



# Residential Disaster Planning Guide

*Be Plateau Safe!*



This document was created through the guidance and leadership of the Riverside County Fire Department Office of Emergency Services.





## DPG REVISION HISTORY

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## DPG DISTRIBUTION

Communities	Number of Copies
La Cresta	1
La Cresta Highlands	1
Meadow Oaks	1
The Trails at Santa Rosa	1
Tenaja	1
Santa Rosa West	1
Santa Rosa Ranches	1
Riverside County Station 75	1
Riverside County Sheriff – Lake Elsinore	1
Riverside County Fire/Office of Emergency Services	1
Murrieta Fire & Law	2
Supervisor Buster	2
City of Wildomar	1
California Highway Patrol	1
Santa Rosa Plateau Emergency Taskforce SRPET) Members (8)	1 each



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## **SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Objectives**

The Santa Rosa Plateau Emergency Taskforce Residential Disaster Planning Guide (DPG) was created through the guidance and leadership of the Riverside County Fire/Office of Emergency Services. Many resources, information and suggestions for the preparation for emergency situations affecting communities of the Santa Rosa Plateau (SRP) are included in the DPG. Being prepared and safe before, during and after an emergency will have an affect on injuries and lives saved. This guide describes what residents can do before an emergency to be prepared, what tools are available to SRP residents during an emergency and what they might expect after a disaster.

The information and suggestions contained in this guide are intended to serve as a model in order for individuals and communities to develop an emergency plan and be prepared in the event of a natural disaster or a man-made emergency. Not every aspect of this guide will be pertinent to all individuals or communities. It is recommended that residents develop a plan, familiarize themselves with the procedures and network within their immediate neighborhood. The goal during an emergency situation is to maintain order, assist where possible, preserve communication and understand how to attain appropriate direction and needs. Additionally, it is intended to provide a safe and secure environment during routine activities and assist in returning to normal after an emergency. An important consideration in any emergency situation is the ability to coordinate with local responding agencies and personnel. It is imperative that individuals follow the direction of emergency response personnel.

### **1.2 Document Management and Distribution**

The SRP Emergency Taskforce (SRPET) will review and update this guide each year as needed. Information will also be modified based on changes in responsibilities, procedures, laws, rules or regulations pertaining to emergency management operations. Records of this Residential DPG review and / or revisions are the responsibility of the SRPET and will be recorded on the register in the prologue of this document.

This guide is available to Plateau communities and residents at the SRPET web site, [www.SRPET.info](http://www.SRPET.info).



### 1.3 ***Santa Rosa Plateau***

The Santa Rosa Plateau (SRP) upland is approximately 40,000 acres in Riverside County, California. It is a southeastern extension of the Santa Ana Mountains, and is bound by the fast-growing Inland Empire cities of Murrieta and Wildomar to the northeast and Temecula to the southeast.

The SRP is home to many native plant communities including: bunchgrass prairie, oak woodlands, chaparral, riparian wetland, coastal sage scrub and vernal pools.

These plant communities are increasingly rare in urbanized Southern California. The *SRP Ecological Reserve* preserves approximately 8,400 acres. The Reserve was assembled in several stages; two parcels, comprising 3,100 acres, were purchased by The Nature Conservancy in 1984. The remaining parcels were purchased in the 1990s by the County of Riverside, State Wildlife Conservation Board, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and The Nature Conservancy.

### 1.4 ***Santa Rosa Plateau Emergency Taskforce***

SRPET was established in August of 2008, and consists of one volunteer resident from each of the seven area communities and was formulated under the guidance and leadership of Riverside County Fire/OES.

It is the intent of this taskforce to provide this comprehensive Residential DPG to Plateau residents. With over 2600 residents throughout the communities, it is imperative to provide emergency preparedness information to better prepare residents for various kinds of emergencies and disasters. ***Planning ahead is the basis for saving lives during any emergency.***

SRPET has provided a number of suggestions from numerous authentic sources, including but not limited to: Riverside County Fire/OES, Emergency Survival Program, CALFIRE/Riverside County Fire, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (PHEPR), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Riverside County Sheriff, National Interagency Fire Center, Forest Fires, Western Forests, Department of the Interior, Wildland Urban Fire Advisory Group, Colorado State University, McClatchy-Tribune and the US Geological Survey.





