

SERT News

OHCC Safety & Emergency Response Team

President's Message



Tom Porter
President

As I write this article, Sue and I are in our RV in Chicken, Alaska. The population of Chicken is 3 very hardy souls and in the summer it swells to 26 (+/-). Our RV has just about everything we need to stay extremely comfortable: Solar Panels and/or generator for electricity, 65-gallons of water for drinking or showering, full size refrigerator, propane furnace, and enough food stores to last about 3-weeks, and, not to be forgotten, a flushing toilet (a self-contained unit). The people of Chicken truck EVERYTHING in & out! They have no water pipes, sewage, trash collection, electricity, telephone or cellular service or even an available fuel supply. The nearest gas station for both gasoline and diesel is about 2-hours away. In an emergency, weather permitting, they use CB radios to call for help and, hopefully, a helicopter can fly in and take the patient to the nearest medical facility. Please note that I said facility and not hospital! A hospital is for big cities where you have a large population. Most people in this area have basic first aid skills, and everyone has a large first aid kit.

So where am I going with all this? Following a large natural disaster, such as an earthquake, you may find yourself in a position like the good folks here in Chicken. No water, no power, no fuel supply, no toilet, limited available food and only your first aid kit. We tend to take so much for granted and assume everything will be provided for us. **In an emergency you will be responsible for YOURSELF!**

This is why SERT is always warning you about being prepared and having at least 72-hours (3-days) of supplies. Remember, this is for every person in your household including your pet(s) and a little extra just in case you have visitors when disaster strikes. Being out in the wilderness is so beautiful, wild animals abound, but, make no mistake, you are on your own or with some luck you can count on your neighbor for help!

OHCC Flea Market – September 17

I want to give a shout out and many thanks to Lynn Murphy and Lynn Williams who are organizing and executing SERT's participation in the upcoming Flea Market on September 17. SERT will have a table at this event to help raise funds to support more First Aid training. Your donations are critical to our success. This year, we will be focusing on smaller household items, jewelry, scarves, purses etc. Lynn Williams will start collecting donations August 17 at her home at 4968 Lamia Way. Donations can be dropped off inside her gate anytime on or after that date. Her team is also asking for a few volunteers to help at the table. If you have any questions or can help, please contact Lynn at 760-712-9555 or email her at hillfieldhouse2@cox.net.

Thank you all for your continuing support of SERT! Everyone Stay Safe and enjoy the Summer!

Emergency Response



John Slayton
Club VP & ERT INCIDENT COMMANDER

The SERT Club is officially designated as a social club, but, as I've emphasized many times, it is much more. We consider ourselves to be a service club, providing great value to our community. Throughout the year, the SERT Club organizes or supports various fundraising events, such as the upcoming September Flea Market and May's Health & Safety Fair. We encourage residents to volunteer and depend on your donations. We are often asked "For what will the money be used?" This is a valid question, and I'd like to take this opportunity to explain about one such use for the funds. The Emergency Response Team prepares for all types of

emergencies, but we especially focus on earthquakes, because we, along with the scientific community, believe it's a "when" and not an "if" event. Unfortunately, an earthquake of significance will, most likely, result in various types of injuries, some of which require immediate first aid. Although all the SERT responders are trained in Red Cross Basic First Aid, the reality is that we're less than 50 people, and we may not be able to provide adequate first aid services. This is a known deficiency that the SERT Club is in the process of correcting.

Thanks to your donations, several SERT Emergency Response Team leaders have started training to become Certified American Red Cross First Aid Instructors. This is a challenging, technical, rewarding and yet expensive program (almost \$4,000) that will allow SERT to provide certified basic first aid, CPR, and AED training to all community residents. (For SERT Club members, training

will be offered to non-resident family members as well. Another benefit for being a SERT Club member!). The goal would be to increase the number of those certified in first aid from 50 to hundreds who could offer their services to neighbors to allow the ERT members to focus on their primary objective of community life safety assessment. This is a perfect example of a Neighbor Helping Neighbor project.

