



City of Santa Barbara

Volume 2, Issue 10

October 2012



Get Ready Santa Barbara! Explore Emergency Management in 2012

It's National Fire Prevention Month!

How do you celebrate National Fire Prevention Month? By making sure you, your family, and your home are as fire ready as possible!

In this Issue:

- October is National Fire Prevention Month
- Disaster Facts: October 8, 1871
- Did You Know: CDC Zombie Plan & Halloween Safety
- Quiz Time
- City News: The Great California Shakeout!

Upcoming Issue

Next month we will cover reverse 911; what it is, how it is used in Santa Barbara and how you can make sure you are on the list to get the call!

Since November also marks the beginning of cold and flu season we'll also tell you how you can best avoid getting sick and show you some neat ways to track the spread of the flu nationally and locally.



2012/2013

Upcoming Topics

Fire Facts from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA):

- * One home structure fire was reported every 85 seconds in 2010
- * Almost two-thirds of reported home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- * Cooking caused two of every five reported home fires, roughly one of every seven home fire deaths, and two of every five home fire injuries.
- * Automatic fire sprinkler systems cut the risk of dying in a home fire by about 83%.
- * The cost of a home fire sprinkler system in a new home averages \$1.61 per sprinklered square foot totaling an amount similar to what is spent for carpet upgrades, paving stone driveway or a whirlpool bath.
- * There are two types of smoke alarms: an ionization smoke alarm is generally more responsive to heat, and a photoelectric smoke alarm is generally more responsive to smoke.



Inside your home:

- * **INSTALL** smoke alarms inside every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- * **TEST** smoke alarms once a month. Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half.
- * **REPLACE** smoke alarm batteries every six months. A good time to do this is when you re-set your clocks in fall and spring.
- * **REPLACE** the entire smoke alarm unit after 10 years.
- * **LOCATE** at least two exits (including windows) in every room in your home and practice using them yearly with your family.
- * **HAVE** at least one multi- purpose fire extinguisher in your home. If you can, have multiple and put them near exits.



Santa Barbara City Fire Captain Chris Mailles demonstrates proper fire extinguisher use

Outside your home:

- * **DESIGNATE** a meeting area outside, in front of your home for your family to meet in case of fire.
- * BBQ grills should be placed well away from your home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- * Check your grills propane gas tank hose for leaks before your first use each year. To do so, apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles.

In Case of Fire:

- * Leave the area immediately. Shut any doors behind you as you go. This will help to contain the fire.
- * Test door handles lightly before grabbing them. If they are warm to the touch, do not open the door.
- * If you have to escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to find your way out.
- * When using a fire extinguisher, remember to PASS: Pull the pin; Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you, and release the locking mechanism. Aim low; Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire. Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly. Sweep the nozzle from side-to-side.
- * Once you are out of the building, stay out! Do not re-enter until officials tell you it is safe.

Have questions about fire preparedness or fire hazards? Contact the Santa Barbara City Fire Department at: (805) 965-5254

October
Fire Prevention Month

November
Reverse 911

December
Preparedness Kits

January 2013
Fire Extinguishers

February 2013
L.I.E.S

March 2013
Hazardous Materials

Did you Know? CDC Zombie Plan & Halloween Safety Tips

With Halloween coming at the end of this month you may find yourself watching more scary movies than usual. You also may find yourself checking under the bed and in the closets for things that go bump-in-the-night. While we can't come check under your bed, we do have you covered for what to do in case of a zombie apocalypse and no, we're not kidding!

Last year, the CDC released a zombie preparedness survival plan to make sure that you and your family know what to do in the event that the undead go on the attack. Don't worry though, you won't need to make too many additions to your emergency preparedness supplies because as it turns out if you're prepared for most disasters, you are prepared for zombie apocalypse.

While zombie attack may not be a priority for the federal government to prepare for, the campaign is being used as a tool to get emergency preparedness messages out to those who might not otherwise be interested in emergency preparedness. According to the [CDC website](#) "what first began as a tongue in cheek campaign to engage new audiences with preparedness messages has proven to be a very effective platform. We continue to reach and engage a wide variety of audiences on all hazards preparedness via Zombie Preparedness..."

With that in mind, In the event you are not prepared for zombie apocalypse, or you want to inspire someone in your life who may not think preparedness is necessary (or you just want to) check out the CDC's [Zombie Preparedness Comic](#).



Halloween Safety Tips:

Going trick-or-treating this Halloween? Whether you're the one collecting candy or not, keep reading for tips on staying safe and enjoying the night! For more information check out the [CDC's Halloween page](#).

