



Volume 2, Issue 8


August 2012

# City of Santa Barbara



## Get Ready Santa Barbara! Explore Emergency Management in 2012

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### Upcoming Issue: September is National Preparedness Month!

Throughout September there will be activities across the country to promote emergency preparedness. More than 3,000 organizations - national, regional, and local public and private organizations - are supporting emergency preparedness efforts and encouraging all Americans to take action. We'll bring you all of the local happenings as well as provide you with the resources you need to make sure you are prepared year-round!



### 2012 Upcoming Topics

August  
What?!? School  
is Starting  
Again?

September  
National Pre-  
paredness  
Month

October  
Fire Prevention  
Month

November  
Reverse 911

December  
Preparedness  
Kits

January  
Fire Extinguish-  
ers

## School is Starting Again?!

It's that time of the year again! Back to school shopping is in full swing and summer is coming to a close. Take this opportunity to talk with your family about emergencies and what to do if one should occur during the day. If you don't already have one, make a family plan that includes an emergency contact and a place to meet should you be separated during or after a disaster. Gather your family and run drills so you will know what to do in the event of a fire and an earthquake.

Help children prepare their own emergency kits so they feel involved—consider letting them pick out their own flashlight or colored glowsticks and snacks they can pack with their change of clothes in their emergency kit. Quiz them on your families emergency plan and emergency contact. Keep reading below for more tips!

- \* **Update and replace clothing in emergency kits.** Back-to-school often means back-to-school shopping. Update and replace the clothing in your families emergency kit. If you are packing clothes for children make sure to have them try them on for fit, especially shoes!
- \* **Update the rest of your emergency kit.** Speaking of emergency kits and go-bags, while you have it out, go through and replace items as needed. Pay special attention to expiration dates on food and medical supplies and replace if expired or will soon be expired.
- \* **Emergency plans.** Children spend the majority of their day in school. Do you know what is in your child's school emergency plan? Find out! Ask how parents will be contacted in the event of an emergency and where the students will go if evacuated. Public schools in Santa Barbara City have access to [TeleParent](#) which allows teachers to send emergency notifications to parents. Which brings us to...
- \* **Review and update emergency contacts.** You may think this only applies to children in school but many employers keep a list of emergency contacts for employees. Medical facilities (doctors offices, assisted living facilities, nursing homes etc.) also keep emergency contact information on patients, so be sure your emergency information is up-to-date for you and those you love.
- \* **Review and update medical conditions.** Whether it is peanuts or penicillin, if you found out this summer that your child is allergic to something make sure their school knows. Update their medical information and in the event it is a serious allergy consider getting them a medical bracelet.
- \* **Get involved in the community.** Now that school is back in session, you may be looking for after-school and weekend activities for your children. Consider the benefits of enrolling your children in activities that promote preparedness. Santa Barbara's local Red Cross chapter offers a Babysitting course which touches on basic first-aid. Many local pools offer swim lessons that provide information on water safety—a skill useful in a beach town like Santa Barbara.



Now that you have read through our back-to-school advice you are hopefully feeling confident about starting the school year off right but you may be wondering how you can get this information and more to your children! If you would like a safety talk or demonstration to be given at your child's school or organization please contact Yolanda McGlinchey, Santa Barbara's Emergency Manager at (805) 564-5711 or [YMcGlinchey@SantaBarbarCA.gov](mailto:YMcGlinchey@SantaBarbarCA.gov).

## DEBRIS CONCENTRATION

HIGHEST LOWEST

March 21, 2011



March 2012



March 2013



March 2014



March 2015



SOURCE: NASA ANDERSON ET AL. / NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

NASA Infographic of the predicted travel of flotsam from Japan across the Pacific.

## Disaster Facts: Japan Tsunami Flotsam

The 2011 Japanese earthquake and tsunami was a devastating disaster to the country of Japan. Many places in Japan are still working to recover from the losses suffered that day. The fallout from the tsunami however is not localized. Early last year it was predicted that debris washed into the ocean by the Japanese tsunami would end up on the west coast of the United States and Canada. According to a [CNN article](#) on the topic, as much as 1.5 million tons of debris, also known as flotsam, is headed our way. This figure is only 30% of the estimated 5 million tons of what was originally washed into the ocean after the tsunami, the majority of which has, or is expected to, sink before reaching land.



