

TWAIN HARTE AREA



SERVING TUOLUMNE COUNTY

MONTHLY UPDATE

January 2022

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IN THIS ISSUE...

This month, we pick up where we were so rudely interrupted in December by "snowmageddon". Our focus is on preparation for fire season and the different ways we here in Tuolumne County are approaching fire preparedness.

As usual, we start off with some thoughts from our Program Manager, Carol Hallett. Then, we take a look at this month's profile member, Bob Schreiner, safety tips for when you're dealing with the aftermath of last month's storms, and give hints on how to stay connected with what's happening in Twain Harte. We also hear about future trainings, as well as this month's Firefighter Rehab training. And we have an update from Groveland CERT. CERT, and many other local non-profit agencies were recipients of local grant monies.

We hope you enjoy this month's issue. Our goal is to provide information to the community, focusing on safety and health.

If you have a suggestion for future articles, please contact twainhartecert@gmail.com for consideration of the topic by the board.

Crews clear brush in Ponderosa Hills



NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

by Carol Hallett

The new year has started like a racehorse that was kept in a stable too long and was ready to run like the wind. I remember January first like it was just yesterday and yet it was a month ago. At this rate, the year will be over before I remember that it even started.

So what do we do to slow down time a bit? Keep engaged! That is exactly what our CERT volunteers do each day, week, and month. In this way we can say that we did something memorable and it allows us to enjoy our moments.



We have so much going on it is truly amazing. Starting with our monthly trainings, events, deployments and projects we have our plates pretty full. The best part is to be working with people that you really enjoy being around; doing things for others and having fun while you do it. The connection we have with each other and our community is our best reward...the laughter is just an added benefit.

January is the beginning and we have so much planned for this year it will be fun to share it with all of you as it comes to fruition.

MEMBER PROFILE: BOB SCHREINER

by Mary Schreiner, PIO, THA-CERT

Joseph Robert "Bob" Schreiner, Jr. was born and raised in Santa Ana, CA. He attended local schools, through Santa Ana Junior College and transferred to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, where he graduated with a degree in electronic engineering. Bob was a Cub Scout, a Boy Scout, and attained the level of Life Scout before deciding he'd rather be a member of the Velvet Knights Drum and Bugle Corps as a drummer. He performed at Disneyland as a character in the parade at Christmas time, first as a Christmas tree, then as an elephant. Bob also worked in the Snack Shop restaurant, beginning as a dishwasher and working his way up to short order cook.



(Above) Bob Schreiner plays drums at a Boy Scout event (circa 1966)

MEMBER PROFILE: BOB SCHREINER, cont'd



Bob, center, holding granddaughter Aurora, with daughters Stephanie (r) and Heather (l)

Bob still enjoys doing the occasional "small job" for neighbors and friends.

Bob and Mary enjoyed visiting Mary's friends in Sonora over the years and decided to buy a vacation home in the area, where they would live when they retired. They moved to the area full-time in 2017.

Aside from doing electrical jobs for friends, Bob enjoys cooking, hiking, backpacking, and bicycling. He even knows how to sew!

Bob learned about CERT by attending a meeting in Tuolumne Veterans Hall on emergency preparedness in 2019. When Mary signed up and was going to attend the first meeting, Bob asked if he could tag along. Bob and Mary completed CERT Basic Training in January of 2020.



After graduating from Cal Poly, Bob moved to the San Francisco bay area, living in Sunnyvale and Santa Clara. He worked at several companies, including Rolm and Intel. He has two lovely daughters, Heather and Stephanie, and two grandchildren, Aurora and Kade, Heather's children. Bob and his wife, Mary, married in 2008.

Bob took an early retirement then, went back to school to become an electrician, because he missed working with his hands. He worked for several years as an electrician, retiring in 2017 as a journeyman electrician.



Mary and Bob at their wedding in 2008

Bob now serves as Logistics Officer for Twain Harte Area CERT. He says he enjoys working with CERT because he likes learning new ways to help his family and community stay safe and he enjoys helping people.

(Left) Bob, as he completed CERT Basic Training in January, 2020

SAFETY TIPS FOR YARD MAINTENANCE

by John Buckingham, Safety Officer, THA-CERT

The winter storm that hit Tuolumne County during the Christmas holiday was very destructive. You still see down trees, broken branches, and even broken trunks of trees. We are thankful that Tuolumne County had some resources to help clear some of the debris along the roadways but most of the clean up will be accomplished by us the property owners.

