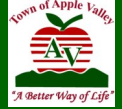




Apple Valley Fire Protection District

SPRING 2012

Town of Apple Valley



# DISASTER SERVICE WORKERS NEWSLETTER



Laura Whitehead  
Emergency Services Officer



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### HIGHLIGHTS

- UPCOMING EVENTS
- SANDBAGS!
- SECRET SANTA
- ANIMAL RESPONSE MODULE
- ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Shirts/Hats-Shirts with Tax:

		w/name
Sm-X-Lrg.	\$22.62	26.39
2X Lrg	24.77	28.54
3X Lrg	26.93	30.70
4X Lrg	29.08	32.85
Hat with Logo	\$9.69	

Make check payable to CME

### CERT:

CERT Training Class-March 3, 17, 31

April 5- Meeting-Pet Oxygen Masks 6:30 PM -8:30 PM Location: Fire Station 336 (Yucca Loma Rd).

April 14-Shake, Rattle and Roll-LDS Church 9a-1p

April 21-VVC College Training Facility GRAND OPENING

April 28-Emergency Preparedness Fair Jess Ranch Station 337 9a-12p

June 2-Annual Volunteer Appreciation Pancake Breakfast. Volunteers-6:30a; Breakfast 8:00a

**ECS:** March 3-General Meeting 8am Station 337 Jess Ranch

Sign-ups for Shake, Rattle & Roll and GRAND OPENING

June 2-General Meeting 8a

**FADD:** March 21-Animal 1st Aid; Guest Speaker: Dr. Cliff Jessen 6:30p-8:30p Location—Station 336

Sign-ups for Shake, Rattle & Roll and GRAND OPENING

May 16-Radio Training Class; will be taught by members of ECS 6:30p-8:30p Location-Station 336

Classes and Meetings are open to all CERT, ECS and FADD members.



Hello Sandbag team (and all of the other Disaster Service Workers)!

Well, here we are again...another winter! Hopefully we won't need to call you in to fill/hand out sandbags...but just in case we do, please give Ray Gregg a big THANK YOU! He made SIX of the 6 cylinder sandbag fillers for your use! They are an awesome design and work very well! Now 2 people can fill 6 sandbags much quicker and easier than ever before. Ray donated his time and money to make them for us and we thank him VERY much!

Thanks again Ray!



## SECRET SANTA 2011

The Fire District's Annual Secret Santa Program is sponsored by Apple Valley Wal-Mart, Apple Valley Ranchos Water Company and Apple Valley Fire Protection District in conjunction with Apple Valley Unified School District. The schools identify children from a lower income family who could use some assistance in buying presents for their family members. This year each child was allowed \$40 to spend on picking out gifts for Christmas.

Many of our CERT, ECS, and FADD members volunteer to help out in many areas: the sign-in table for the parents and children; accompanying the child throughout Wal-Mart the pick out presents; helping to gift wrap presents; escorting the children from the gift wrap area back to their parents; acting as "security guards" to make sure the parents don't leave the waiting area while their children shop; or being on a HAM radio to help with communications throughout the event.

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### Shopping with a child is so much fun! *By Laura Whitehead, ESO*

This is my third year with the Fire District and once again I chose to take a child shopping. What a fun, rewarding experience! I took 5 children (one at a time) to pick out presents for their parents. "My kids" ranged in age from 6 to 9. They were absolutely adorable! Some of them had lists ready to go and knew exactly what they wanted to buy, and others had no list, and walked around until they found what they wanted ...with a few "helpful hints" from me! Please join us next year and help make a child (and yourself!) happy!



Secret Santa this year was just as exciting as it has been in the 3 years that I have participated. The first year I was a shopper (escorting children around store so they could choose their special gift for themselves or family). The next year I was a wrapper (lots of people wrapped gift for the children and tagged to whom they went to.) This year was the best of all. I and others checked the children in according to the list that we had. The children were so excited. It was hard to try to keep a straight face and do the job you were assigned to do. Secret Santa is a lot of fun. Many departments are involved in this endeavor, and everyone works very hard to make it a success. The only part that I wasn't too keen about was the fact that you had to be at Wall-Mart at 6 a.m. (burrrrrrrr!)

Every volunteer worked hard and never complained about what they had to do. This Secret Santa operation is over before noon.

Pat Schuerman

Deputy Commander of the FADD Group



Our CERT team has an exciting year planned ahead! We cannot wait for some of our activities.

FEMA is implementing many new programs for CERT and so Laura, Dawn and I, decided why wait? Let's have CERT meetings more often so we can continue educating all of our members more ways to prepare!

In February we kicked off our first meeting with the Animal Response Module. We learned how to approach different animals large and small.

