



City of Santa Barbara



Volume 2, Issue 11

November 2012

Get Ready Santa Barbara! Explore Emergency Management in 2012

Reverse 911

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Reverse 911 system is the premier community notification tool designed to enhance emergency preparedness and facilitate urgent and necessary notifications to citizens during events. The system has the ability to send recorded messages to local phone numbers within minutes. This is a useful tool when trying to alert specific neighborhoods or whole cities about evacuation warnings, flood and fire warnings and missing persons. Reverse 911 calls are made based on location of the address associated with them. This is to ensure that those in the area of most danger are alerted first.

If you have a landline phone at your home or office, you are already on the Sheriff's Reverse 911 list, even if your phone number is unlisted. You do not need to sign up for reverse 911 calls. You should be aware though that if you have a cordless phone and the power goes out, you may not be able to receive a Reverse 911 call unless your base unit also has a battery source. It is recommended that if you have a landline phone as your primary phone that you keep a regular 'corded' phone handset as well.

If you have a digital phone or internet telephone service check with your phone provider to make sure they are "E911 Compliant" and that your account information is current. If you have a screening or interception device to discourage telemarketers (on either a landline phone or a digital phone) you may not get Reverse 911 calls. If your screening only requires a valid caller-ID Reverse 911 calls will get through and show a caller ID of "Sheriff Alert" or "COSB". If however, your screening system blocks or intercepts potential telemarketers the Reverse 911 system will not be able to get through. The Sheriff's office recommends disabling such blocking devices during a disaster.

If your primary phone is a cell phone, you may want to consider adding your cell phone number to the Sheriff's Reverse 911 database. To do this, visit the Sheriff's Reverse 911 registration portal and provide your name, email, phone number and the address you want associated with your phone number, a PO Box will not work. Remember that Reverse 911 calls are made based on geographic location of the address associated with the phone number so you will not receive calls unless your registered address is in the affected area. You should also be aware that in the event of an emergency, cell phone towers may be down, and you may not get a call.

If you have already registered for the Santa Barbara County Sheriff Reverse 911 system but would like to confirm or change the address on file you can log in to the Reverse 911 portal on the Sheriff's website to do so.

In this Issue:

- Reverse 911
- Thanksgiving Safety
- Disaster Avoided: Lookout Fire
- Did You Know: Following the Flu
- Quiz Time
- City News: CERT Classes

Upcoming Issue: Preparedness Kits

Next month we will go over how to put together a preparedness kit for your home, car and work! After the tragedy back east preparedness is on everyone's minds. Some of the issues were emptied shelves in many stores, no gas, then there were people that didn't evacuate when they should have and didn't have kits.

Do you have a kit? If not, find out next month how to put one together and make it a family affair.



2012/2013 Upcoming Topics

November

Reverse 911

December

Preparedness Kits

January 2013

Fire Extinguishers

February 2013

L.I.E.S

March 2013

Hazardous Materials

April 2013

First Aid

Thanksgiving Safety Tips!

Thanksgiving can be a busy time and with everything going on it can be easy to have an accident that ruins your holiday. Follow these tips to ensure you have a safe and happy holiday!

- * When cooking, turn all pot handles in towards the stove. This will prevent children from grabbing them and you from accidentally knocking them off the stove.
- * Set timers for dishes that will be cooking for extended periods of time.
- * If the stove or oven is on, an adult should be home. It is never a good idea to leave a stove or oven unattended.
- * It can be a challenge to say no to pets on holi-

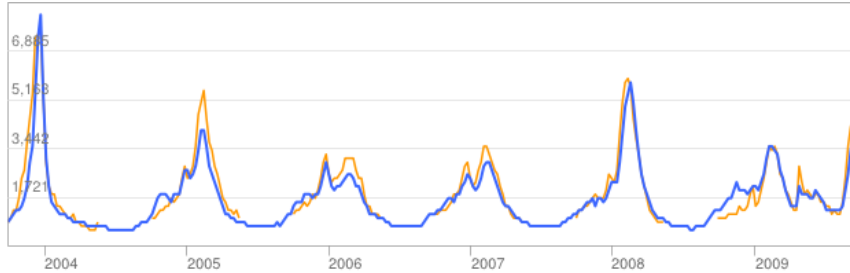
days. If you are going to share some of your holiday dinner with a furry friend read through these tips from the ASPCA.

- * If you are frying your turkey, make SURE it is completely thawed. The recommended thaw rate is 24 hours in the refrigerator per 5lbs of turkey. Your fryer should be outside, on a non-combustible surface and you should have a fire extinguisher (not water!) nearby.
- * Many people use candles at their dinner table over the holidays, if you do, designate an adult to go around at the end of the night to make sure each and every one is extinguished.
- * Don't forget food safety! Use a food thermometer to ensure that dishes are cooked at appropriate temperatures.