### **1.4.1 Mission Statement**

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Santa Rosa Plateau Emergency Taskforce (SRPET) is dedicated to providing effective emergency strategies for before, during and after disasters for all residents of the Santa Rosa Plateau (SRP).

#### **GOALS**

- Provide emergency preparedness information to SRP households
- Emphasize the importance of developing a five-day Family Emergency Plan, Emergency Supply Kit and Pet Emergency Kit
- Encourage Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training.
- Encourage residents to establish a communication network for mutual support in case of an emergency
- Encourage households to identify special needs individuals within their neighborhood
- Introduce SRPET at community events and provide presentations that promote awareness and the importance of individual readiness

#### **MOTTO**

**Be Plateau Safe!**



## SECTION 2: BASIC DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

### 2.1 Introduction

By taking some simple steps to prepare for and respond to potential emergencies, SRPET suggests individuals do three key things: develop a Family Emergency Plan, prepare a Family Emergency Supply and First Aid Kit and be informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur and their appropriate response.

Meet with your family and discuss the importance of preparing for an emergency. Explain the dangers of fire, severe weather and earthquakes. Discuss special considerations necessary for children, elderly individuals and persons with special needs in your immediate area. A Family Emergency Plan should designate shared responsibilities and stress the importance of working together as a team.

In addition to developing a plan for your immediate family, SRPET suggests neighborhood members develop a communication network to inform residents of an emergency situation. Communication can often be the key to saving lives and property.

In the event of threat to life or property, Riverside County Fire/OES (or Riverside County Fire, Riverside County Sheriff or Riverside County Community Health Agency) will initiate the **Early Warning Notification System (EWNS)** – a system that uses the telephone system to alert residents and businesses that are affected, threatened or might be endangered by an emergency event or disaster (see Section 5 for more details).



SRPET encourages all residents to take part in a locally sponsored **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** training. You can contact Riverside County Fire/OES at 951-955-4700 for a schedule of CERT training offered free of charge. For CERT scheduled classes, visit [www.rvcfire.org](http://www.rvcfire.org) and go to Functions/OES/CERT. The FEMA web site, <http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/newsletter.shtm> also has information regarding this program.

CERT was implemented to educate people about disaster preparedness related to hazards that may impact their area and trains individuals in basic disaster response skills such as: fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.



## 2.2 ***Developing a Family Emergency Plan Checklist***

Since an emergency can occur at any time make sure you have a Family Emergency Plan to reduce fear, anxiety and losses. Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to plan in advance: how you will contact one another; how you will get back together and what you will do in different situations. A Family Emergency Plan should be reviewed every six months and updated as needed.

- Draw a floor plan of your residence and mark two escape routes
- Identify safe spots in your home for each type of disaster
- Establish two meeting places to (re)unite (in case shelters are not open). Select one close to your home and one outside your neighborhood in case you can not return home after a disaster
- Be familiar with at least two exit routes from your neighborhood and possible areas of safe refuge
- Create a list of emergency numbers and post it close to your main telephone.
- Instruct household members to turn on a battery-powered radio for emergency information
- Pick one out-of-state and one local friend or relative for family members to call if separated by disaster (it is often easier to call out-of-state than within the affected area)
- The following web site address will provide updated information on major incidents where Riverside County Fire responds. Keep this as a shortcut on your computer for easy access, [www.rvcfire.org](http://www.rvcfire.org). Click on the tab labeled "Incident Info" and locate the area (city) where the event has occurred and click on the incident number for details on that event
- Teach children how and when to call 911
- Store your family records in a waterproof and fireproof container, on a flash drive, on a CD or keep in a safety deposit box
- Identify important papers you will need if evacuation is necessary and make copies now (personal identification, insurance policies, medical records, school records, birth certificates, social security cards, passports, bank and credit card numbers, etc.)
- Have Adult family members take First Aid and Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) class
- Attend a **CERT** class. Visit <http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/> for additional information or call Riverside County Fire/OES at 951-955-4700 for a schedule of CERT classes
- Practice fire drills regularly at home, using a smoke detector signal to initiate the drill
- Network with your neighbors so you can assist each other in time of need
- Identify those in your immediate area with special needs
- Look for any safety issues that you can address now to make your home safer
- Prepare a Family Emergency Supply Kit, a First Aid Kit and a Go-Bag (for each family member and pet – see section 2.3 and 3.1.1)



- Learn the emergency plan at your children's school and make sure the school has any updated contact information
- Teach your children what to do in an emergency and make sure they know their name and address, as well as the full name and contact information for each parent

**NOTE:** Make a list of irreplaceable personal items (family memorabilia) to be taken in case of evacuation

### 2.3 *Family Emergency Supply Kit*

You may need to survive on your own after a disaster. This means having your own food, water and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for five days. Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they can not reach everyone immediately. You could get help in hours or it might take days.