Flotsam found in Alaska. Photo from CNN

Some of the more interesting items to have already made the 4,000 mile journey across the Pacific Ocean are a Harley Davidson motorcycle, a 'ghost' (unmanned) squid trawler and even a soccer ball, which has since been returned to its Japanese owner. Much of the flotsam that has arrived to the United States has made landfall in Alaska and Washington. The clean-up cost to collect this flotsam is staggering as much of it washes up in remote places. While thankfully there is no concern that this flotsam is radioactive (as much of it washed into the ocean prior to the nuclear reactor leaking), there is evidence that it will have an impact upon ocean life. Many sea birds, sea mammals and fish have been known to ingest floating garbage. In some cases they die from the ingestion but in others they don't. The danger of this becomes clear when this garbage makes its way, via the food chain, into our diets.

While some of it has already made landfall, the bulk of the debris is not expected until 2013 and beyond. For an animated video of the predicted journey of the flotsam [click here](#).

## Did You Know: Wilderness Watch-outs!

Do you know what to do in case of a rattlesnake bite? Do you know what poison oak looks like? Do you live in Santa Barbara? If you answered no to the first two questions and yes to the third, you need to keep reading!



Rattlesnakes are becoming more common now that the weather is warming up and they don't know the difference between a trail in the backcountry and your backyard. Follow this advice from the [California Department of Fish and Game](#) to avoid getting in trouble:

- \* Never go barefoot or wear sandals when walking through wild areas. Wear hiking boots.
- \* When hiking, stick to well-used trails and avoid tall grass, weeds and heavy underbrush where snakes may hide during the day.
- \* Step ON logs and rocks, never over them, and be especially careful when climbing rocks or gathering firewood. Check out stumps or logs before sitting down, and shake out sleeping bags before use.
- \* Never grab "sticks" or "branches" while swimming in lakes and rivers. Rattlesnakes can swim.
- \* Be careful when stepping over the doorstep as well. Snakes like to crawl along the edge of buildings where they are protected on one side.
- \* Never hike alone. Always have someone with you who can assist in an emergency.
- \* Do not handle a freshly killed snake, it can still inject venom.

If you or your pet do get bitten by a rattle snake, stay calm! Wash the bite area with soap and water. Do your best to immobilize the area around the bite and remove any jewelry that may constrict if the area begins to swell. Seek medical attention as soon as possible.



### Quiz Time!

By now you've read this newsletter cover to cover and hopefully, the ones before it. Try your hand at the quiz questions below to test your knowledge!

#### True or False!

- 1) Home smoke detectors should have their batteries replaced twice a year.
- 2) Typhoons, Hurricanes, and Cyclones are all the same thing.
- 3) The Santa Barbara Art Museum was designated as a fall-out shelter by the Department of Defense.
- 4) At a minimum, you should have 3 days of food and water stocked at home in case of emergency.

#### Multiple Choice!

- 5) Which of these things does the Center for Disease Control (CDC) NOT provide advice and planning for?
  - A) Zombie Attack
  - B) Your Wedding Day
  - C) Alien Attack
  - D) Hurricanes
- 6) Santa Barbara has a plan for which of these disasters:
  - A) Earthquakes
  - B) Flooding
  - C) Tsunamis
  - D) All of the above

Answers: 1) T; 2) T; 3) T; 4) T; 5) C; 6) D

## City of Santa Barbara Office of Emergency Services

OES is on the web!

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

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Do you want to see something in an upcoming issue of this newsletter? Let us know! Send an email to the e-mail address above and you might just see it in the next newsletter!



OES is launching its first ever social media campaign! Look for details in an upcoming issue of Get Ready Santa Barbara!

### City News— Nextdoor.com

The City of Santa Barbara has adopted use of a new, neighborhood specific social media website called nextdoor.com. This website, used by over 3,000 cities across the U.S. including Santa Barbara City. Nextdoor.com enables residents of various neighborhoods to meet and develop a community.



Nextdoor.com is not your average social media website, it is much more secure. In order to become a member you must prove that you live in the neighborhood that you wish to join (the website provides a few different ways of doing this). Then can only view information from your own neighborhood, you cannot access someone else's neighborhood.

Nextdoor.com has a message board so you can introduce yourself to your neighbors and even a classified page if you are trying to sell something. Best of all is that if the City needs to reach a specific neighborhood during an emergency, they can use nextdoor.com as another tool to do so. Sign up today at [Nextdoor.com](http://Nextdoor.com).