We learned about emergency kits for our animals. We also talked about different shelters in the area, so we can plan ahead in case we need to evacuate with our pets, or help people evacuate with theirs. After all pets are a part of the family too!

In March we will have our CERT basic training class for new members. We look forward to seeing new faces and helping more members of our Town get prepared. It is encouraging to know how many more people care enough to empower themselves to "get prepared!" These classes will take place on March 3, 17 and 31. Encourage your friends and family to sign up.

In April there are so many CERT events, we don't know where to begin. After all it is "Earthquake Preparedness month"

On April 5<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30p.m., at station 336, is our next CERT meeting. Following up with our pets we will be learning about "pet oxygen masks". I can't wait to take pictures of our little "Fido's" with their masks on...remember pets are family members too.

On April 14<sup>th</sup> from 9-1 pm it is our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual "SHAKE RATTLE AND ROLLOUT" Catchy huh? This event is a preparedness fair focusing on families. Please bring your kids. There will be many booths there to inform you on how to prepare. This year they have added a puppet show to teach children about preparedness. We will be giving children a bag to build their own disaster kit with. They will be receiving donations from various businesses in Apple Valley. The fair will have 72 hour kits in a can, solar oven cooking, fire extinguisher demos, cot assembly races, and much, much more.

If that doesn't excite you enough we are also participating in the "Grand Opening" of the Victorville Community College Public training facility.

On April 21 from 1-4:30. You will want to come and bring all of your family and friends. This facility will be the new training grounds for law enforcement, EMT, Paramedics and Fire personnel. It is also the home of the NEW CERT CITY! Yippee! There will be many demonstrations that day in all

areas, including fire. LOTS and LOTS of different fire...and rescues. After touring the facility myself...I was reconsidering my job occupation...It looks like so much fun! CERT will also be doing some demonstrations there, so mark your calendars for these important events.

Next we are beginning to teach a TEEN CERT program to AVHS H.O.S.A students. The students are very excited and look forward to this new program. We look forward to engaging both teams to work together in the future.

On April 28<sup>th</sup> we have our annual Emergency Prep Fair at Station 337 from 9-12. We invite all of our CERT members to attend that as well. Especially those from Jess Ranch, Sun City, and Solera areas. Come and meet and mingle with the great team from that part of town!

In June we will have another CERT meeting at station 336 at 6:30. This will be teaching the new FEMA portion of Search and Rescue.

As you can see the first half of this year is a busy one. WE like it like that. Our goal is to keep you informed, keep you motivated and most of all keep you prepared. Keep up all the good work that all of you do. Remember to encourage your families, your neighborhood, and your colleagues, to all get prepared. It's not just our mission; it should be our way of life.

-Erin Fox

Assistant CERT Commander

Apple Valley, CA





I have a friend who used her solar lights inside at night when her current was off during a hurricane. She stuck them in a jar or bottle and said they gave off plenty of 'free light'. She put one in each room and would put them back outside in the daytime and bring them in at night as long as the current was off. They are safe to use and cheaper than batteries. Bring in a solar light one night and test it.

Due to a thunderstorm, we lost power for about 5 hours. We were scrambling around in the darkness, looking for matches, candles, flashlights, etc. We looked outside, and noticed our solar lights shining brightly all around our patio, stairs, dock, etc. They were beautiful. My wife walked outside, and brought several of the solar lights inside.

We stuck the solar light pipes into plastic drink bottles containers and they made the nicest, brightest, safest, lighting you could ever imagine.

We put one in the bathroom, the kitchen, the living room, etc. There was plenty of light. There are all types of solar lights available. We bought ours at Harbor Freight. We put them all around our yard. They look nice and they do not attract flying bugs like the outdoor lights around our doorway.

The lights we have fit into the small (20 oz) water bottles and they also fit into most of the larger liter bottles. If you need a weight in the plastic bottle to keep them from tipping over, you can put a few of the pretty colorful "flat marbles" that they put in aquariums, and vases. (you can also use sand, aquarium gravel, etc., whatever you have available).

The lights we have were perfect inside our home. They burn all night long if you need them.

The next day, you just take your solar lights back outside and they will instantly recharge and be ready for you to use again any time you need them.

Perfect for power outages, hurricanes, etc.

I never thought of it and now you don't have to .

This article was sent in by Bob Hall, ECS.

What a good idea! I've already purchased a few extras just for this purpose. Thanks Bob!

*Do you have an idea, tip or photo you would like to share with the team? Send it in and we'll do our best to publish it in the DSW newsletter.*

*Sandi Yosten - sayosten@verizon.net*

**BE PREPARED, BE SAFE,  
BE INVOLVED**