Basic services such as electricity, gas, water, septic system and telephones may be unavailable for days or longer. You may have to evacuate at a moment's notice and take essentials with you. A Family Emergency Supply Kit is a collection of basic items that may be needed in the event of a disaster.

Keep your Family Emergency Supply Kit in a designated place and have it ready in case you have to leave your home quickly. Make sure all family members know where the kit is kept. Following is a checklist of suggested items for a Family Emergency Supply Kit:

- Five-day supply of water (see section 2.3.1)
- Five-day supply of non-perishable food for family and pets (see section 3.1.1)
- Radio or television (battery powered with extra batteries)
- Clock or watch (battery powered with extra batteries)
- Cell Phone and charger (make a note to grab these when evacuating)
- Fire extinguisher
- Safety glasses
- Flashlight / headlamp (with extra batteries)
- Leather / work gloves
- Whistle
- Signal flares
- Matches in waterproof container
- Vehicle Power Inverter
- Compass
- Nitrile gloves (non-latex)
- Dura Mask N95
- Wrench and / or pliers
- Utility shears
- 4 in 1 Emergency tool
- Pry bar
- Duct tape and scissors
- Plastic sheeting (2-4 mils)



- Pad / pen / marker
- Local maps
- Water Purification tablets and / or household bleach with medicine dropper  
Note: Dilute 10 parts water to 1 part household bleach - Household bleach can be used as a disinfectant - Do not use scented, color safe or household bleaches with added cleaners
- Blankets, sleeping bags and pillows
- Insect repellent
- Sunscreen
- Disposable wipes, washcloth, towel and hand sanitizer
- Heavy-duty garbage bags
- Toilet paper
- Feminine napkins
- Extra set of house and car keys
- Manual can opener
- Paper / plastic cups, eating utensils and plates
- All-purpose knife
- Aluminum foil / plastic storage bags
- Items for infants, such as diapers and pacifiers

### 2.3.1 Family Emergency Water Supply

We often take our household water supply for granted. When safe drinking water is unavailable, it is more than just an inconvenience; it can become a health emergency. Disasters often interrupt the supply of safe drinking water. Interruptions may be for only a short period of time or days. Every Family Emergency Supply Kit should include enough water to meet its family members' needs.

Having an ample supply of water is a top priority in an emergency. Everyone's needs differ depending upon age, physical condition, activity, diet and climate. Most people need to drink at least eight cups of water each day. In hot environments, water needs could be double. The amount of water you need will also depend on the total amount of juices, soups, other drinks and high moisture foods that are available. Allow more for children, nursing women and for those who are ailing. Additional water will be needed for food preparation and hygiene. In general, store at least **one gallon of water per person / per day**. If you have pets, **allow 1 quart per day for each small pet. For large animals, see Section 3 for details.**

Storing a five-day supply is recommended but consider maintaining a two-week supply if space is available.



### 2.3.2 Emergency Purification of Drinking Water

Use only water that has been properly disinfected for drinking, cooking, making any prepared drink or food or for brushing teeth.

- Use bottled water that has not been exposed to flood waters or contamination
- If you don't have bottled water, use one of the following methods to purify water to make it safe:
  1. Boil the water for 10 minutes, let it cool and store in clean containers with covers (Boiling water will kill most types of disease-causing organisms that may be present)
  2. If you can not boil water, you can disinfect it using unscented household bleach (Household bleach will kill some, but not all, types of disease-causing organisms that may be in the water)
  3. If the water is cloudy, filter it through clean cloths or allow it to settle and draw off the clear water for disinfection; then add 1/8 teaspoon (or 8 drops) of regular unscented liquid household bleach for each gallon of water, stir it well and let it stand for 30 minutes before using
- If you have a well that has been flooded, the water should be tested and purified after flood waters recede
- If you suspect that your well may be contaminated, contact your local or state health department or agriculture extension agent for specific advice

### 2.3.3 Information About Disinfection

**In times of crisis, follow advice from local officials.** Local health departments or public water systems may urge consumers to use more caution or to follow additional measures than the information provided here.