So – thank you in advance for supporting the Flea Market event and for contributing to this worthy cause. This is an example of our money going back directly into our community.

Stay Safe

NOTE: No Treasury Report

It's vacation time and the board did not spend any money.

We have 5 new members which brings our checking account to \$9,790.02.

Neighbor–Helping–Neighbor

Great Happenings on the streets of OHCC

Some wonderful things have been happening in OHCC! The SERT Safety Coordinators have been organizing street safety meetings with great results.

This is an overview of what is being done to give you an idea of the potential of such a meeting and to encourage YOU to organize it (with help from your neighbors & SERT!)

First, street neighbors are invited by email and/or flier to attend a gathering to “meet and greet” their neighbors. The participants bring their own chairs and something to drink. Sometimes this has evolved into a potluck. This is a “delicious” way for everyone to bring their favorite dish to share and to really get to know one another! Voila!! For safety, Securitas (our Community Patrol) has been blocking off part of the street with cones for the duration of the party. Some gatherings have occurred on patios. From name tags (thank you so much for that so I don’t have to be embarrassed asking my “long-time” neighbors-what their names are!) to icebreaker games, each street has their own spin on helping to connect people.

The program is easy…SERT Board Members share vital information on the response people can expect from the SERT organization, the city’s first responders (be prepared to be on your own for the first 72 hours) and the surprising lack of a plan from the HOA. The talks have also helped people know what they can do to be prepared. Anyone who has ever been in a disaster knows how important it is to be prepared. Often the program includes a “show and tell” of emergency necessities with suggestions for water supplies, food, human waste, communication, lighting, backup power, and

miscellaneous tips on keeping warm, protecting pets, fire extinguishers, extra clothing, shoes and more. Residents have found this pertinent information very helpful and motivates them to improve their personal readiness. Then the real party starts with the food and neighbors socializing.

The latest and “greatest” is the effort by safety coordinators to form buddy systems on their street. SERT has endorsed this to ensure that no one is left out. Groups of neighbors (3-5 houses) form a “pod” by agreeing to share their mutual contact information and check in on each other in the event of an emergency. Checking in on each other would probably occur naturally, but having contact information facilitates that process. And let’s remind ourselves that having a neighbor nearby with a key or knowing its location can be vital information in all kinds of situations. (See the April 2022 SERT article by Stan Katz in the Village Voice on page 6 for details.)

An additional benefit of the street gatherings is a feeling of closeness and warmth toward your neighbors, leading to a natural desire to be helpful. Other great benefits are enticing more people to get involved in SERT and its programs which heightens the preparedness of OHCC as a community.

What can you do if you would like a SERT gathering to happen on your street but there is no safety coordinator? Just drop an email to the SERT Leadership Team at ohccsert@gmail.com, and we will help make this happen on your street!



Annie Gandhi

Neighbor–Helping–Neighbor

The OHCC SERT CLUB Neighbor-Helping-Neighbor Program launches...

FAMILY CAREGIVER GROUP

The 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 living with and caring for a parent, spouse, partner or other loved one.

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.

The Group holds monthly meetings and members gather in a friendly and safe environment where everyone can relax and share personal stories and frustrations, the challenges and struggles one faces providing care for loved ones and learn from each other. The more educated and prepared you are, the better your caregiver skills.



Ellen Baur

Find more information about SERT, NHN, and the Family Caregiver Group on the SERT website. To be a member of the Family Caregiver Group, you need only be a SERT member!

Mark Your Calendars!

- **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 Abravental 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)



Annual Elections - Save the Date!

The OHCC SERT Club will be conducting our Annual Election of Officers to the SERT Board of Directors (BOD) for 2023. The election will be conducted at our Annual Meeting on Friday, October 9, 2022. Please put this date on your calendar and plan to attend. Any active Club member is welcome, and encouraged, to run for an officer position on the BOD. President Porter has appointed Jill Lemons as the Nominating Committee Chairperson.

Should you have any questions, or wish to be on the Nominating Committee, please contact Jill Lemons at 818-321-2505.