



# City of Santa Barbara



Volume 2, Issue 4

April 2012

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### Upcoming Issue in May 2012

#### What is NIMS?



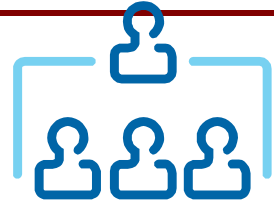
The National Incident Management System (NIMS) provides a systematic approach to reduce the loss of life and property and harm to the environment. Next month we will look at how NIMS interacts with the states and local jurisdictions.

### 2012 Upcoming Topics

# Get Ready Santa Barbara!

## Explore Emergency Management in 2012

## STANDARDIZED EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SEMS)



The Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) is the cornerstone of California's emergency response system and the fundamental structure for the response phase of emergency management. SEMS is required by the California Emergency Services Act (ESA) for managing multiagency and multijurisdictional responses to emergencies in California. The system unifies all elements of California's emergency management community into a single integrated system and standardizes key elements. SEMS incorporates the use of the Incident Command System (ICS), California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement (MMAA), the Operational (OA) Area concept and multiagency or inter-agency coordination. State agencies are required to use SEMS and local government entities must use SEMS in order to be eligible for any reimbursement of response-related costs under the state's disaster assistance programs.

The Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) is a state-wide California system that all local jurisdictions responders use during disasters. The primary goals of SEMS is to aid in communication and response by providing a common management system and language.

As a result of the 1991 East Bay Hills Fire in Oakland, a law was passed by the legislature to improve the coordination of state and local emergency response in California. The statute directed the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) (now the California Emergency Management Agency [CalEMA]), in coordination with other state agencies and local emergency management agencies, to establish by regulation the SEMS. State agencies and local governments are required to use SEMS to participate in disasters.

The framework of SEMS incorporates the use of the Incident Command System (ICS) (developed under the Fire Fighting Resources of California Organized for Potential Emergencies [FIRESCOPE] - See April 2012 OES Newsletter) multi-agency or inter-agency coordination, the State's master mutual aid agreement and mutual aid program, the operational area concept and the Operational Area Satellite Information System (OASIS)

SEMS is designed to be flexible and adaptable to the varied emergencies that can occur in California, and to meet the emergency management needs of all responders. By law, state agencies must use SEMS when responding to emergencies involving multiple jurisdictions or multiple agencies. Local governments are strongly encouraged to use SEMS, and must use SEMS in order to be eligible for State funding of certain response related personnel costs. All local governments are required to maintain minimum training competencies in SEMS.

The City of Santa Barbara is diligent in making sure that the City is complaint to this State law by conducting training and exercises with city staff and outside agencies.

For more information you can go the State website at [www.calema.ca.gov](http://www.calema.ca.gov).

May  
What is NIMS?

June  
The Facts about DHS?

July  
FEMA: What is it?

August  
What School is Starting Again?

September  
National Preparedness Month

October  
Fire Prevention Month

## Disaster Facts: Is April a *Cursed* Month ?

There are those that have done research on disasters that have occurred in the month of April. Is April a cursed month or is it a coincidence? There are many websites that would tell you not to trust the month of April. However, there are no scientific facts to say that April is no different than any other month. However, there have been some notable incidents that have happened in the month of April.

For one, in 1775 at Lexington and Concord, the Minutemen and Red Coats clashed, it was "the shot heard around the world". What about April 14, 1865 when President Lincoln was assassinated? Then there is always the San Francisco Earthquake on April 18, 1906.

With these examples, there is a theory among numerologists and conspiracy theorists alike that say the dates in April between the 14th and the 30th are especially dangerous. Listed below are a few examples:

- \* April 14-15, 1915—The sinking of the Titanic after hitting an iceberg on its maiden voyage, killing 1,517
- \* April 21, 1930—A fire at the Ohio State prison kills 320 inmates. One of the worst prison disasters in American history
- \* April 16, 1947—Texas City's port on Galveston Bay, a fire aboard the French freighter Grandcamp ignites causing a massive blast that destroys much of the city and takes approx. 600 lives.
- \* April 17, 1961—The Bay of Pigs invasion began.
- \* April 18, 1983—The U.S. embassy in Beirut, Lebanon—a car-bomb explosion kills 63 people, including the suicide bomber and 17 Americans.
- \* April 26, 1986—Explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear plant.
- \* April 19, 1993—Waco Texas - Branch Davidians (the siege began Feb. 28th and lasted 50 days ending violently on April 19th)
- \* April 19, 1995—Oklahoma City Bombing Murrow building
- \* April 20, 1999—Columbine school shootings-13 died, 23 injured
- \* April 26, 2007—VA Tech Shootings - Blacksburg, VA a lone gunman kills 32 people and wounds others before committing suicide.
- \* April 20, 2010—Deepwater Horizon Incident, 11 killed, 13,000 gallons of crude oil released
- \* April 14-16, 2011— In three days 241 Tornadoes covering 14 states, killing 52



Now, one may think, 'have all significant incidents happened between the 14th and 15th of April?' No, there was the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4, 1968, or the 1905 Kangra Valley 7.8 earthquake in India that struck on April 4?

So what about April 2012? Know that disasters happen everyday all around the world. But you can be prepared by having a plan and a kit for disaster that might come along.. For more information go to the [Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov) or [American Red Cross](http://AmericanRedCross.org) website.

Start today, who knows what tomorrow brings...

## City of Santa Barbara Office of Emergency Services



OES is on the web!

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

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## Did You Know: After the Long Beach Earthquake Building Codes for Schools Changed

The Long Beach earthquake of 1933 took place on March 10, 1933 at 17:55 PST with a magnitude of 6.4, causing widespread damage to buildings throughout Southern California. The epicenter was offshore, southeast of Long Beach on the Newport-Inglewood Fault. An estimated fifty million dollars worth of property damage resulted, and 120 lives were lost. Many of these fatalities occurred as people ran out of buildings and were hit by falling debris.

The major damage occurred in the thickly settled district from Long Beach to the industrial section south of Los Angeles, where unfavorable geological conditions (made land, water-soaked alluvium) combined with poor structural work to increase the damage. At Long Beach, buildings collapsed, water tanks fell through roofs, and houses displaced on foundations. School buildings were among those structures most generally and severely damaged.

The earthquake eliminated all doubts regarding the need for earthquake resistant design for structures in California. So many school buildings were damaged, with more than 230 school buildings that were either destroyed, suffered major damage, or were judged unsafe to occupy, that the Field Act was passed by the California State Legislature on April 10, 1933. The Field Act mandated that school buildings must be earthquake-resistant. If the earthquake had occurred during school hours, the death toll would have been much higher.



Source: [Wikipedia](http://Wikipedia)

## City News

The City will be hosting an Advanced CERT classes this month. The class is scheduled for Wednesday April 18th from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The class is titled "Animal Rescue II" that will ensure CERT members can respond safely and appropriately in emergency events involving animals.



The class will be held at the Santa Barbara City Fire Department, Station 1, 121 W. Carrillo Street.

You can contact Yolanda McGlinchey at 805-564-5711 to register. To see the flyer for this class please [click here](#) or on the picture.