#### **Look for other sources of potable water in and around your home.**

When your home water supply is interrupted by natural or other forms of disaster, you can obtain limited amounts of water by draining your hot water tank or melting ice cubes. In most cases, well water is the preferred source of drinking water. If it is not available and river or lake water must be used, avoid sources containing floating material and water with a dark color or an odor. Generally, flowing water is better quality than stagnant water.

#### **Examine the physical condition of the water.**

When emergency disinfection is necessary, disinfectants are less effective in cloudy, murky or colored water. Filter murky or colored water through clean cloths or allow it to settle. It is better to both settle **and** filter. After filtering until it is clear, or allowing all dirt and other particles to settle, draw off the clean and clear water for disinfection. Water prepared for disinfection should be stored only in clean, tightly covered, containers, not subject to corrosion.



### 2.3.3.1 Chemical Treatment

When boiling is not practical, certain chemicals will kill most harmful or disease-causing organisms. For chemical disinfection to be effective, the water must be filtered and settled first. Chlorine and iodine are the two chemicals commonly used to treat water. They are somewhat effective in protecting against exposure to *Giardia*, but may not be effective in controlling more resistant organisms like *Cryptosporidium*. Chlorine is generally more effective than iodine in controlling *Giardia*, and both disinfectants work much better in warm water.

You can use unscented, household bleach that contains a chlorine compound to disinfect water. Do not use non-chlorine bleach to disinfect water. Typically, household chlorine bleaches will be 5.25% available chlorine. Follow the procedure written on the label. When the necessary procedure is not given, find the percentage of available chlorine on the label and use the information in the following table as a guide (Remember, 1/8 teaspoon and 8 drops are about the same quantity).

Available Chlorine	Drops per Quart/Gallon of Clear Water	Drops per Liter of Clear Water
1%	10 per Quart - 40 per Gallon	10 per Liter
4-6%	2 per Quart - 8 per Gallon (1/8 teaspoon)	2 per Liter
7-10%	1 per Quart - 4 per Gallon	1 per Liter

Remember that purification is done for drinking water and disinfection is used for cleaning water.

For additional information, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/faq/emerg.html>

### 2.3.4 Family Emergency Food Supply

You may need to survive on your own after a disaster. In addition to an adequate water supply this means having your own food and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for five days. Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone immediately. Remember, you could get help in hours, or it might take days.

Basic services such as electricity, gas, water, septic system and telephone service may be unavailable for days or longer. You may have to evacuate at a moment's notice and take essentials with you. Plan your Family Emergency Food Supply according to your family's size.

The following are things to consider when putting together a Family Emergency Food Supply:

- Avoid foods that will make you thirsty
  - Choose salt-free crackers, whole grain cereals and canned foods with high liquid content



- Stock canned foods, dry mixes and other staples that do not require refrigeration, cooking, water or special preparation
  - Be sure to include a manual can opener in your Family Emergency Supply Kit
- Include any special dietary needs
- Items for infants, such as formula and bottles

### 2.3.5 Maintaining Your Family Emergency Supply Kit

Just as important as putting your supplies together is maintaining them so they are safe to use when they are needed. Here are some tips to keep your supplies ready and in good condition:

- Keep canned foods in a dry place where the temperature is cool
- Store boxed food in tightly closed plastic or metal containers to protect from insects and to extend shelf life
- Throw out any canned goods that become swollen, dented or corroded
- Use foods before they go bad and replace them with fresh supplies
- Place the new items at the back of the storage area and older ones in the front
- Change stored food and water supplies every six months.
  - Be sure to write the storage date on all containers
- Re-think your needs every year and update your Family Emergency Supply Kit as your family's needs change
- Keep items in airtight plastic bags and put your entire disaster supplies kit in one or two easy-to-carry containers such as an unused trashcan, camping backpack or duffel bag

### 2.3.6 Family Emergency Go-Bags

A Go-Bag is a pre-packed duffel bag or backpack kept in an easily accessible location or in your vehicle. Family members should have their own Go-Bag filled with their personal needed items.

