**City of Morro Bay**
**Fire Department**
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# PRESS RELEASE

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## IMMEDIATE RELEASE
### Community Emergency Response Training (CERT)

**MORRO BAY, Calif., January 2, 2018**

The Morro Bay Fire Department, the San Luis Obispo County Fire Chief's Association and the Sheriff's Advisory Council are working together to teach you how to help yourself and your neighbors when a largescale disaster strikes. The concept of the 20-hour CERT training is to provide a basic level of expertise in such areas of disaster preparedness, search and rescue procedures, terrorism, disaster medicine, firefighting, and many other related skills. Besides learning to help yourself, CERT training teaches you how to form into effective neighborhood teams, if you so choose, that can greatly assist your neighborhood in overcoming the emergency. In doing so, this training can provide individuals with a sense of self-reliance with an added bonus of neighbors helping neighbors, no matter how overwhelmed the emergency services system might be. Fire Chief Steven Knuckles states, "The reason for you to enroll in the CERT training program is to gain the decision making, organizational, and practical skills you can offer immediate and effective assistance to your family members and neighbors. The recent Thomas Fire in Santa Barbara County is great example of trained CERT members being effectively used to help their neighbors in many ways."

Classes start the week of January 16th at the Morro Bay Fire Department, 715 Harbor Street, and are held in the evenings. Since space is limited and sign-ups are on a first come, first served basis, it's important to sign up now. To register, or if you would like further information, please call the Morro Bay Fire Department at 805-772-6242.

Until we received measurable rain fall, wildland fire season is still upon us, and is actually getting to its driest months on the coast! Please continue to be Fire Safe!! If you see smoke, call 911 immediately.

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About the Morro Bay Fire Department
The Morro Bay Fire Department is a multi-hazard emergency response agency protecting life, the environment and property from the effects of fire, hazardous materials, medical and other life safety emergencies. The department provides firefighter/paramedic coverage to the City of Morro Bay with personnel on duty 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.