



# Villa Park Citizen Corps

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) & Neighborhood Watch

## Quarterly Newsletter

A Volunteer Organization working together with the City of Villa Park

### CERT Structure Overview

The City of Villa Park restructured the CERT Program to give residents the opportunity for different levels of involvement. All Villa Park CERT graduates (previous and future) are asked to designate their specific level. The restructure of the Villa Park CERT program will benefit both the CERT Team members by more clearly identifying roles and responsibilities and the community at large by creating a more efficient team of responders. Below is brief description of each level:

**Level One** – “Prepared Level.” By designating Level One participation on the CERT Membership form, members will have no further responsibilities or required involvement with the City in terms of the emergency preparedness program beyond completion of the initial two-hour training course. Hopefully what is learned will help families in their preparedness efforts.

**Level Two** – “Neighborhood Response Level.” By designating Level Two participation on the CERT Membership form, completion of the initial 24 hour CERT training course is required. Level Two members may then assist, at their own discretion, their neighbors during disaster or emergencies (as a spontaneous volunteer). This level may be called to assist Citywide during an emergency (as an Activated Volunteer/Disaster Service Worker). In addition, they may be asked to assist the City of Villa Park during non-disaster times by helping to provide public education, training, community services and coordination of the CERT program.

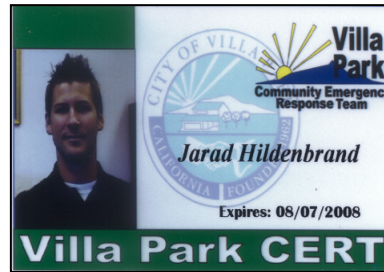
**Level Three** – “CERT Mutual Aid Level.” By designating Level Three participation on the CERT Membership form, members may assist, at their own discretion, neighbors during disasters or emergencies (as a spontaneous volunteer). Additionally, they may be contacted by the City of Villa Park to assist in the community by performing a specific assignment during or in the aftermath of a disaster (as an Activated Volunteer/Disaster Service Worker). Level Three members will be required to attend additional training and participate in the City of Villa Park’s CERT program coordination.

Examples of possible City of Villa Park assignments include: triage assistance, shelter worker, or volunteering to work at a City event.

members will not be required to perform any assignment they are not comfortable with, or able to perform.

Level Three members may also be contacted by the City of Villa Park to assist in another city in Orange County when Villa Park has not been affected by the emergency or disaster at hand (as an Activated Volunteer/Disaster Service Worker). Training opportunities will be announced regularly for Level Three designees.

### CERT Identification Cards



CERT members are asked to come into City Hall, as available, to be issued their Villa Park CERT identification cards.



It is essential that CERT members maintain a professional level in both emergency and non-emergency situations. Identification cards issued are for both identification and accountability purposes. When performing authorized CERT functions, members must display appropriate identification. When not in an authorized CERT function, members are not to use the CERT identification for individual purposes. CERT members will not be allowed to participate in any activation functions of the program without a proper ID.

### Questions, Comment, Concerns

Please take this opportunity and tell the City what you would like to see more of: regular training opportunities, safety meetings, newsletters, disaster drills, etc. Use your imagination! Any and all information is very helpful and can be sent to [vpcert@villapark.org](mailto:vpcert@villapark.org). Remember, people will most likely become involved and remain interested if the programs are fun as well as meaningful.

We Want Your News!!! Please send quarterly newsletter suggestions/articles via e-mail to [vpcert@villapark.org](mailto:vpcert@villapark.org). If we use it, we’ll give you credit.

## CERTS In Action!

For the first time ever, Orange County's CERT Mutual Aid Program was activated. CERT members from Villa Park, Dana Point, Garden Grove, Irvine, Costa Mesa, Huntington Beach, Santa Ana, Fullerton, Newport Beach, Seal Beach, San Juan Capistrano, and Placentia volunteered their time and assisted fire fighters during the devastating Santiago Fire in October/November.



### Get Ready Villa Park!!!

**Get a Kit:** An emergency supplies kit should include items such as water, medicines, a flashlight, non-perishable food, blankets, a battery powered radio, spare batteries and a first aid kit. These supplies should be sufficient for 72 hours.

**Make a Plan:** Be sure to have emergency plans in place and regularly practiced so when the time comes, you and those around you know where to go and what to do in case of an emergency.

**Be Informed:** Know where to locate the local fire department, police station and nearest hospital as well as how to contact them (via phone or internet) in emergency situations. Also, stay informed on current threats and risks in the area.

**Get Involved:** Learn to be a trainer by taking a lively class. Once completed, you'll conduct 2-hour classes for your neighbors. Come alone or bring a friend so you can teach your neighbors together.

Visit [www.villapark.org/72hours.htm](http://www.villapark.org/72hours.htm) for additional information and detailed emergency kit checklists.

### CERT Exercise – Nov 10, 2007

John Fader, the new Program Manager, started his term off with a bang by organizing the first ever **ALL** Villa Park CERT exercise. CERT members were activated via the Connect-CTY system and asked to meet at their perspective assembly points. Roll was taken for accountability purposes and then communication with the Command Trailer was established via hand-held radios. The exercise was a complete success and had a 62% turnout of Villa Park CERT members! Special thanks go out to John for his hard work!

## ICE - "In Case of Emergency"

Courtesy of Mary Silzel

These days everyone carries a mobile phone with names and numbers stored in memory but nobody, other than us, knows which of these numbers belong to our closest family or friends. If you were to be involved in an accident or taken ill, the people attending would have your mobile phone but wouldn't know whom to call. There are hundreds of numbers stored, but which one is the contact person in case of an emergency?

Hence this "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) Campaign. The concept of "ICE" is catching on quickly as an effective method of contact during emergency situations. Since cell phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the number of the person or persons who should be contacted during emergency under the name "ICE" (In Case Of Emergency). For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2 and ICE3 etc. ICE will speak for you when you are not able to.

### If a crime occurs – REPORT IT!!! **(714) 647-7000**

Reporting a suspicious circumstance provides the Sheriff's Department the ability to investigate and act accordingly. When reporting suspicious circumstances, be sure to describe the:

#### SUSPECTS

Sex and Race  
Age  
Height  
Weight  
Hair Color  
Clothing

#### VEHICLES

Color  
Make  
Model  
Year  
License Plate

Any Distinctive Characteristics

In addition to reporting a suspicious circumstance, please remember to make sure that all doors and windows are locked, and braced, when you are not home. This includes interior doors from the garage to the house and side doors from the outside to the garage. Encourage people to not make it easy for burglars to enter! In addition, if you, or a neighbor, are going away for vacation, please alert a neighbor and call the Sheriff's Department at (714) 647-7000 and schedule vacation checks of your residence. Furthermore, having someone (a nearby relative, neighbor, grandkid, etc.) pick up your mail and newspaper acts as a deterrent as well.