



City of Santa Barbara



Get Ready Santa Barbara! Send a Message in 2010, Be Prepared

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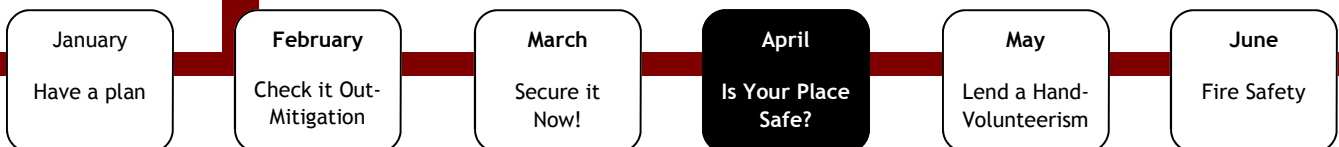
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- Lend a Hand—Volunteerism
- Wildland Fires
- Jesusita Fire Anniversary

2010 Upcoming Topics



Is Your Place Safe? Prepare Before Fire Season



After a rainy winter in Santa Barbara, it's time to prepare once again for fire season. You can take safety measures to reduce injury, protect your life and those of others, and reduce damage to your home and property. Featured are some important home safety checks for fire season. Please visit CalFire's Homeowners Checklist for the entire list of safety measures at http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/downloads/fact_sheets/Checklist.pdf

INSIDE

- **KITCHEN**—Make sure electrical outlets are designed to handle appliance loads
- **LIVING ROOM**—Clean fireplace chimneys and flues at least once a year
- **HALLWAY**—Install smoke detectors between living and sleep areas
- **BEDROOM**—Do not smoke in bed
- **BATHROOM**—Disconnect appliances such as hair dryers when done
- **GARAGE**—Store all combustibles away from ignition sources like water heaters

OUTSIDE

- **DESIGN**—Use ignition/fire resistant construction materials for exterior windows, roofs, gutters, vents, decks, and balconies
- **ACCESS**—Make sure your street name sign is visibly posted at each street intersection
- **ROOF**—Remove dead leaves and needles from your roof and gutters
- **LANDSCAPE**—It is required by law to have 100 feet of defensible space around your home
- **YARD**—Remove all stacks of construction materials, needles leaves, and other debris from your yard
- **EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY**—Create easy firefighter access to your closest emergency water source (hydrant, pool, tank)

Register Now! Reverse 911®

What is Reverse 911®? The Reverse 911® system is a communications tool used to facilitate urgent and necessary notifications to citizens during emergency events like wildfires and floods.



How does Reverse 911® contact me? Reverse 911® sends a recorded message through phone lines to Santa Barbara County homes and businesses affected by the emergency. Citizens can also voluntarily register cell phones and email addresses to receive notifications.

How do I register for Reverse 911®? Visit <http://www.sbsheriff.org/reverse911a.html> and click on "Santa Barbara County Reverse 911 Portal" to enter your address and contact information.

Will my personal information be used for any other purpose? No. Your information is safe. Your phone numbers and email will only be used in emergency events and all information is kept locally. The information will not be sold or distributed for any purpose.

I was called by Reverse 911® during the Jesusita fire. Do I still need to register? All "landline" telephone numbers, both listed and unlisted, are already registered. If you would like to be notified on your cell phone or email, please add this information using the website.

Special thanks to Sgt. Tom Walton for his tireless work on Reverse 911 and 30 years of service to the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department. Congratulations on your retirement!

Disaster Focus: Wind Events

Santa Anas & Sundowners

The “Santa Anas” are dry and often hot winds that blow out of a cool desert. The winds often occur during the cool season, from October to March and usually impact Los Angeles, Ventura, and Orange County, CA. Santa Ana winds can cause vegetation to dry out and increase the potential for wildfires. If a fire starts, the winds fuel the fire, build its speed, and can cause the fire to change speed or direction very quickly. High winds also batter the coast with choppy surf conditions.

“Sundowners” are a “special version of the Santa Ana regime” creating a clash between cool ocean winds and the hot air from the Santa Ynez Mountains. Strong sundowners often occur two or three times a year in Santa Barbara creating local gale force winds and a sharp rise in temperature. The winds are called sundowners because they most often occur in the late afternoon or evening.

Sundowners can cause a serious weather situation, especially during wildfire season. The 1990 Painted Cave Fire and the Jesusita Fire were blamed on sundowner events. Sundowner-related fires are often more dangerous because they run downhill, not uphill like most fires, potentially causing more damage to populated areas.

City of Santa Barbara
Office of Emergency Services



We're on the web!

<http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/Resident/OES>

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Photo obtained from *Thaindian News*, by Stephen Morton/Getty Images



These winds can also cause serious non-fire events. The most significant sundowner event recorded was on June 17, 1859. Wind gusts from the Santa Ynez peak created a high spike in temperatures and a severe dust storm in the Santa Barbara/Goleta area. During the dust storm, temperatures reached 133 degrees F. The extreme heat and severe winds killed animals and wild birds and destroyed fruit and vegetables farms.

Please have a heightened awareness if a **high wind advisory, watch, or warning** is issued. During these times, wind speeds can reach more than 40mph with gusts greater than 58mph. Also be alert if a **red flag warning** is issued. During this time, sustained winds, low humidity, and high temperatures may result in extreme burning conditions.

Story Resources: UCLA ATMOS, Gary Ryan Santa Maria Weather



The Electricity's Out! What Now?

Home Safety

- Unplug or turn off all electrical appliances, especially those that were on during the outage. This will avoid overloading circuits and fire hazards when power is restored.
- When power is restored, turn on appliances one by one.
- Use battery-operated flashlights, not candles.

Traffic Safety

- If you find a downed power line, treat it like it is “live” or energized. Notify your power company.

Food Safety

- Do not open the refrigerator unless necessary to avoid warming
- Check food for spoilage when power returns. If the food in the freezer has ice crystals and is not above 40 degrees you can refreeze. Perishable foods in the refrigerator should not be above 40 degrees F for more than two hours.

Medical Equipment Safety

- If you or a loved one use electrically-operated medical equipment, become a part of SCE's Medical Baseline Program. Visit www.sce.com/medicalbaseline/ or call 1(800)655-455, TTY 1(800) 352-8580.

GREAT RESOURCE Check out Southern California Edison's website

<http://www.sce.com/PowerOutageCenter/PowerOutageInformationCentral/DuringPowerOutage/>

Local Disaster History

April 18, 1906

The Great San Francisco Earthquake

- Strong shaking lasted 45 to 60 seconds after a significant foreshock occurring at 5:12am
- Ruptured the northernmost 296 miles of the San Andreas fault
- The city was then ravaged by fires, resulting from the earthquake, that burned for four days
- Re-evaluation of the 1906 data in 1980s estimated that the quake caused over 3,000 deaths and \$500,000,000 in damage



Source: USGS and www.sfmuseum.org, Photo Obtained from: UC Berkeley Earthquake Engineering Research Center