Here are a few safety tips to keep in mind while you are clearing your yard of debris:

- Know your equipment and how to operate them safely by reading the manufacturers manual or consulting online. Make sure your equipment is in good working order. Use sharp chain saw blades.
- Practice Ladder Safety. Have more than one person around if you are working on a ladder. One person to hold the ladder while the other trims the high branches or collects debris from gutters or rooftops.
- Watch out for children making sure they stay away from the equipment you are using. It is a great opportunity to teach children and have them help, but make sure you take into consideration age appropriate tasks.
- Check Extension Cords to make sure they are in good condition. Do not overload an extension cord with too many tools or with tools that draw too much voltage for the type of cord you are using.
- Protect your eyes, head, and body with protective gear. Wear protective goggles when you are working with power outdoor equipment. Wear hearing protection when operating loud equipment.
- Store materials in a safe place after using.
- Stay hydrated.
- Before burning debris, always make sure you call the Burn Day Line at (209) 533-5598, to ensure it's a burn day, and follow the guidelines that are printed on your burn permit.



TWAIN HARTE CSD BOARD MEETING

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager, THA-CERT

Where do you get your news? Do you get it second hand from a neighbor? I get mine from the source. I attend the Twain Harte Community Services District Board meeting each month so I can know first hand what is happening with the park, THFD, water service (weather), sewage, projects to help our community and much more. There are lots of changes happening all around us.



Being involved allows those changes to happen with our input. How do you join the meeting? Right now they hold the meetings via zoom. To link in, go to: <https://www.twainhartecsd.com/board-meetings>. When is the meeting? The second Wednesday of each month, this month it is on 09, February, at 9:00 am.

MRSE & BURN EXERCISE

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager, THA-CERT



THA-CERT have been included as a participant in the Tuolumne-Calaveras Healthcare & Safety Coalition (HCSC) – Medical Response Surge Exercise (MRSE) & Burn Surge Annex Exercise. This multi-county exercise will be held on Thursday, March 10th over in Calaveras. Participants will include Public Health, EMS Agency, OES, the hospital, and THA-CERT (as well as others, as available). The exercise is one way to test how well prepared we are to work together when an emergency happens. We are pleased to be included

in this important opportunity to ensure that our community is as prepared as possible and that we as volunteers are an active part of the solution.

TRAINING PLAN FOR 2022

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager, THA-CERT

These are our tentative plans, knowing that things might change as the year progresses.

There are ways to take the Basic Training Classes to become a CERT trained volunteer:

1. You can take the training on-line: <https://medicine.utah.edu/rmcoeh/about-us/outreach/cert/>

- Select Online Courses (left of page)
- Select preferred language
- Select Register

2. You can take the training monthly, as outlined below

3. You can do both, which really helps to solidify your knowledge



TRAINING PLAN FOR 2022, cont'd

Training Schedule for 2022:

February – Groveland

Basic Training Unit 1 & 2 - Disaster Preparedness & CERT Organization

March – Twain Harte

Basic Training Unit 3 & 4 - Disaster Medical Operations Part 1 & 2
(great overall basic medical training)

April – Groveland

Basic Training Unit 5 & 6 - Disaster Psychology & Fire Safety and Utility Control
(put out a small fire)

May – Twain Harte

Helicopter Landing Training with PHI - clear area for landing
(we don't get to fly/land the helicopter)

June – Groveland

Basic Training Unit 7 & 8 - Search & Rescue

July - NO training

August – Twain Harte

Basic Training Unit 9 - Course Review, Final Exam & Disaster Simulation

September – Groveland – To be determined

October – Twain Harte – To be determined

November & December - NO training

Remember, the monthly training is always planned for the last Saturday of each month; please mark your calendars. Our training classes are open to all, ages 18 and older. Our goal is to help everyone be more prepared when an emergency happens. There is never any cost or obligation to attend our training sessions. You can take these trainings even if you do not want to be a CERT volunteer at the end. Look at the subject and, if you are interested, please feel free to join the training.