Following is a checklist of suggested items for an Adult Go-Bag and a Child Go-Bag:

#### Adult Go-Bag

- Include a list of important medical information such as serious health conditions, allergies and current medications
- Complete change of clothes
- Sturdy shoes or boots
- Extra socks
- Lightweight / all weather jacket / sweatshirt
- Rain gear / poncho
- Hat and gloves
- Sunglasses
- Flashlight w / extra batteries
- Small bills / loose change
- Flash drive with important documents
- Shampoo, comb and brush





- Deodorants, sunscreen
- Razor, shaving cream
- Toothpaste and toothbrush
- Special needs items such as: eye glasses, contact lenses and solution, hearing aid and batteries, etc.
- Lip balm
- Mirror
- Copies (paper or electronic) of the following:
  - Family birth certificates
  - Marriage /divorce papers
  - Driver's license
  - Social Security card
  - Passport
  - Will
  - Deed
  - Household Inventory (Photos or video of each room in your home)
  - Insurance papers
  - Bank and credit card account numbers
  - Stocks and bonds
  - Mortgage / rental papers
  - Medical records
  - School records

### **Child Go-Bag**

- Include a list of important medical information such as serious health conditions, allergies and current medications
- Complete change of clothes
- Sturdy shoes / sneakers
- Extra socks
- Jacket / sweatshirt
- Rain gear / poncho
- Hat and gloves
- Toothpaste and toothbrush
- Books / cards / doll / stuffed animal / toys
- Make ID card (with photo) of your child and attach to child's Go-Bag.
- Items for infants: formula, powered milk, medications, diapers, bottles, diaper rash ointment and pacifiers

### **2.3.7 Family Emergency First Aid Kit**

In any emergency or disaster, injuries are likely to occur. If you have the basic First Aid supplies you will be better prepared to help your loved ones if they are hurt. Remember, many injuries are not life threatening and do not require immediate medical attention, but having a well stocked First Aid Kit and knowing how to treat minor injuries can make a



difference in an emergency. SRPET suggests all adult family members consider taking a First Aid class.

- Information on First Aid can be found in your local phone book or by contacting the American Red Cross
- In the case where injuries are severe and movement could cause further injuries, **do not move** the injured person unless it is a life-threatening situation
  - Make the injured person (s) as comfortable as possible and wait for emergency personnel
- Have a First Aid Kit well stocked and store the kit in an easy-to-carry and easy-to-grab container
  - Make sure all family members know exactly where the kit is stored

Following is a list of suggested items for a Family Emergency First Aid Kit:

- First Aid manual
- Sterile adhesive bandages (assorted sizes)
- Sterile dressings (2 and 4-inch sterile gauze pads, 4-6 of each)
- Hypoallergenic adhesive tape
- Triangle bandages (3)
- 2 and 3-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls each)
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Needle for splinter removal
- Moistened hand wipes / alcohol wipes
- Antibiotic ointment to prevent infection
- Burn ointment to prevent infection
- Antiseptic
- Eye wash solution to flush eyes or as general decontaminant
- Medical supplies (thermometer, glucose and blood pressure monitoring equipment)
- Petroleum jelly
- Assorted sizes of safety pins
- Cleansing agent: soap and antibiotic hand wipes to disinfect.
- Nitrile gloves (non-latex -2 pairs)
- Aspirin and non-aspirin pain reliever
- Antacid for upset stomach
- Laxative / anti-diarrheal medicine
- Activated charcoal (use only if advised by the Poison Control Center)

### 2.3.8 Family Emergency Evacuation Plan

Remain calm and patient. Put your plan into action. Prepare your family to evacuate if required.

- Stay tuned and listen to your (battery-powered) radio or television for news and instructions



- Confine or secure your pet(s)
- Gather Family Emergency Supply Kit and Go Bags
- Prepare your vehicle for possible evacuation (back vehicle into driveway, close windows, with keys in ignition)
- Notify your out-of-state and any family members of the disaster (Remember, it is often easier to call out-of-state than within the affected area.)
- Network with your neighbors so they can assist each other in time of need
- If possible, check those with special needs in your immediate area
- Evacuate if advised to do so (If evacuation is required, law enforcement will advise residents of the safest evacuation route to use and what shelter to go to for you and your pet)

### 2.3.9 When Disaster Strikes

- If you are remaining in your home, check for gas leaks starting at the hot water heater
  - If you smell gas or suspect a leak, turn off the gas valve, open windows and get everyone outside quickly
- Shut off any other damaged utilities
- Clean up spilled items immediately (household bleaches, gasoline and any other flammable liquids)
- If possible, check on your neighbors, especially the elderly or disabled persons
- Evacuate if advised to do so (Secure transportation and coordinate evacuation efforts of community residents who are unable to transport themselves)

### 2.3.10 Returning Home

Remain calm and patient. Officials will determine when it is safe for you to return to your home. This will be done as soon as possible considering safety and accessibility.

