



# MONTHLY UPDATE

April 2022

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## NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

by Carol Hallett



We are so blessed to have April Showers this year, which in the higher elevations has been April Snow. Mother Nature has given us a bit of a reprieve but we need to do our part to get prepared as each year we have evaded the possibility of locally devastating summer fire.

To get prepared, there are several things to take into consideration. Plan, Practice & Pay attention.

**Plan:** Pick your out of county contact. Share your family and friend list with that person. Let your list of contacts know that if an emergency happens, your out of county contact will give them updates about you and your status.

Map out the roads in your neighborhood to utilize when evacuations become necessary. Go on to the county website to print these out. Remember that GPS might not work, so having a printed back up is a good idea.

Pack your emergency bags according to your family requirements: Emergency Kit, First Aid Kit, People Go Bag, Pet Go Bag. There are many lists you can download to help you decide what to pack. The best kit is the one you put together ahead of time.

# NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER, cont'd

**Practice:** Send a test note to your out of county contact and have them send that note to your list. This will ensure that everyone knows how this system works and if any additions or changes need to be made.

Drive the alternate routes from your home periodically so that you become comfortable with these roads..



**Pay Attention:** If you hear or see a spotter plane tune in local radio stations, check social media and turn on your emergency FRM radio. Remember some forms of communication might go down during an emergency so having redundant or alternative input is a good thing.

Do NOT leave this until the last minute; prepare now!



## WORKPLACE SAFETY TIPS

by John Buckingham, Safety Officer, THA-CERT

May 1 to May 7 is Occupational Health and Safety Week, so here are a few safety tips for the workplace:



- 1) Pay attention to your surroundings, always be alert to potential safety threats
- 2) Maintain good posture for a healthy back
- 3) Take breaks on a regular basis and perform stretch exercises safely

4) Use machines and tools properly

5) Never drink alcohol or use drugs while in the work environment

6) Ensure people are properly trained on how to use tools and machines safely

7) Keep Emergency exits clear

8) Always use the right safety equipment



# TRAINING

By Dawn Cronin, Training Unit Leader, THA-CERT



## HELICOPTER LANDING TRAINING



Join this amazing training, it is open to the public. We will safely assist in landing of a PHI helicopter with assistance from the fire department and get a medical review from the PHI team. This is a service provided to all residents.

### What is CERT?

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills.

### Get Trained

Day: Saturday  
Date: May 21, 2022  
Time: 0900 – noon  
Location: Twain Harte Bible Church

Trainers: PHI Flight Crew

Just show up & you will be part of the class.

For more information about CERT: [twainhartecert@gmail.com](mailto:twainhartecert@gmail.com)

## *Radio Drill with THFD*

A drill to practice our radio skills is being scheduled with Chief Gamez.

Tentative date: May 17th

Stay tuned for confirmation of date, time, and location

## RED CROSS/CERT EVACUATION CENTER DRILL

Practice set up, manage, and dismantle of an evacuation center.

Thursday, May 26

10 am - noon

Site to be determined

Special thanks to Dawn Cronin for holding the office of Training Unit Leader. Dawn needs to step down at this time and her contributions will be missed. She will continue to be an active member of CERT but just not in an executive staff role.

# VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

By Mike Mandell, Team Leader, THA-CERT



All THA-CERT vehicles were inspected and logged per our monthly schedule. We are working on new processes and Ron has so many great ideas. It is a pleasure to work with him.

Thanks to Ron Kessler for ensuring the readiness of our fleet.

# UAV DRILL -OF SILK PURSES AND SOW'S EARS

by Michelle Wagner, UAV Unit Leader, THA-CERT



If you are of an older generation or from the “South”, you’ll understand the reference. You youngsters may have to Google it.

The UAS Unit was presented with a big fat Sow’s ear last Tuesday. Doug Simmons and I spent time last weekend making sure our equipment was up to date and ready for a Fire Department multi-company drill on Tuesday, only to find out when we showed up that morning that it had been cancelled.