- * Only accept candy that is factory wrapped, not homemade. If the wrapper is damaged or looks tampered with, don't eat it!
- * Stay on sidewalks and out of the street when possible. Look both ways before crossing and use crosswalks if available!
- * Carry a battery operated flashlight and attach reflective tape to your costume and/or treat bag.
- * Trick-or-treat in groups and don't let children enter homes unaccompanied.



Disaster Facts: October 8, 1871

If you are curious how National Fire Prevention Month came to be, your answer lies in this column. October hosts National Fire Prevention Week (we make it a month) because of the events that occurred on October 8, 1871. On that date several large fires broke out in the Midwest. The most famous of these being the Great Chicago Fire which obliterated much of Chicago. However, the most devastating fire that day, both in terms of land and lives lost was actually in Peshtigo, Wisconsin. To this day, the Peshtigo fire remains the deadliest wildfire in U.S. history.

The entire Midwest experienced terrible drought in 1871, experiencing only a quarter of the normal precipitation. This, combined with the 'slash-and-burn' land practices of the time, the fact that wood was the heavily favored construction material, and a strong wind set the stage for the unimaginable firestorm created October 8, 1871. No one knows for sure what started either The Great Chicago Fire or the Peshtigo fire. Since the day the Great Chicago fire began, rumors circulated that it was started by Mrs. Catherine O'Leary's cow who kicked over a lamp in the O'Leary barn (ironically, this location is now the site of the Chicago Fire Academy). This theory has actually never been validated.



Corner of State and Madison after the Great Chicago Fire. Photo courtesy of Chicago Historical Society

The destruction caused by these fires was devastating. The Great Chicago Fire burned nearly half the city of Chicago including the booming business district. Two days after it began, rain finally put out the Chicago fire. When all was said and done nearly 100,000 (some estimate this at 500,000) people were homeless, 300 had been killed and \$200 million in property had been destroyed ([Chicago Historical Society](#), 1999).

The Peshtigo Fire, burned longer, and more intense than the Chicago fire. It decimated the town of Peshtigo, Wisconsin killing more than half of its residents. The majority of those that survived waded into ponds, streams and even the Peshtigo River hoping to escape what many scientists later estimate was a fire tornado or fire whirl. The Peshtigo fire burned for many days at one point actually jumping Green Bay and scorching nearly 1.5 million acres along the way. Between 1,200-2,400 lives were lost in this fire with thousands more displaced, financial losses were similar to those of Chicago Fire.

Quiz Time!

True or False!

- 1) All smoke alarms detect smoke the same way
- 2) Candles are not recommended for an emergency kit
- 3) Medical calls make up the majority of response calls for the Santa Barbara City Fire Department

Multiple Choice!

- 4) Which of these radio stations is designated to broadcast during local emergencies?
 - a) 990 AM - KTMS
 - b) 99.99 FM - KTYD
 - c) 101.7 FM - KLITE
 - d) 1490 AM - KSPE
 - e) all of these and more

5) PASS as is pertains to fire extinguishers means

- a) Point, Assess, Squeeze, Sweep
- b) Park, Ask, Sigh, Sweep
- c) Point, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep

6) Where in the Santa Barbara area can you get a fire extinguisher re-filled?

- a) [Durbiano Fire Protection](#) 232 E. Gutierrez St., Santa Barbara
- b) Nargan Fire and Safety Co. 629 Firestone Road, Goleta
- c) [Joy Equipment Protection Inc.](#) 5690 Casitas Pass Road, Carpinteria
- d) all of these

7) **BONUS:** Which station from question 5 broadcasts in Spanish?

Answers: (1) F; (2) T; (3) T; (4) E; (5) C; (6) D; (7) 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 have a question about disasters or disaster preparedness you want answered? Send an email to the above address and you might just see it in the next newsletter!

City News— The Great California Shakeout

Drop, Cover, and Hold! Join the rest of California (and several other states and countries) this year in participating in the Great Shakeout! Taking place on October 18, 2012 at 10:18am the Great California Shakeout is an annual opportunity for everyone to practice what to do in the event of an earthquake (Drop, Cover and Hold!). Pledge to practice with your family, co-workers, and others by signing up at www.shakeout.org/California. You can be one of the more than 7.8 million people around the world who does so! While you are there, make sure you are earthquake ready by checking out the [resources page](#) for information on preparedness and how to encourage your friends and family to prepare!