- Check for damage to your home
  - Use a flashlight only
- **Do not light matches or turn electrical switches on** if you suspect damage
- Check for fires, fire hazards and other household hazards
  - For several hours after a fire, maintain a "fire watch" and check for smoke or sparks throughout the house
- Be alert for downed power lines and other hazards
- Walk carefully around the outside of your home and check for gas leaks and structural damage
  - If you have any doubts about safety, do not enter your home until it is inspected by a qualified professional
- Do not enter if the authorities have red tagged your home
- Enter the home carefully and check for damage
- Be aware of loose boards and slippery floors
- Check the roof, foundation, and chimney for cracks
  - If the building appears unsafe, leave immediately
- If you smell gas or hear a hissing or blowing sound, open doors and windows and leave immediately



- Turn off the main gas valve from the outside, if you can
- Call the gas vender from a neighbor's residence
- If you shut off the gas supply at the main valve, you will need a professional to turn it back on
- Do not smoke or use oil, gas lanterns, candles or torches for lighting inside a damaged home until you are sure there is no leaking gas or other flammable materials present
- Check the electrical system
  - If necessary, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker
  - If the situation is unsafe, leave the structure and call for help
  - Do not turn on the lights until you are sure they are safe to use
  - You may want to have an electrician inspect your wiring
- If appliances are wet, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker
  - Then, unplug appliances and let them dry out
  - Have appliances checked by a professional before using them
  - Also, have the electrical system checked by an electrician before turning the power back on
- Check the water and septic systems
  - If pipes are damaged, turn off the main water valve
  - Check with local authorities before using any water; the water could be contaminated
  - Pump out wells and have the water tested by authorities before drinking
  - Do not flush toilets until you know that septic lines are intact
- Throw out all food and other supplies that you suspect might be contaminated
- Be alert for objects that may fall when opening cabinets
- Clean up household chemical spills
  - Disinfect items that may be contaminated by raw sewage, bacteria or chemicals
  - Clean salvageable items
- Take pictures of damages and contact your insurance agent
  - Keep good records of repair and cleaning costs
- Contact your local disaster relief service such as the American Red Cross or Salvation Army to help with any immediate needs such as: temporary housing, medicine, eyeglasses, clothing or other essential items

## 2.4 **Wildland Fires**

Wildland fires are usually uncontrolled fires that are fueled by and spread through vegetated areas exposing and / or possibly consuming structures. They often begin unnoticed and spread quickly. A significant portion of the SRP and its surrounding areas are considered wildland - urban area interfaces. It is not uncommon for these areas to experience prolonged droughts resulting in excessive dryness that places these areas at high risk of wildland fires. Wildland fire hazards exist, in varying degrees, over 90% of Riverside County (open space, parklands and agricultural areas). The fire season extends for five to six months – from late spring through fall. Hazards arise from a combination of reasons: the undeveloped and rugged terrain, highly flammable brush-covered lands and long dry summers. There are



heavy fuel loads, especially in the watershed areas that have been unaffected by fire for many years. Structures with wood shake roofs ignite easily and produce embers that can contribute to fire spread. Plus the annual Santa Ana winds pose an added threat of spreading wildland fires to the communities. The aftermath of wildland fire then produces potential landslide areas as burned and defoliated surfaces are exposed to winter rains.

In both October of 2003 and 2007, Southern California experienced the most devastating wildland fire disasters in California's history. Southern California continues to be a prime area for major fire disaster due to its extensive dry and desert-like environment, persistent droughts, urban sprawl of communities encroaching into areas of wildland and the millions of acres of vegetation that have not burned in many years.

FEMA has a 16-page booklet, "**After the Fire! Returning to Normal,**" available via the FEMA web site. This booklet provides information on recovering from a fire, including what to do during the first 24 hours, insurance considerations, valuing your property, replacement of valuable documents, salvage hints, fire department operations and more. Go to <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens>. Click on "**Fire Safety for all Citizens**" for detailed information.