JANUARY TRAINING - FIREFIGHTER REHAB

by Dawn Cronin, Training Officer, THA-CERT



(Above) Flight Nurse/Paramedic Michele Guthrie talks about the signs of physiological stress in firefighters

On the last Saturday of each month, Twain Harte and Groveland CERT switch off offering monthly training. January's training was conducted in Twain Harte at THCSO office. This module focused on Firefighter Rehab, and for this training, the public was welcome to attend, whether or not they had attended or completed Basic Training. We were very pleased to have 25 attendees – all masked and distanced – plus 3 additional presenters. Firefighter rehabilitation is the process of providing rest, rehydration, nourishment, and medical evaluation to members (generally firefighters) who are involved in extended or extreme incident scene operations. After introductions and a course overview given by our Program Manager, Carol Hallett, topics covered and presenters were:

JANUARY TRAINING - FIREFIGHTER REHAB, cont'd

- Physiological Threats to Firefighters – Michele Guthrie, PHI Flight Nurse/Paramedic
- Firefighter Gear Demonstration – Landon Bryant, THFD Intern Operator and Mark Slater, THFD Captain - This was a hands-on activity where we were able to put on some of the gear the firefighters wear on an incident
- The Incident Scene – Landon Bryant, THFD Intern Operator and Mark Slater, THFD Captain
- The Rehab Area – Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief, THA-CERT
- The Rehab Process – Mike Mandell, Team Leader, THA-CERT
- Rehab Area Operations – Mike Mandell, Team Leader, THA-CERT - This activity was conducted at the THA-CERT Firefighter Rehab Vehicle

The presenters were well-prepared and knowledgeable on their topics. The questions and stories shared were interesting and relevant. I believe everyone in the room enjoyed the training, and a few attendees inquired about our Basic Training, so hopefully we'll gain some new members as a result of today's session! Thank you to all who presented, trained and helped set up and tear down, and to THCS D for permitting us to use their facility.



Luz Kirsh (center) get assistance in putting on firefighter gear from Landon Bryant, as (from left) Lise Lemonnier, Capt. Mark Slater, and Carol Hallett look on



(Above) Bob Schreiner (left) observes as Dagmar Poffenroth practices taking vitals on "firefighter" Katie Dennis

See Carol Hallett's article (above) about upcoming training sessions. And as always, if you are interested in becoming a trained CERT Member, please email: twainhartecert@gmail.com or grovelandcert@gmail.com

(Right) CERT members practice setting up the "intake" area for Firefighter Rehab training



GROVELAND AREA CERT

by Bob Asquith, Program Manager, Groveland Area CERT

Groveland Area CERT (GA-CERT) now has an operational firefighter rehab vehicle. It and a group of seven of our members participated in Firefighter Rehab training. We joined with our brothers and sisters from Twain Harte Area CERT for this important training program designed to assist firefighters during significant duration fire events.

We recently received a significant donation from Adventist Health (Sonora) to purchase equipment and supplies to outfit our vehicle. The retired ambulance turned Firefighter Rehab vehicle is warehoused at GCSD – the GA-CERT sponsor – where their talented technicians brought it up to operational status.

GA-CERT is delighted to host the next training session for both Twain Harte and Groveland. It will be in the morning of February 26th in Groveland. See the training schedule in this newsletter for details.

FIREWISE GROWING IN TWAIN HARTE

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager, THA-CERT,
and Anne McInerny, President, Twain Harte Heights

Carol: There are several Firewise neighborhoods in Twain Harte and we just added one more!

What is Firewise? *“The national Firewise USA recognition program provides a collaborative framework to help neighbors in geographic area get organized, find direction and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their homes and community and to reduce wildfire risks at the local level”.*

How hard is it to become a Firewise neighborhood? Not that hard and there is lots of support. Anne from Twain Harte sent me an email in November to ask about how to start a Firewise neighborhood, we scheduled a meeting to talk. I went over the tasks that needed to be done and she took the ball from there. She got all her items prepared and went onto the website to enroll her neighborhood. By the end of December she told me that they were in the approval process to become a Firewise neighborhood called “Twain Harte Heights”. Anne has scheduled a meeting (that might be virtual) with her neighbors and key people from our community to talk about next steps.

Anne: Everyone I talked to was very enthusiastic about doing this. We formed a committee of 3 neighbors, defined the boundary of our neighborhood and named ourselves the Twain Harte Heights Firewise Neighborhood.

There are three documents you will need as part of your application – a boundary map of your neighborhood, a site assessment and an action plan. The documentation for the site assessment is available on the Firewise website: <https://www.nfpa.org>. You will need to create an account before you can access the form.