UAS Unit

Well, rather than go home frustrated, we decided to take that opportunity to train anyway. And the Firefighter Rehab Crew (Lise, Matt and Luz) had also shown up, stepped up in true THA-CERT fashion and opted to stay and help us train by playing our “victims”.



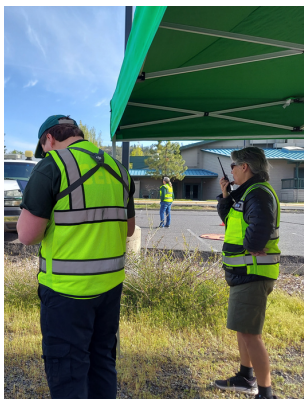
Doug Simmons

We ran a scenario of a car over the side of the road and down an embankment and put our aircraft and crews to the test.

Our two seasoned pilots, Doug Simmons and Ben Wagner, flew two different aircraft (at one point, both at the same time!). Working with the rest of our crew, Carol Hallet, Randie Revilla, and I, they were able to successfully locate, communicate with, and deliver a portable radio to our “victims”.

We learned a number of things along the way that we will incorporate into our procedures and we all had fun training together, as usual.

My thanks to the UAS Unit for their hard work and dedication, as well as their expertise. My thanks also to the Firefighter Rehab crew for unselfishly giving up their morning to help us train. Teamwork at its finest!



Ben, Randie & Carol



Lise Lemonnier



Matt Kain



Doug, Ben & Michelle

# FIREWISE CLEAN UP IN TWAIN HARTE

by Lise Lemonnier, Planning Officer, THA-CERT



One of our Firewise neighborhoods in Twain Harte, Cedarview will be participating in the Wildfire Community Preparedness Day on May 7, 2022. We will be concentrating a clean up on the corner of Little Fuller Rd & Gina Rd. We will be conducting roadside clearance. This will enable everyone to more safely use Little Fuller as an alternative egress. There are lots of trees and debris that was a result of the winter storms and our goal is to clean that up. We have a group of wonderful Twain Harte residents that are coming over to help.

We will start at 0900 and each person is to bring gloves and tools. If you would like to join us and see how a Firewise neighborhood works please feel free.



Closer to downtown Twain Harte another Firewise neighborhood, Twain Harte Heights, will also be participating in the Wildfire Community Preparedness Day. Anne McInerney is leading this project. Neighbors are getting together to work as a community on one of their Action Plans.

This area just recently got approved as a Firewise neighborhood and has been extremely active. They will be supplying us with photos for next month's newsletter.



It is great to have so much being done to make our community more fire safe.



# WHAT TO DO WITH YARD WASTE...

## 2022 Free Green Waste Drop OFF

The Tuolumne County Air Pollution Control District in cooperation with SMCI Slash Site (formerly Plainview), and Green Works LLC are offering a free green waste drop off program.

**Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup>, Thursday May 12<sup>th</sup>, Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup>, Thursday June 9<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup>** are free green waste drop off days for Tuolumne County Residents Only. No Commercial haulers or Businesses. Proof of residency is required. Contact the Tuolumne County Air District for more information @ 209-533-5693.

### ACCEPTABLE DROP OFF ITEMS

Clean Vegetation  
Garden Waste  
Pine Needles/Cones  
Bark

Lawn Trimmings  
Small Trees/Brush/Limbs  
Wood Chips  
Woody Material

### UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

Tree Stumps  
Garbage/Refuse  
Non-Vegetative Material

Food/Pet Waste  
Business Green Waste  
Contractor Green Waste

SMCI Slash Site (Plainview)  
Hwy 108 / Plainview Dr.  
Open 8 – 4 THURSDAY - MONDAY

Green Works LLC  
18629 Eagle Ridge Dr.  
Open 8 – 5 MONDAY – SATURDAY

## Don't Burn It - Recycle It!

# **FIREWISE COMMUNITY'S INCREASE IN TUOLUMNE**

by Karen Caldwell, Firewise Coordinator, Tuolumne County

Recent spring weather has gotten many of us outside working in our yards again. Now is the time to start clearing your defensible space around your home. It is also a great time to join with your neighbors to form a Firewise Community.

