



## Water Safety and Survival Demonstration



Participants in the Community Emergency Response Team program were invited by the Fresno Fire Department to attend a demonstration of water safety and survival techniques on Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. The demonstration was led by Captain Robert T. Van Tassel, head of the FFD Technical Response Team (TRT). The specially trained TRT rescues firefighters from building collapses and city residents from high risk emergencies. The event was held at the canal on McKinley Avenue adjacent to the Air National Guard Base. Chief Randy Bruegman extended the invitation to CERT team members to be observers or "victims" for the TRT swift water rescue exercise. This was a timely and important topic and offered a great opportunity for continuing education for CERT members.

As a part of the exercise the fire department included information about what to do if you find yourself in a canal. The demonstrations included self-survival techniques and showcased the procedures and skills of the Fresno City Fire Technical Rescue Team as they performed live rescues in the water.

Among the participants in this water safety exercise were Sheila Brown and Robert Casey who volunteered to go into the canal as a part of the exercise. Other CERT attendees included instructors Cedric Reese and Gwen Blomgren, and members James Childress, Shirley Windsor and Mike McMillan.

We wish to thank the Fresno Fire Department and Chief Randy Bruegman for extending the invitation to the water safety and survival demonstration. This learning experience provided all of the CERT members who were involved with a hands-on understanding of (1) how to avoid potential deadly waterways; and (2) what to do if you or another person were to fall into a canal.



Sheila Brown and Robert Casey by the canal.



Robert putting on his wetsuit and gear.



Rescue workers held live-action demonstrations.

## CERT Class Eight



Class eight is the largest class to date; and includes representatives from the IRS, Save Mart Center, VIPS, Salvation Army, Police Chaplaincy and TIP.



## Fresno Hosts CERT Train the Trainer Course

The GO SERV sponsored CERT Train the Trainer program is designed to assist in starting, enhancing and expanding the CERT program. Representatives from Fresno, Merced, Madera, San Benito, Kern, Tuolumne, Calaveras, and Tulare counties participated in the recent TTT course in Fresno on June 16-18. The sessions included disaster preparedness, basic emergency response, triage, fire suppression, light search and rescue and medical operations.

**Thank you to American Ambulance for hosting the course.**