FIREWISE GROWING IN TWAIN HARTE, cont'd

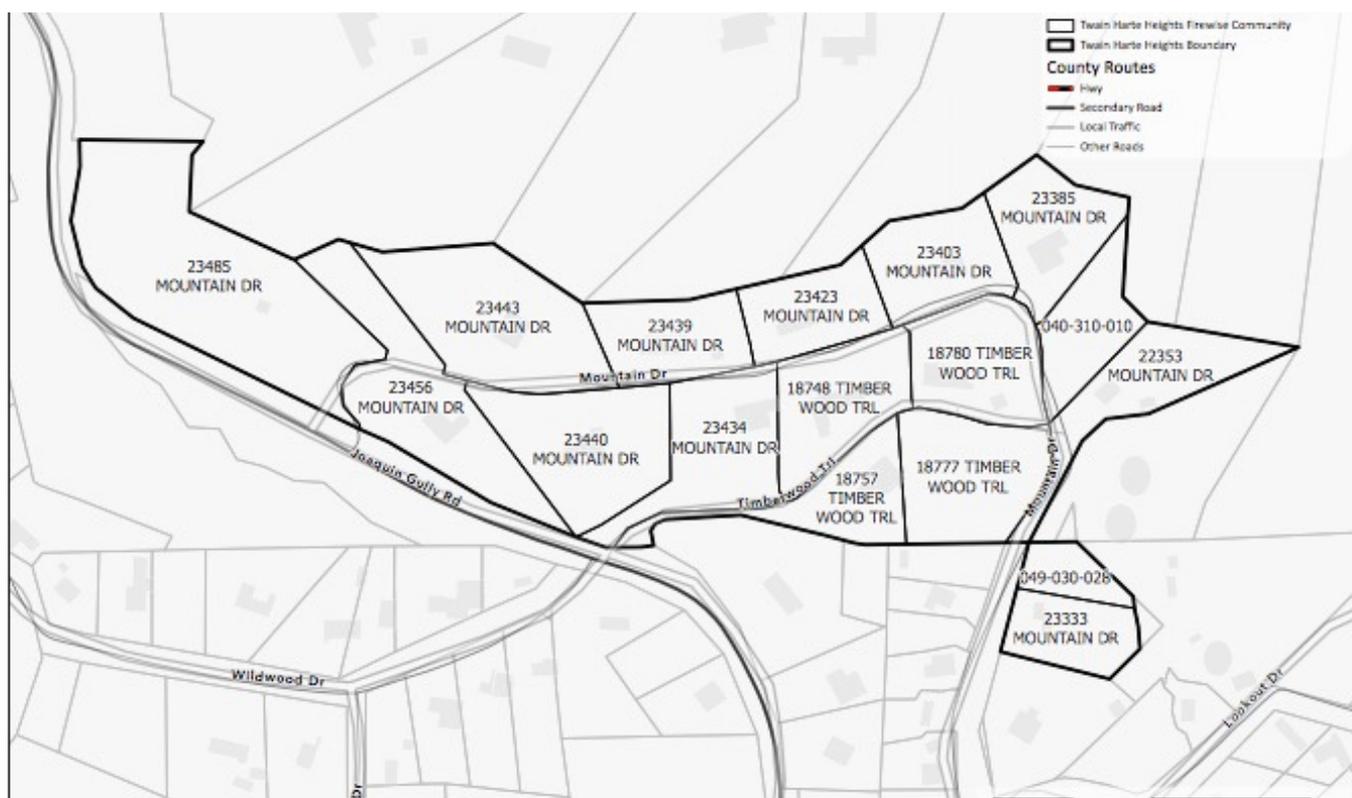
Next, we moved onto the site assessment. I looked at the site assessment form on the FireWise website and created a spreadsheet, so as we moved from house to house, we could make checkmarks. The assessment is asking for percentages, so it was easy to figure that out from the number of check marks we had. Ours was an informal assessment, it took us a couple of hours to walk the neighborhood. There was a question about siding material that we could not discern from our observation, so I emailed my neighbors to get the answer. We will be doing a more formal one with Justin Kimbrell from CalFire this coming week. (It took a while to get that lined up.).

Next on our list was an action plan. Carol had given me three different actions plans to look at. We gleaned the points that were pertinent to our neighborhood and created our plan. We are fortunate to have a fireman on our committee so he added additional steps for us to take.