CAL FIRE recently announced that the 500th Community in California was Designated "Firewise". Here in Tuolumne County, we now have 14 designated communities! There are 3 more in the works, so more Firewise Communities will be coming soon. For a complete list of designated Firewise Communities go to <http://tuolumnefiresafe.org>.

The Firewise USA Program is free. It is a grass roots effort of neighbors working together to reduce the risk of wildfire damage to their neighborhoods. You are already required to do your home clearance (Public Resources Code, 4291), but there is so much more we can and need to do.

**By joining together, we can accomplish more than we can individually.**

The national Firewise USA® recognition program provides a collaborative framework to help neighbors in a 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. Any community that meets a set of voluntary criteria on an annual basis and retains an "In Good Standing Status" may identify itself as being a Firewise® Site.

Wildfires can impact dozens or hundreds of homes simultaneously, and if your neighbors' homes aren't prepared, your home may be more vulnerable too. Therefore, you need to work together to address the specific risks unique to your communities.

**Become a part of the solution!**

For information on getting started contact: Karen Caldwell at [tcfirewise@gmail.com](mailto:tcfirewise@gmail.com), 209-559-9527.



**FIREWISE USA®**

**Residents reducing wildfire risks**



If you live in Twain Harte Area and would like to start a Firewise Neighborhood feel free to contact:  
Carol Hallett [twainhartecert@gmail.com](mailto:twainhartecert@gmail.com)

# PREPAREDNESS VIDEO

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager, THA-CERT



THA-CERT was invited to create a video message about preparedness by Tuolumne County Public Health...specifically Kristina Herrera made the request in an email.

Hi Carol,

We are celebrating National Public Health Week starting April 4, 2022. We are hoping to do a robust social media campaign and were reaching out to see if you or anyone from CERT would be interested in joining us for a Facebook Live event during the lunch hour or afternoon to walk us through an emergency kit and talk about what to prepare for an emergency, esp. as we approach fire season. You are also welcome to speak about CERT for a few minutes. If you or anyone with CERT are interested in this collaboration, please let me know. We are aiming for doing the FB Live on either Wednesday 4/6/22 or Friday 4/9/22.

Thank you!

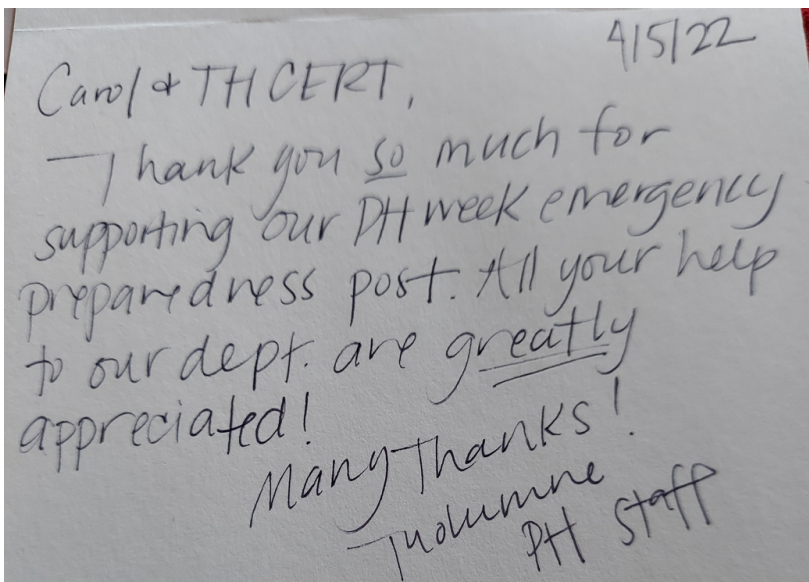
Kristina Herrera, MPH, CHES  
Public Health Programs Supervisor

We scheduled the live recording date of April 5th and I arrived with my kits and was ready to record. Kristina met me and we got started like we had done this a thousand times before, well maybe she has but it was new for me. She made it easy.

