



City of Santa Barbara



Get Ready Santa Barbara! Stay informed in 2011

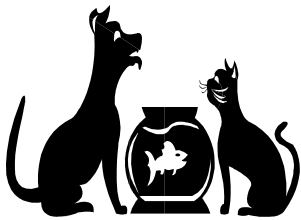
Volume 2, Issue 1

January 2011

In this Issue:

- Are You Ready
- Disaster Trivia
- Resilience
 - What is it?
- Disaster Facts
- Current CalEMA News

Upcoming Issue in February 2011



Do you know what the Santa Barbara Equine Assistance and Evacuation Team, Inc. does during an emergency? In next month's issue you can read about this Association and what they can do to assist you if you have large or small animals.

2011 Upcoming Topics

January
Are you Ready?

February
Pet Preparedness

March
CERT
What is it?

April
Fact or Myths
Earthquakes

May
What is AFN?

June
Fact or Myths
Fire

Are you Ready?

The New Year is a time to reflect on the events of 2010 and begin to look at the opportunities for 2011. However, if your 2010 New Year's resolution like dieting, exercising and organizing your closets fell by the wayside, why not pick something that is less challenging and can be rewarding all year long. You and your family can update or initiate your own emergency preparedness plan by building a family supply kit to be ready for floods, windstorms, or summer fires.

Santa Barbara City was spared serious rain damage from the December 2010 Storms due to the mitigation work of city crews. The Santa Barbara Fire Department and the Office of Emergency Services wants to encourage the public to have a household plan to ensure safety and peace of mind. Each household should be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least three days in case of type of disruptive event.

Stocking up on non-perishable foods, batteries, and a portable radio can make days without electricity or a trip to the local supermarket less daunting.

You can also keep games and books on hand to keep all ages occupied. Always remember, if applicable, to keep plenty of food for the pets and lots of cleansing wipes, in case running water isn't available.

For tips on creating a household emergency plan and putting together a supply kit, help is as close as the Office of Emergency Services website: www.santabarbaraca.gov/oes or www.ready.gov or www.sbredcross.org.

Resolving to be prepared before an emergency or disaster is a goal for the entire family. Preparedness is contagious! What starts with one family can spread throughout a neighborhood. Every prepared neighborhood frees up emergency responders to take care of those who are in dire need. This year when resolving to start that diet again and cleaning your cluttered closets; make preparedness a priority and be ready for 2011.



Disaster Trivia

Every month we will have a series of disaster related trivia questions. Check your disaster IQ, before you check the answers at the bottom.

- Which natural disaster can produce the fastest winds on earth?
 - Tornado
 - Hurricane
 - Cyclone
 - Tsunami
- Which states has the most earthquakes?
 - California and Hawaii
 - Nevada and Arizona
 - Alaska and California
- A Tsunami is a:
 - Tidal Wave
 - Series of sea waves
 - Result of El Nino
- Where do most earthquakes occur?
 - Along the boundaries of the Earth's crustal plates
 - On the continent of Antarctica
 - On the Equator
- Where was the worst nuclear accident in the USA's?
 - Windscale Nuclear Complex
 - Chalk River Plant
 - Three Mile Island

1 a 2 . c 3 . b 4 a 5 . c



Resilience: What is it?

This year we will be providing monthly excerpts from leading authorities on resilient communities. We hope you find the information useful giving you the tools you need to improve your own disaster resilience. This month's excerpt comes from Homeland Security¹, to read the entire article go to <http://www.hsaj.org/index.php?article=6.3.6>

What is Resilience?

In current policy debates, the meaning of resilience varies by disciplinary perspective. For most, resilience (with its roots in the Latin word *resilio*) means to adapt and "bounce back" from a disruptive event. Similarly, resilience also refers to the ability of a system to absorb, change, and still carry on. As applied to social systems, resilience refers to the capacity of a community system, or part of that system, to absorb and recover from disruptive events.

Note that resilience does not necessarily mean that the system will look just as it did before a disturbance or "surprise." It will maintain its functions but individual parts of the system may have changed (adapted) to new conditions in the environment. For example, sometimes, when part of a system is not resilient and fails, other parts of the system must assume its functions and appropriate its resources.

Resilience is sometimes confused with the concept of "resistance" - an attempt to prevent or stop disruptive events from happening. Resistance strategies include physical countermeasures such as trying to stop terrorists from boarding aircraft and building firewalls to protect computer systems from intruders. Resilience strategies, on the other hand, assume that resistance may not always be possible and thus include the provision of or access to alternative resources and services if the resistance strategy fails.

The Problem

Individuals and organizations build their everyday activities around complex systems over which they have little control, such as electricity, computerized systems, and communication networks supported by distant satellites. Each of these modern conveniences allows communities to function more efficiently. Yet few people maintain a stockpile of food and water or possess alternative modes of transportation, power generation, or communication in the event of an emergency.

Meanwhile, governments, communities, and individuals have never been so devastatingly unprepared to cope with disturbances to infrastructure, vital resources, or public goods and services. Part of the problem is that the efficiencies inherent within these complex systems of modern life reduce resilience through a loss in redundancy and diversity. Another aspect is that few systems are designed with resilience as a specification. The ability of these systems to bounce back after a disaster will have a direct impact on the ability of a community to respond and recover. It is thus important to consider all the resources that a community must count on when assessing resilience.

¹Excerpt taken from Building Resilient Communities: A Preliminary Framework for Assessment 09/201
Patricia H. Longstaff, Nicholas J. Armstrong, Keli Perrin, Whitney May Parker, Matthew A Hidek Website:



Disaster Facts The Nine Sisters of SLO

The Nine Sisters of San Luis Obispo County, also known as the Morros, are a unique set of landmarks between the City of Morro Bay and the City of San Luis Obispo. These ancient volcanic mountains are very scenic and form a backdrop for the Cities of San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay. Forming a divider between the Los Osos Valley and Chorro Valley, these peaks extend from Islay Hill within the City of San Luis Obispo to Morro Rock. Which is often called the sentinel of the Pacific Ocean, covering approximately 40 square miles.

The peaks are aptly named the Nine Sisters because they are all in a row, and in close proximity. The nine have had their names designated on the Geological Survey maps since 1964. Stunted Terrace Hill and submerged Davidson's Seamount are omitted. To access a vicinity map of "The Nine Sisters" please click on the Sierra Club link below.
<http://santalucia.sierraclub.org/ninesis.html>

Article and photo courtesy of Sierra Club San Luis Obispo



Hollister Peak Viewed From Highway 1

City of Santa Barbara Office of Emergency Services



OES is on the web!

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

Newsletter Author:
Yolanda McGlinchey, OES Manager
YMcGlinchey@SantaBarbaraCA.gov
Originally Created by: Lindsay Barker, MPH

Current CalEMA News

The Southern California Catastrophic Earthquake Response Plan (OPLAN) provides a coordinated state/federal response to a catastrophic earthquake in Southern California. This OPLAN is the result of more than 1500 emergency management professionals determining how best to use the combined capabilities of the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), local state, tribal and federal resources to respond to a magnitude 7.8 earthquake on the southern San Andreas Fault. To read the plan go to:

<http://bit.ly/fLOK2C>