City of Santa Barbara

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

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In this Issue:

Communicate & Recover

Do you have a Communication Plan? If not, how will recover?

Family Communications: It is important to plan how your family members would contact one another if they were separated when disaster strikes.

Every family needs to develop a 'Family Emergency Communication Plan' in case family members are separated from one another during an emergency, such as a winter storm, hurricane, or any unexpected event. This is a real possibility, especially in this the day when adults are at work and children are at school, you need to have a plan for getting back together.

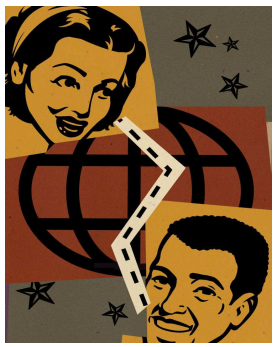
Emergencies can last one day to several months. How you communicate with your family will depend on you will recovery from a disaster.

Too many families rely on the technologies of the day to contact family members. Modern technology such as cell phones, internet, VPN, etc. are only has good as the cell towers, electricity etc. allows. We all need a good back up plan.

Family Communication Plan Tips

- Identify an **out-of town contact.** It may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town, so an **out-of-town contact** may be in a better position to communicate among separated family members.
- Be sure every member of your family **knows the phone number** and has a cell phone, **coins**, or a **prepaid phone card** to call the emergency contact. If you have a cell phone, program that person(s) as "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) in your phone. If you are in an accident, emergency personnel will often check your ICE listings in order to get a hold of someone you know. Make sure to tell your family and friends that you've listed them as emergency contacts.
- Teach family members how to use text messaging (also knows as SMS or Short Message Service). Text messages can often get around network disruptions when a phone call might not be able to get through.

Source: www.ready.gov



Subscribe to **the County Reverse 911 System**. Many communities now have systems that will send instant text alerts or e-mails to let you know about bad weather, road closings, local emergencies, etc. Sign up by visiting the County of Santa Barbara Sheriff's Department Website at www.sbsheriff.org .

AT&T Emergency Phone Tip

Make sure at least one telephone that does not require an electrical outlet is available. Cordless phones, while convenient, don't work in power outages. Customers should always have a standard, non-electrically powered telephone on hand to quickly plug into a telephone jack during a power outage. The more options you have during an emergency, the better.

2010 Upcoming Topics

July	August	September	October	November	December
Fire Safety	Back to School	Test Your Plan	Communication & Recover	Stop, Think, Look & Act	Give the Gift of Life

Disaster Focus: Earthquakes

Excerpts courtesy of the USGS Website http://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/earthq1/

One of the most frightening and destructive phenomena of nature is a severe earthquake and its terrible aftereffects. An earthquake is a sudden movement of the Earth, caused by the abrupt release of strain that has accumulated over a long time. For hundreds of millions of years, the forces of plate tectonics have shaped the Earth as the huge plates that form the Earth's surface slowly move over, under, and past each other. Sometimes the movement is gradual. At other times, the plates are locked together, unable to release the accumulating energy. When the accumulated energy grows strong enough, the plates break free. If the earthquake occurs in a populated area, it may cause many deaths and injuries and extensive property damage.

Today we are challenging the assumption that earthquakes must present an uncontrollable and unpredictable hazard to life and property. Scientists have begun to estimate the locations and likelihoods of future damaging earthquakes. Sites of greatest hazard are being identified, and definite progress is being made in designing structures that will withstand the effects of earthquakes.

Image Courtesy City of Long Beach,

Earthquake in History

The scientific study of earthquakes is comparatively new. Until the 18th century, few factual descriptions of earthquakes were recorded, and the natural cause of earthquakes was little understood. Those who did look for natural causes often reached conclusions that seem fanciful today; one popular theory was that earthquakes were caused by air rushing out of caverns deep in the Earth's interior.

The earliest earthquake for which we have descriptive information occurred in China in 1177 B.C. The Chinese earthquake catalog describes several dozen large earthquakes in China during the next few thousand years. Earthquakes in Europe are mentioned as early as 580 B.C., but the earliest for which we have some descriptive information occurred in the mid-16th century. The earliest known earthquakes in the Americas were in Mexico in the late 14th century and in Peru in 1471, but descriptions of the effects were not well documented.

The most widely felt earthquakes in the recorded history of North America were a series that occurred in 1811-1812 near New Madrid, Missouri. A great earthquake, whose magnitude is estimated to be about 8, occurred on the morning of December 16, 1811.

The San Francisco earthquakes of 1906 was one of the most destructive in the recorded history of North America - the earthquake and the fire that followed killed nearly 700 people and left the city in ruins.

The Alaska earthquake of March 27, 1964, was of greater magnitude than the San Francisco earthquake; it released perhaps twice as much energy and was felt over an area of almost 500,000 square miles.

1971 Romero Canyon Fire

- Date Occurred: October 6, 1971
- Acres Burned: 14,5000
- Homes Burned: 4
- Fatalities: 4
- Cause: Arson, 1 person arrested

City of Santa Barbara

We're on the web!

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

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Disaster History in *October*

1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake

- Date Occurred: October 17, 1989 at 5:04 PM, also known as the World Series Earthquake
- 6.9 on the Richter Scale, lasted 10-15 seconds
- The quake killed 63 people throughout northern California, injured 3,757 and left some 3,000-12,000 people homeless
- Caused $6 Billion in damages

Photo Courtesy J.K. Nakata, USGS