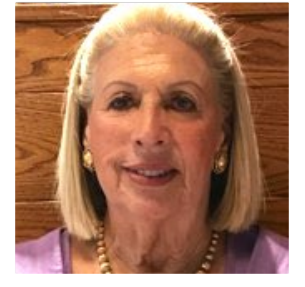
The OHCC Safety Emergency Response Team’s mission is to help educate all residents to be prepared in an emergency. Family caregivers face an extra challenge as taking care of a loved one involves managing special needs. In the case of a disaster, such as an earthquake or emergency event like a power outage, caregivers may need extra support. For example, their loved one may use medical equipment that needs power.

Our new Family Caregiver Group is part of the SERT Neighbor-Helping-Neighbor (NHN) program which brings neighbors together to support each other. Many of our residents find themselves caring for a loved one or being cared for by a loved one who also lives in our community. Resident Suzanne Foreman saw a need to start a support group to share ideas and resources and got the ball rolling.

The SERT NHN program was a natural fit and offered the benefits of an established club. As a part of the SERT Club, members have access to a personal Home Educational Survey by our Emergency Response Team. Family caregivers may not be aware of all the utility shutoff locations and can receive ERT recommendations that will help them in an emergency incident.

The Family Caregiver Group meets, starting in June, the first Thursday from 7-8 pm at the

Clubhouse in a friendly and safe environment where we can relax and share our personal stories and frustrations, the challenges and struggles we face providing care for our loved ones and learn from each other. If you are caring for a loved one, please join us at our next meeting on May 19 at 7 pm (We know the May meeting is not the first Thursday but it conflicted with Cinco de Mayo activities)!



Ellen Baur



NEIGHBORS
HELPING
NEIGHBORS

Marla Reiter has taken on the responsibility of running our bimonthly meetings. In March, we celebrated St. Patrick’s Day, and in April, we had Kelly Allan founder of the Caregiver Networks Club as our guest speaker. The Caregiver Networks Club is a free organization in San Diego County that provides a wide variety of resources and networking opportunities to match caregivers and families. There are so many ways we can support our loved ones.

If you are taking care of a parent, partner or other loved one, our group is here for you. The more educated and prepared you are, the better your caregiver skills. Find more information about SERT, NHN, and the Family Caregiver Group on our website: www.certohcc.wexsite.com/sert/join-sert To join the Family Caregiver Group, download the SERT Club membership form, check the box marked “other” and write in “family caregiver.”

Neighbor–Helping–Neighbor

STREET GATHERINGS AND THE BUDDY SYSTEM

It's spring and people are eager to get together. Many of us have experienced a significant turnover on our streets since the pandemic. The enthusiastic response to the gatherings that are being organized by clubs, OHCC, friends, and SERT Safety Coordinators verify that now is the time to hold that social neighborhood event!

On Aegina Way, after the Buddy System was organized with a surprising 100% participation, a celebratory meet and greet was held and 78% of the street happily came. We played an icebreaker which had us talking to and laughing with everyone there while trying to find out who fit with the facts listed on a paper. Beverages and cookies were enjoyed during the (appropriately distanced) socializing that followed. Many commented on how glad they were to have the chance to see old friends and meet new neighbors. One woman said, "I really needed this to get back out into the neighborhood!" A follow up potluck was overwhelmingly endorsed.

On Arcadia, safety meetings with presentations by SERT president, Tom, or vice-president, John, and show and tell with emergency supplies were well attended by neighbors. People learned to prepare for disasters, had the opportunity to ask questions and went away appreciative of SERT's efforts to inform them and to strengthen the neighborly bonds on their street.

You may be lucky enough to have a SERT Safety Coordinator on your street. Most likely, you will be asked to form a buddy group of 3-5 neighbors close to you who are willing to share contact information and check in on each other in the

event of an emergency. This system has been endorsed by the SERT leadership to mitigate the potential damage to life and property during an emergency. It also helps the community take on the responsibility, which all the first responders say will be ours, for the first 72 hours in a disaster. Even if your street has no Safety Coordinator, this system can be organized by you and your neighbors. Also be sure your buddies know who in OHCC has your house key. That simple bit of information recently prevented a major fire from occurring in our community. A hurried trip to the emergency room with dinner left cooking was the recipe for disaster which a helpful neighbor was able to avert in addition to saving a beloved pet. The continuous beeping of the smoke alarm gave the roof mate notice there was a problem. The Buddy System also proved to work very well when there was an emergency on Lorca. Many of us can tell stories of how the watchful eye of a neighbor has been an invaluable help in many diverse situations.

SERT needs more Safety Coordinators, ERTs and Board Members. We would be most grateful if you would volunteer! But, we know that everyone can form a Buddy System with a group of neighbors and hope many of you would offer to host a safety meeting on your street. You will get lots of assistance from us!

We are the builders of our community! Let us work together! Thank you all for your continuing support of SERT!



Annie Gandhi

Treasury Report



Gary Baur

APRIL 2022

Bank Balance	\$10,477.64
Income:	
Membership dues YTD	\$4,280.00
Donations YTD	\$ 267.00

Supplies purchased:

- 4-cots for the First Aid Station
- 3-Red Pop-up tents for the First Aid Station
- Stop the Bleed gauze pads
- CPR protective mouth screens for breathing



Sue Porter

Membership Report

Very happy to report that we have **328** club members, 10 new additions

- 13 members joined as “lifetime” members
- 49 members are on the Emergency Response Team (ERT)
- 58 members are Safety Coordinators

Keep spreading the good word and encourage your neighbors to join SERT.

Mark Your Calendars!

- **May 19** – Family Care Givers (Mykonos Room 7-8 pm)
- **June 2** - Family Care Givers (Mykonos Room 7-8 pm)
- **June 4** – Health & Safety Fair at the Clubhouse 9-1 PM (Recreation Department & SERT co-sponsors)
- **June 5** – SERT Club Social on the Lanai
- **July 7** - Family Care Givers (Mykonos Room 7-8 pm)
- **July 14** – Safety Coordinator’s meeting in the Mykonos Room 1-3 pm
- **August 4** - Family Care Givers (Mykonos Room 7-8 pm)
- **September 1** - Family Care Givers (Mykonos Room 7-8 pm)
- **September 17** - OHCC Flea Market – SERT will have a dedicated space for SERT members to donate items with all proceeds going to SERT. Last year we raised over \$2,000.
- **October 6** - Family Care Givers (Mykonos Room 7-8 pm)
- **October 9** – SERT Club Annual Meeting in Abraval Hall 1:30-3:30 pm – Election of Officers
- **October 20** – The Great Shakeout! Emergency Response Team Drill
- **November 3** - Family Care Givers (Mykonos Room 7-8 pm)
- **December 1** - Family Care Givers (Mykonos Room 7-8 pm)