Once I had the three documents, I transferred the information onto our application on the Firewise website and received approval on our application in a couple of weeks. Now, we are moving onto the neighborhood meeting!

What are the benefits? Some of the benefits of having a Firewise neighborhood are first and foremost; you get to know your neighbors. Secondly, you work on your properties to make the more fire safe and beautiful. You also might get a discount on your property insurance based on your provider. Lastly you have done what you can to protect one of your most important assets from fire, your home & property.

Carol: Congratulations to Twain Harte Heights, our newest Twain Harte Firewise neighborhood.



AMERICA RESCUE PLAN FUNDS AWARDED

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager, THA-CERT

Twain Harte Area CERT are extremely grateful to be awarded monies from the America Rescue Plan along with funds from Sonora Area Foundation. These monies will be put into equipment to allow us to continue to serve our community, improve our response time and add additional technology to our arsenal.

As the Program Manager, I cannot say enough about our volunteers but especially during the Pandemic. The team was so creative in their response like making masks that emulated N95 protection, and creating “Call-a-Day” campaign to keep people connected.

As well, our members rose to the call when a request came in, never worried about themselves but always looking to help. We were requested to help staff the Public Health COVID call center answering questions for the residents of Tuolumne County. We responded to the need to create drive through capability so that Twain Harte Rotary could deliver ATCAA food safely each month. We opened up multiple cooling centers during the hot summer. The biggest task and most rewarding were traffic control (traffic flow) during the vaccine clinics. It felt like we really contributed to the solution.

Thanks to the county for recognizing our team, Twain Harte Area Community Emergency Response Team (THA-CERT), it is our pleasure to serve Tuolumne County.

County of Tuolumne and Sonora Area Foundation

Joint Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The County of Tuolumne and Sonora Area Foundation are excited to announce 42 Grants have been awarded to Local Community Groups and Non-Profit Agencies under the Tuolumne County Community Grant Program. This grant opportunity was made possible by the Board of Supervisors allocation of American Rescue Plan funding of \$500,000 that was enhanced with an additional \$183,000 from Sonora Area Foundation.

Two grants were awarded for \$50,000 to ATCAA Food Bank and First 5, with forty additional grants being awarded ranging from \$3,000 to \$29,000 for community projects ranging from recreational activity, to the Arts, to assistance for vulnerable populations. The total amount of funding awarded through these grants is \$683,000 which was awarded to the following agencies for their community project proposals:

Sierra Foothills Residential Care	1PILEATATIME
Camp Jack Hazard	Nancy's Hope
TC Fire Chiefs Association	NAMI Tuolumne County
Sierra Senior Providers	Friends of the Tuolumne County Library
Westside Little League	Hwy 120 Chamber of Commerce
Interfaith Legal Services	Athletic Scholarship Foundation of TC
FOAC	Friends of the Sonora Police Dept.
Watch Resources Inc	Southside Community Connections
R.O.O.F.B.B	Tuolumne County Sheriff's Posse
Sonora Bach Festival	Smile Keepers Dental Project
TUCARE	Pinecrest Expedition Academy
Sierra Bible Church	Motherlode Job Training
Grandma's House Columbia	Love Tuolumne County
The Women's Improvement Society of Tuolumne (TWIST)	Groveland Trail Heads
Horses of Warriors	Groveland CERT
We Care Sober Living Recovery Homes	Twain Harte CERT
Team Elite	Sierra Quilt Guild
Tuolumne County Arts Alliance	Chester & Push Horse Rescue
First 5 Tuolumne	Independent Order of Odd Fellow
ATCAA Food Bank	Interfaith Community Social Services
Promotion Club of Jamestown	
Resiliency Village	

PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP TASK FORCE

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager, THA-CERT

THA-CERT has a huge project that we are undertaking for this year and we have the team assembled to make it happen. In December we created a plan to make Preparedness Workshop Presentations for our community.

We have done these workshops before but on a much smaller scale. We are adding more content, more subjects and we will record them so that people can watch them and refer back to them at their leisure.



We floated the idea to Tuolumne County Health Care and Safety Coalition (HSCS) to see if it would qualify for grant monies to help fund the project. They were very enthusiastic about the concept and we were awarded funds in January. The team consists of Carol Hallett (Program Manager), Mike Mandell (Team Leader), Lise Lemonnier (Planning Section Chief), Mary Schreiner (PIO), Dawn Cronin (Training Unit Leader), Michelle Wagner (UAS Unit Leader), and Randie Revilla (Firefighter Rehab Unit Leader). We have met several times to put together the first of many workshops.

