



City of Santa Barbara



Get Ready Santa Barbara! Send a Message in 2010, Be Prepared

Preparedness
Pages
Volume 1, Issue 2
February 2010

Check It Out - Mitigation

So what is mitigation?

Mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. The two major steps in mitigation are risk analysis and risk reduction. The City and County Office of Emergency Services identify major risks to the community and work with other departments to implement mitigation measures—like creek clearing and hydro-mulching.

You can analyze and reduce the risks of potential hazards in your own neighborhood and home! While structural hazards are best identified by engineers and safety inspectors, you can find non-structural hazards within your home, apartment, business or school. See the “Check It Out” column for details!

Another way to financially protect your home and property from natural hazards is to purchase insurance. In 2008, almost 5,000 wildfire insurance claims were filed in California. Check with your insurance representative to see if hazard-specific insurance is needed for your property.

In this Issue:

- Check it Out - Mitigation
- Disaster Focus—Floods
- Local Disaster History in February — Isla Vista Riots
- DSW Tip of the Month

Upcoming Issue:

- Secure It Now!
- Tsunami Threat

2010 Upcoming Topics

January
Have a plan

February
Check it Out-
Mitigation

March
Secure it Now!

April
Is Your Place
Safe?

May
Lend a Hand-
Volunteerism

June
Fire Safety

CHECK IT OUT Earthquake Zone Hazards:

- Living near fault line/high ground shaking zone
- Living in zone with high potential for earthquake-induced landslides

What to Do?

- Secure heavy appliances, electronic equipment, furniture, shelves, and water/gas heaters... see March issue for directions!
- Move beds, desks, and couches away from windows

Flood Zone Hazards:

- Living near a creek or low-lying area
- Living in/near fire burn area

What to Do?

- If in a flood zone area, fill sandbags before the rainy season
- In mud/debris flow areas, plant ground cover on slopes, and build retaining walls if necessary
- Before rain, clear valves in sewer traps to prevent possible back up of flood waters

Wildfire Zone Hazards:

- Living in Wildland Urban Interface area

What to Do?

- Follow State building codes and regulations
- Have 100 ft “Green Zone” of defensible space cleared around your home in wildland fire zones
- Remove tree limbs near home, deck, or chimney
- Cut weeds and dry grass before 10am when there is more humidity

The Disaster Cycle



OTHER MITIGATION TOOLS

- **Neighborhood Look-Up**
California Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Portal <http://myhazards.calema.ca.gov/>
- **Earthquake Mitigation**
Northeast State Emergency Consortium <http://www.nesec.org/hazards/earthquakes.cfm#mitigation>
- **Flood Mitigation and National Flood Insurance Program**
FEMA www.floodsmart.gov
- **Wildfire Mitigation**
University of California’s Homeowner’s Wildfire Protection Guide <http://groups.ucanr.org/HWMG/>
- **FEMA Mitigation Best Practices Portfolio**
<http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/bestpractices/>



Picture depicts “Green Zone” protection

Disaster Focus: Flooding in Santa Barbara

Flooding is the United States' most common natural disaster. It is critical to be prepared for floods, especially when living in low-lying areas, near water, or downstream from a dam.

The West Coast's rainy season usually lasts from November to April, bringing increased flood risks. In Santa Barbara, low-line areas and locations near the coast and creeks are usually at risk for flooding.

Wildfires in watershed areas have augmented the need to prepare for flooding in other areas of the Santa Barbara. Large wildfires have



Photo obtained from Santa Barbara Citizen News

changed landscape and ground conditions, creating greater risks of debris and mudflows in burn areas.

As of February 1, 2010, the City of Santa Barbara has received 13.08 inches of rain this season, 137% of our normal yearly rainfall. Floods can occur during any rain event and in any part of the City. The best time to prepare for flooding is *before* the storm.

Want to learn more about this year's rainfall and flood outlook? Visit <http://www.citytv18.com/> for City TV 18's Winter Storm/Flood Preparedness Information Meeting

Need the forecast? Visit <http://santabarbara.onerain.com/home.php> for real-time rainfall measurements and local forecasts.

Learn The Basics: Flood Terminology Flood vs. Flash Flood

Flood—Develop in areas near waterbeds or in low-line areas during an extended period of rain or period of high-intensity rainfall

Flash Flood—The #1 weather-related killer in the U.S. A flash flood is a rapid and extreme flow of high water or rapid water level rise in a stream or creek within 6 hours of intense rainfall.

Watch vs. Warning

Watch—Flooding is possible. Check radio, television or internet weather page for more information.

Warning—Flooding is occurring or will occur soon; if advised to evacuate or move to higher ground, do so immediately.

Debris Flow

A form of rapid mass movement in which a combination of loose soil, rock, organic matter, air, and water mobilize as a slurry that flows downslope.

El Niño

A warming of the Equatorial Pacific Ocean generally occurring every 3-7 years and associated with dramatic changes in weather patterns.



Know Your SB Neighborhood's Flood Risk

- Santa Barbara County Flood Zone Look Up—Online Map Resource and Homeowners Guide for Flood Prevention and Response
<http://www.countyofsb.org/pwd/pwwater.aspx>
- Flood maps for the Arroyo Burro, San Roque Upper/Lower area, Mission—Westside and Stanwood, and Upper/Lower Sycamore areas
<http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/Resident/OES>



Disaster Service Worker (DSW) Tip: Be Prepared At Work

- Learn the evacuation plan and routes at your office
- Have a "Go Bag" at work or in your car with a flashlight, sturdy shoes, change of clothing, and emergency cash
- Have an alternate route home if roads or the freeway is closed
- Know your children's school emergency plan

City of Santa Barbara Office of Emergency Services



We're on the web!

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

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Local Disaster History in **FEBRUARY**

- Isla Vista Student Riots •
- February 24, 1970•

- Incident started from non-violent protests against the expansion of the Vietnam War
- Perceived police aggression sparked student assaults using bottles and rocks
- Many realtors' offices were vandalized and The Isla Vista Bank of America, current day Embarcadero Hall, was burned down on the second day of riots
- Police reinforcements eventually used tear gas to stop rioters
- In one day of rioting, 667 people were arrested