



City of Santa Barbara

Get Ready Santa Barbara! Stay informed in 2011



Volume 5, Issue 2

May 2011

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 - Jesusita Fire
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 - National Terrorism

Upcoming Issue in June 2011



Fires, how do they start, move, what are some of the facts and myths regarding fire. There will be some interesting items about fire you won't want to miss.

2011 Upcoming Topics

May

What is AFN?

June

Fact or Myth
Fire

July

How to survive
the Summer

August

Public Health
Emergencies

September

Fact or Myth
Terrorism

October

Are You Pre-
pared for the
Holidays

What is AFN?

AFN refers to the Access and Functional Needs Community formerly known as Special Needs Population. The California Office for Access and Functional Needs was developed in January 2008 to identify populations whose members may have additional needs before, during and after a national emergency. According to the National Census of 2000, there were roughly 6 million Californians identified as having a disability. Representing over 6% of California's total population, these individuals need legislation that provides them with a sense of ease knowing that they will be accounted for in an emergency.

An emergency preparedness model was designed for those with special needs or disabilities and includes assistance maintaining independence, communication, transportation, supervision, and/or medical care. Individuals in need of additional response assistance may include those who live in institutionalized settings, older adults, children, those from diverse cultures, those who have limited English proficiency or are non-English speaking, or those who are transportation disadvantaged.

It was interesting for me to find out that if I had to go to a sheltered without my glasses I would be considered having a functional need. Who do you know in your family or neighborhood that would need assistance in evacuating during a drill? Listed below are few things to think about if you need to evacuate a person that has access and/or functional needs.

1. For Persons Using a Wheelchair– One should plan how he/she will evacuate in an emergency and discuss it with their family or care provider. If their wheelchair is motorized you should always have a manual wheelchair as backup
2. For Persons with Communications Disabilities– Excess paper, writing materials like pens and pencils, preprinted key phrases, and copies of a word or letter board should be stored in the individuals emergency kit or wallet/purse
3. For Persons who are Hearing Impaired– Consider storing your hearing aid in an easy accessible space so you can locate them quickly if a disaster strikes. Also, extra batteries should be purchased and added to your emergency kit
4. For Persons who are Blind or Visually Impaired– Place your cane by your bed and attach a whistle to alert emergency responders. Be conscious of obstructions that may be blocking your normal paths.



Disaster Trivia- Are you Smarter than a 5th Grader?

Every month we have a series of disaster related trivia questions. This month's set of questions derive from information that FEMA teaches to local elementary children about different natural disasters.

1. How many times should you change the batteries in your smoke alarms?
 - a. Once a year
 - b. Twice a year
 - c. Three times a year
2. Volcanoes are:
 - a. Randomly distributed over the Earth's surface.
 - b. Concentrated at the north and south poles.
 - c. Concentrated on the edges of continents, along island chains, or beneath the sea forming long mountain ranges.
3. What is the most common national disaster?
 - a. Fire
 - b. Earthquake
 - c. Flood
 - d. Tornado
4. To be classified as a hurricane winds must reach:
 - a. 24 mph
 - b. 46 mph
 - c. 60 mph
 - d. 74 mph

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Resiliency:

Psychological Resilience

After Disasters Strike:

There are many steps one can take to be prepared for a disaster, but nothing can prepare you for the emotional response after the disaster hits. A new study conducted by Professors at the University of New South Wales states that it is psychology resilience that matters the most after a natural disaster, not preparation. Although being prepared for a disaster is essential for you and your families survival, it is ultimately more important to remain calm and cool after it strikes. Recovering from a disaster can take anywhere from a couple days, to months, or even years. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry identifies these following steps to help regain control of your life after a disaster

Step One: Rebuild physical strength and health

Once you and your loved ones are in a safe and secure place, whether a shelter, a new apartment, or a place with relatives or friends, make sure to tend to their immediate medical needs, if any. Be sure everyone has enough to eat and drink to regain their physical strength. Make sure everyone gets some restful sleep in as private a space as possible. Rebuilding physical strength is a good first step to calm shattered emotions

Step Two: Restore daily activities

Restoring daily routines helps build a sense of being home mentally and emotionally, even in the absence of a physical home. Simple routines that your family normally does together, such as family walks, watching television, and bedtime stories, help pull the pieces of daily life back together even in a new place. Restoring daily activities rebuilds the normal sense of morning, afternoon, evening, and night. Even though you are away from home and in a strange place, try to resume the daily routines as much as possible

Step Three: Provide comfort

Family members are better able to deal with the stress of relocation when they are comfortable and informed. Comfort can be increased by providing your family with information about other family, friends, and news of home; expressing affection for family members, in the ways your family normally shows affection; and discussing the emotions associated with the disaster and relocation, such as feelings of loss, missing home, and worry about family members, friends, and pets.

* Information gathered from: Helping Families Deal with Stress of Relocation after a Disaster." www.atsdr.cdc.gov. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Nov. 2005. Web. 27 Apr. 2011. <<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/publications/100233-RelocationStress.pdf>>.



Disaster Facts

Jesuita Fire—May 5, 2009

On May 5th, at approximately 1:45 p.m. a fire began in the Cathedral Peak area.

The fire response was administered by a Unified Command consisting of the Santa Barbara City Fire Department, Santa Barbara County Fire Department, Montecito Fire, and the US Forest. Below is a list of facts and figures from the Jesuita Fire:

- 8,733 acres burned
- All evacuation orders and warnings lifted on May 13, 2009
- 80 homes destroyed; 15 homes damaged
- 1 commercial property destroyed
- 2 outbuildings damaged, 79 outbuildings destroyed
- 1,857 personnel on scene: 111 engines, 57 crews
- 1 air attack tanker and 4 helicopters
- 30 firefighter injuries
- Estimated costs \$17 million



City of Santa Barbara Office of Emergency Services



OES is on the web!

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

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Current National News: New National Terrorism Advisory System:

The National Terrorism Advisory System, or NTAS, replaces the color-coded Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS). This new system will more effectively communicate information about terrorist threats by providing timely, detailed information to the public, government agencies, first responders, airports and other transportation hubs, and the private sector.

It recognizes that Americans all share responsibility for the nation's security, and should always be aware of the heightened risk of terrorist attack in the United States and what they should do.

For more information go to the NTAS website at:

<http://www.dhs.gov/files/publications/ntas-public-guide.shtm>