



City of Santa Barbara



Get Ready Santa Barbara!

Stay informed in 2011

Volume 3, Issue 2

March 2011

In this Issue:

- CERT What is it?
- CERT Trivia
- Resilience
 - Building Back Better
- Disaster Facts
 - Christchurch, New Zealand Earthquake
- Current CalEMA News

Upcoming Issue in April 2011



Ever hear that California will one day fall into the ocean? Ever wonder if there is such a thing as Earthquake Weather? Next month's newsletter will discuss some of the facts and fictions of Earthquakes.

2011 Upcoming Topics

March

CERT
What is it?

April

Fact or Myths
Earthquakes

May

What is AFN?

June

Fact or Myths
Fire

July

How to survive
the Summer

August

Public Health
Emergencies

CERT: What is it?

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept was developed and implemented by the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) in 1985. The Whittier Narrows earthquake in 1987 underscored the area-wide threat of a major disaster in California. Further, it confirmed the need for training civilians to meet their immediate needs.

The training program that LAFD initiated makes good sense and furthers the process of citizens understanding their responsibility in preparing for disaster. It also increases their ability to safely help themselves, their family and their neighbors. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recognized the importance of preparing citizens. The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) and the National Fire Academy adopted and expanded the CERT materials believing them applicable to all hazards.

The CERT course will benefit any citizen who takes it. This individual will be better prepared to respond to and cope with the aftermath of a disaster. Since 1993 when this training was made available nationally by FEMA, communities in 28 States and Puerto Rico have conducted CERT training.

Following a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services will not be able to meet the demand for these services. Factors, as number of victims, communication failures, and road blockages will prevent people from accessing emergency services they have come to expect at a moment's notice through 911. People will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate life saving and life sustaining needs.

After all the recent fires and watching so many disasters on the television in other parts of the country we can predict that emergency services will not be able to meet immediate needs. So what can government do to prepare citizens for this eventuality?

First, present citizens the facts about what to expect following a major disaster in terms of immediate services. Second, give the message about their responsibility for mitigation and preparedness. Third, train them in needed life saving skills with emphasis on decision making skills, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number.

Some of the practical skills an individual will learn in a CERT class is types of disasters in their jurisdiction and how to prepare for them, how and when to use a fire extinguisher, basic medical and triage techniques, light search and rescue, CERT organization, Terrorism, and disaster psychology.

The City of Santa Barbara will be hosting a CERT class beginning Wednesday April 13th, which will run once a week until graduation on Saturday May 28th. For more information contact Yolanda McGlinchey at 805-564-5711.



CERT Trivia

This month we have CERT course related trivia questions. If you have a problem answering any of these questions you may want to sign up for a CERT class in April.

1. How many gallons of water per day should you have for each family member?
 - a. 1
 - b. 3
 - c. 5
2. What is the fire triangle?
 - a. A type of fire
 - b. A type of Fire Extinguisher
 - c. A chemical reaction that causes fires
3. What is START?
 - a. Simple Treatment and Rapid Triage
 - b. Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment
 - c. Signs That Alert Rescuer to Trouble
4. What is Triage?
 - a. A way to sort victims
 - b. A way of controlling bleeding
 - c. A type of bandage
5. What is ICS?
 - a. Incident Control System
 - b. Immediate Control Scenario
 - c. Incident Command System

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

Resilience: Building Back Better

It is time for an evolutionary nationwide shift in the approach now being used for coping with natural and technological hazards by universally adopting goals that are broader than local loss reduction; by using a revised framework that links natural hazards to their global context, to environmental sustainability, and to social resiliency; and by modifying hazard mitigation efforts so that they are compatible with that new vision. *Disasters by Design, Dennis S. Mileti, p. 18*

Many hazards specialists in academia, all levels of government, and the private sector have spent much of the last decade promoting hazard mitigation—the permanent reduction of potential losses from natural and/or technological hazards. To a gratifying extent, these efforts have been rewarded. We now have more widespread acceptance—not just among policymakers and specialists, but also to a remarkable degree among the more general public—that reducing losses before they happen is preferable to cleaning them up over and over again, not to mention avoiding all the disruption and expense they entail. We have at our disposal an extensive array of mitigation techniques, ranging from engineering projects to construction techniques to insurance to forecasting to mapping. To an extent we would not have dreamed of a decade ago, the idea of mitigation has become intertwined with many public and private initiatives, laws, policies, and programs. There is even funding for mitigation. And yet...

