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Upcoming Issue in July 2011



For many Americans, summer means fun in the sun. The kids are out of school, adults are on vacation and it's time for outdoor activities like riding bikes and hosting barbecues. However, summer also is the time of year injuries are most likely to happen. Check out next months newsletter for some helpful summer safety tips.

2011 Upcoming Topics

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

November
Fact or Myth:
Fireplaces

City of Santa Barbara

Get Ready Santa Barbara! Stay informed in 2011



Wildfire & Homes

While homes within Santa Barbara's beautiful hillsides are some of the most desired on earth, living here has proven to come with the risk of wildland fire. Firefighters refer to homes among the wildland setting as Urban Interface areas. For decades Santa Barbara Firefighters have been challenged with devastating Wildland/Urban Interface fires, which have claimed hundreds of homes and thousands of acres. During Urban Interface fires, firefighters are faced with the difficult task of choosing homes which can be saved due to time, resources, and safety offered by each situation. Santa Barbara City Firefighters dedicate many hours each year toward training for Wildland and Urban Interface fires. Their goal is to suppress fires as quickly as possible while maintaining the safety of their personnel.

HISTORICAL SANTA BARBARA AREA FIRES:

Coyote Fire (1964)	106 homes lost, 67,000 acres
Sycamore Fire (1977)	200 homes lost, 805 acres
Paint Fire (1990)	524 homes lost, 4900 acres
Tea Fire (2008)	210 homes lost, 2000 acres
Jesusita Fire (2009)	160 homes lost, nearly 9000 acres

The Santa Barbara City Fire Department has identified Fire Hazard Zones within the city. These zones correspond to their potential threat from wildland fire. The SBFDD commits great effort year-round to ensure safety within these areas for homeowners as well as the emergency personnel serving them. These measures include adequate vegetation clearance around structures and property. Homeowner cooperation is extremely important to ensuring safety measures are met within these zones.



Tea Fire, 2008

Article written by:
Brandon Paige, Engineer
Santa Barbara City Fire Department



Fire Trivia - Things you wanted to know but were afraid to ask.

- 400 BC** - Alexandria, Egypt - the first known water pump.
- 23 BC** - Caesar Augustus in Rome created the first firefighting force. "Servants of the Commonwealth" were a group of slaves and troops capable of protecting Rome from fire. (Not very effective!)
- 1066** - William the Conqueror lead the Normans to rule England. Under his law, all fires were to be extinguished by night-fall. The word "Curfew" (French for "cover fire") originated about 200 years earlier.
- 1648** - Governor Peter Stuyvesant of New Amsterdam (New York City) adopted building codes and established Fire Wardens to protect the settlement. This was the first fire organization in America.
- 1737** - Volunteer Fire Department was formed in New York City.
- 1752** - Benjamin Franklin forms the first American Fire Insurance company.
- 1827** - The Wooden Match, with a chemical head was invented by Englishman John Walker.
- 1853** - Cincinnati, Ohio becomes the first fully paid fire department.
- 1900** - Introduction of the gasoline powered engine into the fire service. It was seen as a threat to the steam engine.
- 1922** - President Calvin Coolidge proclaims the first Fire Prevention Week to commemorate the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire.
- 1950** - "Sparky" the Fire Dog was introduced by NFPA as a national symbol for safety.

What Can You Do To Help Protect Your Home?

By maintaining adequate vegetation clearance around each property, homeowners increase the chance for their home's survival, as well as the safety of emergency responders faced with protecting it. Homeowners wishing to learn more about the Hazard Zones and the protective requirements within them can visit <http://santabarbaraca.gov/wildland> for information regarding defensible space and landscape concepts.



Due to Santa Barbara's Fire Hazard Zones and local climate factors, the potential for Wildland/Urban Interface fires continues to exist. By homeowners working with the Santa Barbara City Fire Department's personnel, the best outcomes are achieved as we focus efforts on the ongoing safety of our community.

Article written by:
Brandon Paige, Engineer
Santa Barbara City Fire Department

Disaster Resilience

Planting a vegetable or fruit garden is a fun and relaxing way to spend a weekend and the rewards are plentiful. Many people plant all types of vegetables and/or fruit depending on where they live. Some plant in wide open spaces, while others enjoy just planting on their balcony or in their patio area.

But did you know that by planting, even a small garden, you are taking responsibility in becoming resilient. After a major disaster many stores may not have the fruits and vegetables that you need. Recovery may take days, weeks or months. Think of the disasters we currently have experienced in the U.S., e.g., tornados, floods, and now with Hurricane season upon us, recovery can take time and will affect the whole nation.



However, by having your own garden you can have fruits and vegetables not available at your local market.

City of Santa Barbara Office of Emergency Services



OES is on the web!

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

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Disaster Facts

June 29, 1925 Earthquake
The Day After

Listed below are some things that happened after the Monday 6/29/25 earthquake.

Santa Barbara had long been called "that sleepy little town," but in the early morning hours of Tuesday, June 30th, it was anything but sleepy.

- Nearly 150 men were at work digging through wreckage
- Men patrolled the downtown streets in three hour shifts
- The Red Cross Canteens throughout the city were in constant motion
- Strong aftershocks lasting nearly 20 seconds got hearts pumping and the populace on their toes.
- Around 9:30 Monday evening 123 Los Angeles uniformed policemen plus a few plainclothesmen arrived.
- At 2:30 Tuesday morning fire trucks from Los Angeles pulled in.
- President Calvin Coolidge was in Vermont at the bedside of his dying father when word of the Santa Barbara disaster reached him from the news wires. He sent an immediate telegram to acting Secretary of War to give all possible aid to Santa Barbara. And they did.

To read full article go to <http://www.edhat.com/site/tidbit.cfm?nid=34217>

Excerpts taken from an article written by Neal Graffy, 6/29/10



Photos from Neal Graffy collection.

Current National News: The 2011 Hurricane Season:

Hurricane Season began this year on June 1st. AccuWeather.com Hurricane Center meteorologists, led by Meteorologist and Hurricane Forecaster Paul Pastelok, are predicting an active season for 2011 with more impact on the U.S. coastline than last year.

The team is forecasting a total of 15 named tropical storms, eight of which will attain hurricane status and four of which will attain major hurricane status (Category 3 or higher).

So if you are planning on traveling back East this Summer make sure you check the weather forecast in that area. Be Safe!