She set up the background, she started the recorder and I looked into the camera and started to speak. It is easy to speak about something when you are passionate about it. We had a glitch or two but she assured me that she could edit it to make it work out.

I have not seen the Facebook Live stream yet but it should be available soon.

The subject: Building your Emergency Kit.  
I hope you will use it to get your kit started.





# ACCESS TUOLUMNE

by Jerry Day, Access Tuolumne General Manager



ACCESS TUOLUMNE is media produced by and created for the people of Tuolumne County. If you have something to share with our community, this is the outlet for you. Right now we air a variety of local content, including a news program (This Week in Tuolumne County), a talk show (The Interview), lifestyle programming (Willow's Vintage Homestead, Walking' California), church services (Love Alive, Church of the Harvest), children's programming (Storytime) and coverage of local government meetings (Board of Supervisors, City Council, Transportation, and Planning Commissions). We also offer educational programming from the University of California, nature programming, international news, classic TV & movies, and programming of interest from other public access channels (including Calaveras). Another fun project that we are working on is with THA-CERT. They have an Emergency Preparedness Series that we are finalizing and will be airing soon. Every day we work towards making more and more of our programming hyper-local.

You can find Access Tuolumne on Comcast channel 8 and via Sierra Nevada Communications in the Groveland area (Ch. 17.8). Don't have cable? No problem! We stream our entire broadcast day on our website ([AccessTuolumne.org](http://AccessTuolumne.org)) and via our Roku and AppleTV apps. Amazon Fire TV is also available, and an iPhone app is in the works. In addition, all our local programming can be viewed on-demand.



Access Tuolumne mobile unit

So come grow with us! If you have an event you want to share with the community, a show you'd like to produce, or content you would like us to broadcast, contact us at [info@accesstuolumne.org](mailto:info@accesstuolumne.org) or call 209-536-1888



## HOW TO BECOME A CERT MEMBER

Volunteering is a fantastic way to give back to the community, a perfect way to mentor people and to use your skills and caring to help others. How do you become a member? Start attending our monthly training, drills and events. Send us a note and request to be added to the members group. Send a note to: [twainhartecert@gmail.com](mailto:twainhartecert@gmail.com).

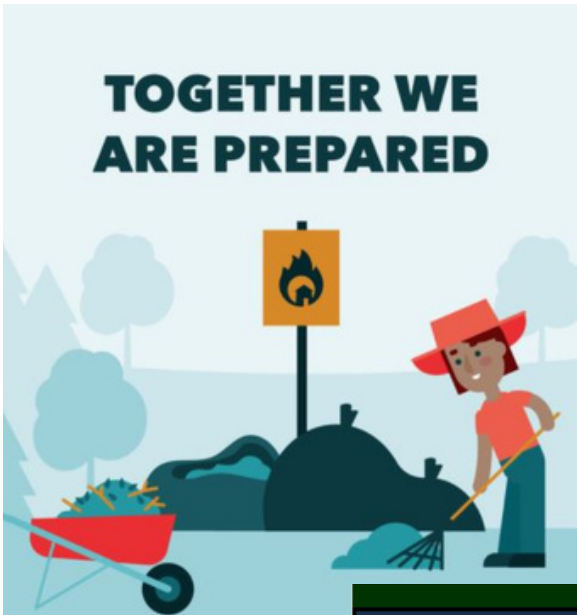


# Are you prepared for wildfire?

Wildfires know no season.