Did You Know: Following the Flu

Fall is here and that means flu season! Staying healthy during flu season can be tricky, but now with Google Flu Trends you may be able to get a head start! [Google Flu Trends](#) tracks the approximate location (mostly at the state/country level) of users who Google flu related search terms (flu, flu symptoms, flu remedies etc). Using this data, you can keep track of when the flu is headed your way and take extra precaution. While obviously not everyone who searches these terms is sick, Google has compared its data to national data provided by the CDC and come up with strikingly similar graphs. For more information on Google Flu Trends and how it works [click here](#).



Google search trend data (n blue) compared to the CDC flu data (in yellow). From [Google.org](#)

If you want more info on the seasonal flu you can check out the CDC's [FluView Interactive](#) which provides information on flu related hospitalizations, strains of flu currently circulating and confirmed flu cases by state. For a summary of the CDC's information you can check out [Weekly FluView](#). You can also find historical data collected by the CDC to see previous flu trends.

To avoid getting the flu the CDC recommends all persons 6 months of age and older to get a flu shot. A yearly flu shot is important as every year the flu vaccine is different based on the anticipated virus strains most likely to cause the most illness for the next year. You can read about this year's vaccine [here](#). Other ways you can protect yourself against the flu include covering your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze and washing your hands often with either soap and water or an alcohol based hand sanitizer.

If you do get sick, the CDC recommends staying home for [24 hours after your fever has subsided](#) in order to prevent spreading the flu to others. Antiviral drugs, prescribed by a doctor, can shorten and lessen a person's illness. This is especially helpful for populations deemed [high risk](#) such as those with asthma, heart disease and diabetes.

Disaster Avoided: Lookout Fire



An air tanker drops retardant on the Lookout Fire above Santa Barbara. Photo courtesy of SBFDF.

The County of Santa Barbara had quite a scare on October 17, 2012 when a wildfire began in the Painted Cave area just before 8:00am. Several fire departments came together to battle the blaze including Santa Barbara City Fire, Santa Barbara County Fire, the U.S. Forest Service and Wildland Fire Residents Association, and the Painted Cave Volunteer Fire Department. Thankfully, no homes were lost during the fires short run.

Many firefighters cited access to the fire as being the most difficult aspect in fighting it. The terrain was very steep and in some areas inaccessible by foot. Some areas of the fire even required firefighters to install ropes to hold on to while hiking up and down the mountain. Several helicopters and fixed wing aircraft from all over California provided water and retardant drops from the air which helped to significantly slow the spread of the fire to allow crews to get close to it on the ground.

At the height of the response over three hundred firefighters were on scene battling the blaze. Most were from the Santa Barbara area as well as surrounding cities and counties. Two firefighters did suffer minor injuries, one from dehydration and the other a leg injury from a falling rock.

The Santa Barbara City Fire Department would like to remind all residents of Santa Barbara that wildfires are to be taken seriously. Evacuation orders, if given by an appropriate authority, should be heeded for your own safety as well as the safety of the responders. If you have any questions about wildfires, evacuations or how you can improve the defensible space around your home, please call the SBFDF at (805) 965-5254

Quiz Time!

True or False!

- 1) FEMA is a federal agency that was erected under President Jimmy Carter.
- 2) The [1819 Spanish Flu pandemic](#) killed roughly 50 million people worldwide.
- 3) A full freezer of food will [keep 48 hours](#) without power if the door is kept closed.
- 4) The SBFDF was established in 1906.

Multiple Choice!

- 5) Which of these is not a safe way to [thaw a frozen turkey](#)?
 - a) In the refrigerator 24 hours per 5lbs of turkey
 - b) Submerged in cold water for 30 min per lb of turkey
 - c) On the counter at room temperature until it

seems thawed.

6) What country did the fungus come from that destroyed potatoes in the 1840's causing widespread [famine in Ireland](#)?

- a) China
- b) Mexico
- c) Russia

7) Daylight savings time is coming. Which of these things should you also do when you change your clock?

- a) Test your smoke alarm
- b) Check your food and water supplies and expiration dates in emergency preparedness kit
- c) Review your emergency plan with your family
- d) All of these

Answers: (1) T; (2) T; (3) T; (4) T; (5) C; (6) B; (7) D

City of Santa Barbara Office of Emergency Services

OES is on the web!

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

Newsletter Author:

Danielle Danetra OES Intern

DDanetra@SantaBarbaraCA.gov

Originally Created by: Lindsay Barker, MPH



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 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program in Santa Barbara has been very busy. Since August it has graduated two classes. One class was in collaboration with the Independent Living Resources Center (ILRC), and UCSB, The participants ranged from ILRC staff to Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Clients and two caretakers.

The second class that graduated was a Spanish CERT class. This class was held at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 227 No. Nopal Street.

Both classes were successful offering over 40 individuals the ability to be ready to care for themselves and their neighborhoods. The next two CERT class will begin in 2013. For information on these classes contact the City's Office of Emergency Services, 805-564-5711.

