

Neighborhood Watch

We discussed the latest robberies. There have been more since the meeting. NBPD crime prevention specialist Andi Querry is holding a Neighborhood Watch meeting specific for our area on Monday 2/5 6:30 - 8 at the Newport Aquatic Center, 1 Whitecliff DR. More info [here](#).

CERT

We discussed water storage and preservation, disaster broadcast radio, and some ideas that we could put into the Northstar Beach Clubhouse if the community decides to go forward with it.

Water: Storage, Preservation and Distribution

Peggy recently replaced the water in our 55-gallon storage container and we needed to add a preservation agent. Many web sites sell a 1 oz small bottle of something called Water Preserver Concentrate for prices like \$12.50. If you read the label carefully you find that it's only active ingredient is Sodium Hypochlorite which is exactly what is in household bleach. Save your money and just buy a bottle of basic unscented bleach from the grocery store. It's the same concentration and much cheaper. Official sites differ in the recommended amount to add (depends somewhat on whether you are preserving or sterilizing). My synthesis of the recommendations is to add 1/4 teaspoon (about 16 drops) per gallon of water for preservation.

At the December CERT All-Hands Meeting there was an interesting presentation from Kelly Hubbard at the Metropolitan Water District of Orange County on their efforts to prepare for a disaster such as a major earthquake. We learned that they have a 6-month supply of water in reservoirs on this side of the San Andreas Fault. The problem is that the distribution networks (water pipes) are expected to be destroyed. To deal with that problem they purchased 15 large water tanker trucks that will be used to distribute water. You will have to get water from the truck to your house. There are several options but remember that water is very heavy. Peggy and I have several of the stackable hard-side containers similar to [these](#). MWDOC has a good water-focused emergency preparedness page [here](#).

Kelly mentioned that after their recent earthquake, Napa used fire hydrants for residential water distribution. Apparently the hydrants were working even though household water was not. CERT recommends that you store at least one gallon of water per person per day. Personally, I recommend that you purchase a 55-gallon drum similar to [this](#). The water needs to be replaced periodically and you will need a pump or siphon to get the water out.

To be even more secure, consider purchasing a flow-through water tank. This is a type of storage tank that is permanently connected to your regular water pipe such that the water in the storage tank is continuously refreshed as you use normal water. There is never a need to use preservative chemicals. They are available from several vendors including [LifeTank](#) and [WatrWise](#). These systems differ in how you get

water out of them after your regular water is shut off. LifeTank uses a valve system. WatrWise uses a separate compressed air tank to force water from storage into your regular pipes.

Emergency Radio Broadcasts

Mike Kazeef contacted NB CERT and discovered that there is an official radio station for emergency alerts in Orange County. It is FM KWVE at 107.9. There are others that are focused on LA. I recommend that you own a battery or crank radio and leave it tuned to this station. Note that if you have one of our Wouxun GMRS radios, it will also play FM stations. Push the unlock button on the bottom right to unlock the radio. Click the middle button on the left side, below push-to-talk, to activate the FM receiver. It will activate at 76 MHz. The keypad numbered buttons 1-6 select different local stations but not KWVE. To get to KWVE, push 6 which is KRTH 101.1 and push the scan key in the right column a few times to reach 107.9. I'll add KWVE to the defaults next time I update the radio programming on our radios.

Northstar Beach Clubhouse Suggestions

Dan has been working on plans for our proposed Northstar Beach clubhouse and asked me to suggest some features that would make our community more resilient during a disaster. I put together the list shown in the attachment. Many of these could also be applied to your home if you are doing a renovation. In a future meeting, I'll present a modified list specifically targeted to home renovations.