*Being prepared means starting your projects now.*



**Create your defensible space.**

**Work with your neighbors, family and friends to make a difference in the community.**

**Are you a part of a Firewise neighborhood? Start one today!**

**For more information, contact [tcfirewise@gmail.com](mailto:tcfirewise@gmail.com)**

**Put together your go bag for you, your family and your pets.**

## What is in your Pet Preparedness Kit

A significant number of families have pets and they need to be ready for a disaster too. Below are items to have ready to go in your pet emergency kit.

### What Goes in Your Pet Emergency Kit:



# Twain Harte Area



Serving all of Tuolumne County

Go Bag List – It is recommended that you use this as a starting point for creating you and your families personalized list.

## **AIR**

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- Air filtration mask\*

## **SHELTER**

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- Tent\*
- Space blanket\*
- Sleeping bag

## **WATER**

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- Filtration system\*
- Water carrying solution\*

## **FOOD**

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- Rations\*
- Fishing kit

## **CLOTHING**

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- Cold weather gloves\*
- Head gear\*
- Waterproof jacket
- Change of clothes

## **DEFENSE**

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- Knife\*
- Pepper spray

## **WARMTH**

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- Hand warmers\*
- Matches/firestarter\*

## **LIGHTING**

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- Chem lights\*
- Flashlight\*
- Headlamp

## **FIRST AID**

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- Anti-bacterial wipes\*
- Painkillers\*
- Gauze pads\*
- Sunscreen\*
- Medical gloves\*
- Medical instrument kit\*
- Bandages/Band-Aids\*
- Sling\*
- Burn gel\*
- Antibiotic ointment \*
- Antiseptic wipes\*
- First aid instructions\*
- Tourniquet

## **NAVIGATION TOOLS**

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- Map of area
- Compass
- GPS tracking system

## **MULTI-PURPOSE TOOLS**

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- Mini shovel\*
- Axe\*
- Multi-tool\*
- Paracord\*
- Duct tape\*
- Crowbar
- Folding saw

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

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- Charger\*
- Goggles\*
- Whistle\*
- Sewing kit
- Copies of important documents
- Emergency cash
- Prescription drugs
- Small mirror

\* Indicates items to consider based on your needs

# WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?

by Lise Lemonnier, THA-CERT Planning Officer



The total THA-CERT volunteer hours for April are:

Administration =	239
Training =	48
<u>Deployment =</u>	<u>0</u>
Total April hours =	287



## May

## WHAT'S NEXT?

### Events

Visit Tuolumne County:

<https://www.visittuolumne.com/events>

Twain Harte Chamber of Commerce:

<https://www.twainhartecc.com/events>

#### Wildfire Community Preparedness Day

Cedarview Firewise Neighborhood, Twain Harte

Location: Corner of Gina & Little Fuller

Date: Saturday, May 7, 2022, 9:00 am

### Training

#### **CERT/THFD Radio Drill**

Tentatively set for May 17th

Time/Location TBD

#### **CERT Training - Twain Harte**

**Subject:** Helicopter Landing & Medical Review

**Trainer:** PHI Helicopter staff & Fire Department

**Location:** Twain Harte Bible Church

**Date, Day & Time:** Saturday, May 21, 2022 0900-noon

#### **CERT Drill - Location to be determined**

**Subject:** Evacuation Center set up, manage & dismantle

**Collaborative drill:** Red Cross, OES & CERT

**Location:** TBD

**Date, Day & Time:** Thursday, May 26, 2022 1000-noon

### Save The Date!

#### **Tuolumne County Wildland Fire Townhall**

**Location:** Motherlode Fairgrounds, Sierra Building

**Date, Day & Time:** Saturday, June 4, 2022 10:00 - 1:00

### Holidays

**Memorial Day**

**Monday, May 30, 2022**

### Meeting

**THCSD Board Meeting**

<https://www.twainhartecsd.com/board-meetings>

**Wednesday, May 11, 2022, 9:00 am**



#### **Traffic Control Training**

**Location:** Vantage Point Dr, Twain Harte

**Date, Day & Time:** Saturday, July 30, 2022 9:00-noon