Losses due to hazards continue to rise, and our disasters seem to be getting bigger. Indeed, this reality caused many in the field, a few years ago, to consider a mutinous thought: Not all “mitigation” is good.

To be sure, there may be any number of mitigation measures that are ill-conceived or poorly executed—as there inevitably are in any effort. And there are those that begin well but stray from their early vision along the way. But we have begun to realize that even mitigation techniques that are flawlessly designed and executed with the best of intentions and the fondest hopes can, in and of themselves, induce losses elsewhere.

For example, we now have the means to prevent or minimize storm surge damage to a house along the Gulf Coast, by elevating the home above the expected flood level, using certain construction materials and techniques. This combination of mitigation measures is now fairly widespread in both preventing disruption and misery for residents. But is it smart to make it feasible to build a home so close to the ocean? With more of our population converging gradually on the coasts, the potential effects of such mitigation techniques must be considered at a much, much larger scale. Are we simply setting ourselves up for a bigger disaster when a severe hurricane hits?

Or to take another instance, at present most of us would consider it wise mitigation to remove tornado-damaged mobile homes from their original site if that site happened to be a flood-prone area. But what if the mobile home park is the only source of low-income housing in a community? Is that not preventing a flood disaster by creating a financial and housing “disaster” for certain people?

It is clear from these examples and many other hypothetical situations that we can no longer afford to consider hazard mitigation in isolation from other aspects of community well-being. A broader context is needed to ensure that the attempts society makes to protect itself from hazards are not simply creating burdens for someone or someplace else, or simply postponing this year’s medium-sized disaster in favor of a really big one in the future. The concept of “sustainability” can provide an enlarged framework for examining potential mitigation measures—and any other community concerns—in a wider context. Next month we will learn about Holistic Recovery by the same author.

Excerpts taken from “Creating a Sustainable Community After Disaster” by Jacquelyn L. Monday



Cartoon courtesy of the Natural Hazards Informer

Disaster Facts Christchurch, New Zealand Earthquake

On Tuesday February 22, 2011 a 6.3 earthquake struck Christchurch, New Zealand. The depth of the earthquake was measured at 5km, 10km south-east of Christchurch. The quake was shallower and closer to Christchurch than the 7.1 magnitude quake on September 4, 2010, which struck near Darfield, approximately 30 miles from Christchurch.

Three [Geonet](#) monitors (similar to USGS monitors) in the Christchurch area recorded much worse ground shaking than was felt during the original September 4, 2010 quake.

The quake has caused devastation, with multiple fatalities, serious injuries and extensive structural damage to buildings. Hospitals throughout the South Island took in a flood of patients.

Fires broke out in the city centre. Reports are still emerging about people who remain trapped. The iconic Christchurch Cathedral, which survived the original September 4 quake, collapsed.

This is only a reminder that Santa Barbara is long overdue for an earthquake. The last big quake in Santa Barbara was in August 1978, after a series of micro quakes from March 1978 though July 1978. The further we get from the last earthquake, the closer we get to the next. ARE YOU PREPARED? ARE YOU READY SANTA BARBARA?



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

Natural hazards are part of living in California. Having a preparedness kit will help you weather the days after a disaster, but did you know there are steps you can take that may actually reduce the risks of injuries to you and your neighbors and lessen the damage to your home?

CalEMA has a website to help you discover the hazards that exist in your area and learn how to reduce YOUR risk! Remember, the best way to recover from disasters is by reducing the risks before a disaster strikes. All you need to do is enter your address and the site will give you the hazards in your area.

Please note: This web site is for general purpose use only. Real estate disclosure information can be obtained from your local city or county government. See CalEMA’s disclaimer on the site for more information regarding the limitations of this web service. <http://myhazards.calema.ca.gov/Default.aspx>