## **2.4.1 Wildland Fire Preparedness**

The threat of wildland fires for the communities of the Plateau is real. Extended periods of drought or dry conditions and Santa Ana winds greatly increase the potential for wildland fires in these areas.

Advance planning and knowing how to protect buildings can lessen the devastation of a wildland fire. There are several safety precautions that you can take to reduce the risk of fire losses and protect your property from a wildland fire. You'll need to consider the fire resistance of your home, the topography of your property and the nature of the vegetation close by. Learn about the history of wildfire in your area. Consider having a professional inspect your property and offer recommendations for reducing the wildfire risk. Determine your community's ability to respond to wildfire. Are roads leading to your property clearly marked? Are the roads wide enough to allow firefighting equipment to get through? Is your house number visible from the roadside?

Several of the following suggestions you can implement immediately. Others need to be considered at the time of construction or remodeling. You should also contact your local fire authorities or building department to obtain information about local fire laws, building codes, weed abatement ordinances and protection measures.

### **2.4.1.1 Preparing the Outside of Your Home Checklist**

Fire preparedness starts with clearing the combustible growth away from your structures. The law requires thinning of vegetation to a distance of at least 100 feet from any structure. If the vegetation is on your neighbor's property, volunteer to clear it with their permission. It will be cheaper than rebuilding your structures if they burn. Your local fire authority may require



additional thinning.

Preparedness is the key to surviving wildland fires. SRPET suggests the following simple steps that may save your life, those of your family and protect your home from the devastating effects of wildland fires.

- Keep roofs and rain gutters free of needles, leaves or other debris
- Enclose the underside of balconies and decks with fire resistant material such as aluminum decking
- Enclose all roof eaves with fire resistant material such as aluminum or steel and place metal mesh over all attic or roof vents (See section 2.4.4 for solid attic vent covers)
- Create defensible space to separate your home from flammable vegetation and materials (minimum 100 feet on level terrain)
- For residences with steeper terrain below their property, additional defensible space is suggested (minimum 200 feet total)
- Adhere to all local fire and building codes and weed abatement ordinances
- Plant drought tolerant (water retentive) plants around your property
- Keep all trees and shrub limbs trimmed so they do not come into contact with electrical wires or overhang your chimney (Do not trim around live power lines yourself; call a professional)
- Prune all lower tree branches eight feet from the ground
- Keep trees adjacent to buildings free of dead or dying branches
- Keep all grass cut three inches or shorter for at least 100 feet around property
- Keep all combustibles including patio furniture away from any structure
- Store flammable liquids in approved containers
- Keep any combustibles away from propane tank area
- Keep a ladder nearby that will reach the roof
- Stack firewood at least 30 feet away from your home and other structures (Keep clearance around your piles)
- Equip chimney and stovepipes with spark arresters that meet the requirements of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Code 211 (Contact your local fire station / fire marshal for exact specifications)
- Inspect chimneys and spark arresters twice a year and clean chimneys once a year.
- Keep driveway clear of debris at all times
- Use approved fire resistant materials when building, renovating or retrofitting structures
- Be sure your house number shows clearly from the street, both day and night.
- Ensure that your street name is clearly marked and posted
- Make sure large emergency vehicles can access your property



