



by Scott Obel

# Evacuating?

## Don't forget the 6 P's of Packing

In the past year, disasters (wildfires, lava flows, extreme storms and flooding, threats of tsunamis and strong aftershocks, air and water contamination) have prompted voluntary and mandatory evacuations.

Imagine that you are ordered to quickly evacuate your home on Lido or perhaps a second home in the mountains or desert or even a hotel on an exotic vacation. What would you pack? The best time to consider this question is not when the order comes but NOW. Kate Hutton, from LA's Emergency Management Department, suggests six categories of things to pack. They're called the 6 P's.

1. **People and Pets.** Your family members – human and otherwise – should be your first priority when you evacuate. If you have a pet, bring what it will need on the road and in a shelter -- food, water, bowls, medication, leash, crate, toys and proof of updated vaccinations.

2. **Papers and Phone numbers.** Bring passports, birth certificates, your marriage license, property documents and proof of medical insurance etc. as well important phone numbers. Rather than carrying hard copies, it's more practical to store photos of these on a memory stick or in 'the cloud'.

3. **Prescriptions.** Pack prescription and OTC medication as well as eyeglasses, contact lenses and solution. A first aid kit is a must. And remember your toothbrushes and toothpaste. For babies and toddlers, you'll need diapers, wipes, a stroller and comfort toys.

4. **Pictures and Personal items.** Discuss beforehand what each family member would take if they ever need to evacuate. If possible, have these in an accessible location. The time to choose and search for these items is NOT when you receive the order to evacuate.

5. **Personal computers/smart Phones** are essential for accessing critical information and staying in contact. Don't forget extra batteries and the correct chargers.

6. **Plastics.** Bring your ID, insurance, credit and debit cards. You'll also need cash in case ATM's aren't working.

And, of course, on the way out the door... don't forget your always-packed grab-and-go bag. LICA CERT recently held a presentation on preparing go bags, a copy of which can be accessed from the following QR code.



*Scan with your  
phone camera*





*Newport Beach Fire Department  
Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)*

# Fall 2023 CERT Program Schedule

The Newport Beach Fire Department invites residents to join the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program to learn how to help their neighborhoods following unexpected disasters. The CERT program is available free of charge to Newport Beach residents and \$40 for non-residents.

For Fall 2023, there will be two separate CERT program series held: a Thursday day program and an all-day Saturday program. Participants must register to attend one program but may take classes from the other program if they miss classes during their registered program. All classes are held at Newport Beach Fire Station #7 (20401 Acacia). To register, you must complete a CERT program application. Applications are available at: [www.nbcert.org](http://www.nbcert.org) or call (949) 644-3112.

## **THURSDAY DAY SERIES**

**Thursday, September 14 (9:00 am-1:00 pm)**

Disaster Preparedness/CERT Overview  
Introduction to Fire Operations

**Thursday, September 21 (9:00 am-1:00 pm)**

Disaster Psychology/Team Organization  
CPR

**Thursday, September 28 (9:00 am-1:30 pm)**

Disaster Medical Operations I and II

**Thursday, October 12 (9:00 am-1:30 pm)**

Light Search and Rescue I and II

**Thursday, October 19 (9:00 am-1:30 pm)**

Terrorism Awareness Fire Suppression

**Saturday, November 4 (9:00 am-1:30 pm)**

"Drill the Skills"/Graduation

## **ALL DAY SATURDAY SERIES**

**Saturday, September 30 (8:30 am-5:30 pm)**

Disaster Preparedness/ CERT Program Overview  
Introduction to Fire Operations  
Disaster Psychology/Team Organization CPR

**Saturday, October 14 (8:30 am-5:30 pm)**

Light Search and Rescue I and II  
Disaster Medical Operations I and II

**Saturday, October 21 (8:30 am-12:00 pm)**

Terrorism Awareness  
Fire Suppression

**Saturday, November 4 (9:00 am-1:30 pm)**

"Drill the Skills"/ Graduation