The workshop would include but would not be limited to the following topics:

- Basic First Aid
- Family Preparedness Plan
- Wildland Fire Evacuation Plan
- Shelter in Place
- Go Bag Assembly & Demonstration
- Ways to store water
- Food storage and preparation
- Tips to preparing prior to a winter hike
- Proper disposal of ashes
- Tips & Techniques for driving in snowy & icy conditions
- How to recognize hypothermia and what to do

We are open to hearing other subjects that people would like to learn about. If you have ideas please feel free to send them to: twainhartecert@gmail.com.

When we have a link to our first workshop, we will put it in our newsletter as one of the ways to distribute. We want to thank the Health Department for believing in our project and we look forward to supplying our community with these educational and easy ways to get prepared

SHADED FUEL BREAK IN PONDEROSA HILLS

by Mary Schreiner, PIO, THA-CERT

One way to protect your home and property from the risk of wildland fire is to create a "fuel break". Fire needs three things: heat, fuel, and oxygen. Remove any of those, and fire has a hard time surviving. By removing ground and "ladder" fuels (plants and materials close to trees that could carry flames to the tree canopy), you can reduce the risk of fire danger around your home.



Sophia and "Uncle Bob" tag trees on our property

The Fire Safe Council of Tuolumne County is taking this method and applying it over large and continuous sections of land. By clearing a large area of land of fuel, it gives firefighters space to fight fire and set up lines of defense. These "shaded fuel breaks" leave the large tree canopy, but reduce the fuels below.

The current project started down in Tuolumne Township and has progressed up Miramonte and continuing on Rainbow Road, in Ponderosa Hills. The shaded fuel break is following the ridge line; the width depending on the terrain.

In November, Steve Johnson, of the Fire Safe Council, came to our house and said that his crews would be starting work in the next few days. We had signed a waiver to allow such work, but it had been at least a year. Finally, it was our turn!

Before the crews started, Steve pointed out that any trees that were growing in clumps would be thinned to safer numbers, and any small trees close to established trees would be cut down. He gave us tape to mark any of the smaller trees that we specifically did not



Crews clear brush from around a large "glory hole" on our land

want cut. My grand-niece was visiting and had a blast helping "Uncle Bob" tag the trees.



Glory hole area after being cleared

We had been clearing brush on our property for years, expanding the defensible space around our house to a significant distance beyond the minimum required. Over time shrubs grow back, so the crew of about 10 young men and women, went to work with hand and power tools. In two days, they accomplished what would have taken my husband and me several weeks to finish.

Where there had been bushes and smaller trees were now piles. Steve and his crew will return when it was dry and safe to burn the piles.

SHADED FUEL BREAK, cont'd

The Tuolumne Fire Safe Council is a grassroots, nonprofit organization that works to reduce wildfire hazard and the devastating effects of wildfires in the north Tuolumne County community. Their mission is to save lives and protect property through wildfire preparedness, prevention, and education. They also advocate for the formation of Fire Safe communities throughout the county.

For more information on the Fire Safe Council, please visit:

<https://tuolumnefiresafe.org/>

WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?

by Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief, THA-CERT

Due to space limitations, we did not report the December and year total hours in the last newsletter.

The total hours for December were:

Administration = 124
Training = 2
Deployment = 47.5
Total Dec hours = 173.5

Total numbers for the year 2021 were:

Administration = 2052.5
Training = 506
Deployment = 4481.5
Total hours 2021= 7040

January hours:

Administration = 160
Training = 116
Deployment = 0
Total Jan hours = 276

WHAT'S NEXT?

Here are a few community events coming in February:

Feb 2, Wednesday - In the footsteps of Ansel Adams
(Yosemite Valley) 9am-1pm

Feb 12, Saturday & Feb 13 Sunday – Jamestown Outdoor Marketplace 10am-4pm

Feb 12, Saturday - 2nd Sat Art Night Downtown Sonora 5pm 8pm

Feb 12, Saturday - Gold Rush Days at Columbia State Historical Park, Columbia 1pm-4pm

Feb 14, Monday – Happy Valentine's Day

Feb 26, Saturday - CERT Basic Training Class Unit 1 & 2 - Disaster Preparedness & CERT organization
Groveland 9am-1pm



Gold Rush Days at Columbia SHP