## Fireproofing Your Home

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Evacuate</b> your pets and all family members who are not essential to preparing the home. Anyone with medical or physical limitations and the young and the elderly should be evacuated immediately.</li> <li>■ Wear protective clothing.</li> <li>■ <b>Remove Combustibles.</b> Clear items that will burn from around the house, including wood piles, lawn furniture, barbecue grills, tarp coverings, etc. Move them outside of your defensible space.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Close/Protect Openings.</b> Close outside attic, eaves and basement vents, windows, doors, pet doors, etc. Remove flammable drapes and curtains. Close all shutters, blinds or heavy non-combustible window coverings to reduce radiant heat.</li> <li>■ <b>Close Inside Doors/Open Damper.</b> Close all doors inside the house to prevent draft. Open the damper on your fireplace, but close the fireplace screen.</li> <li>■ <b>Shut Off Gas.</b> Shut off any natural gas,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>propane or fuel oil supplies at the source.</li> <li>■ <b>Water.</b> Connect garden hoses. Fill any pools, hot tubs, garbage cans, tubs or other large containers with water.</li> <li>■ <b>Pumps.</b> If you have gas-powered pumps for water, make sure they are fueled and ready.</li> <li>■ <b>Ladder.</b> Place a ladder against the house in clear view.</li> <li>■ <b>Car:</b> Back your car into the driveway</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>and roll up the windows.</li> <li>■ <b>Garage Doors.</b> Disconnect any automatic garage door openers so that doors can still be opened by hand if the power goes out. Close all garage doors.</li> <li>■ <b>Valuables.</b> Place valuable papers, mementos and anything "you can't live without" inside the car in the garage, ready for quick departure. Any pets still with you should also be put in the car.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Preparing to Leave</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Lights.</b> Turn on outside lights and leave a light on in every room to make the house more visible in heavy smoke.</li> <li>■ <b>Don't Lock Up.</b> Leave doors and windows closed but unlocked. It may be necessary for firefighters to gain quick entry into your home to fight fire. The entire area will be isolated and patrolled by sheriff's deputies or police.</li> </ul>
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### FIREPROOFING YOUR HOME

Some safety strategies to protect your home:

#### Yard

- Dispose of dead branches and grasses on all sides of the house
- Space trees, mow lawn
- Prune branches 15-20 ft. (4.5-6 m) from ground; consider low-flammability vegetation, especially on slopes

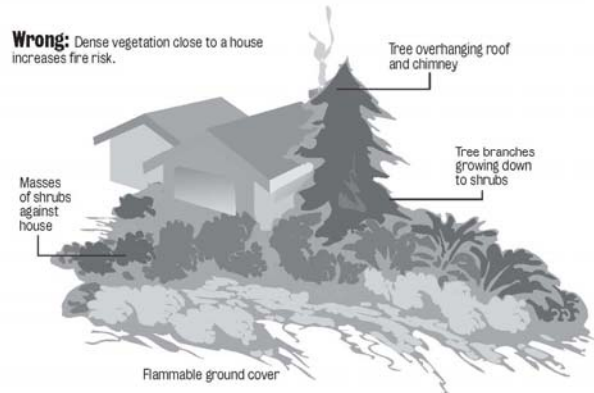
#### Roofing

- Avoid wood shingles
- Cover chimney with mesh to contain embers
- Keep roofs, eaves, awnings and rain gutters free of needles, leaves and debris

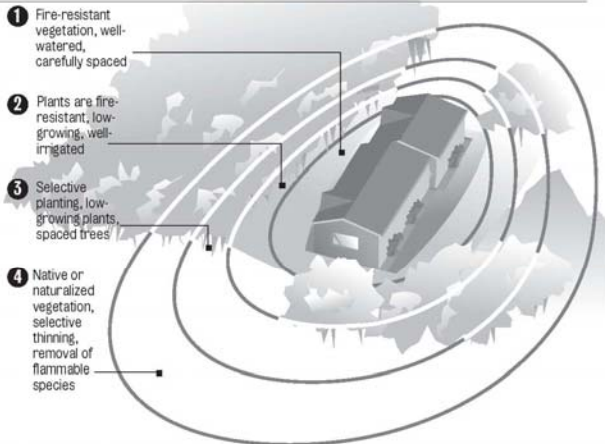
#### Slope

- Home should be set back from hill's crest.
- Decks and dry vegetation are at risk.

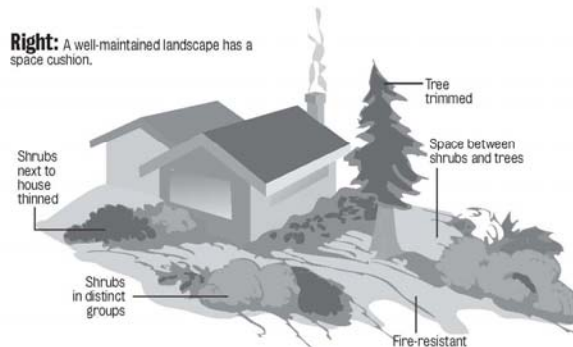
**Wrong:** Dense vegetation close to a house increases fire risk.



### ZONES



**Right:** A well-maintained landscape has a space cushion.



Zone 1 – 15 feet  
Zone 2 – 30 feet

Zone 3 – 100 feet  
Zone 4 – 200 feet

## 2.4.2 Preparing the Inside of Your Home Checklist

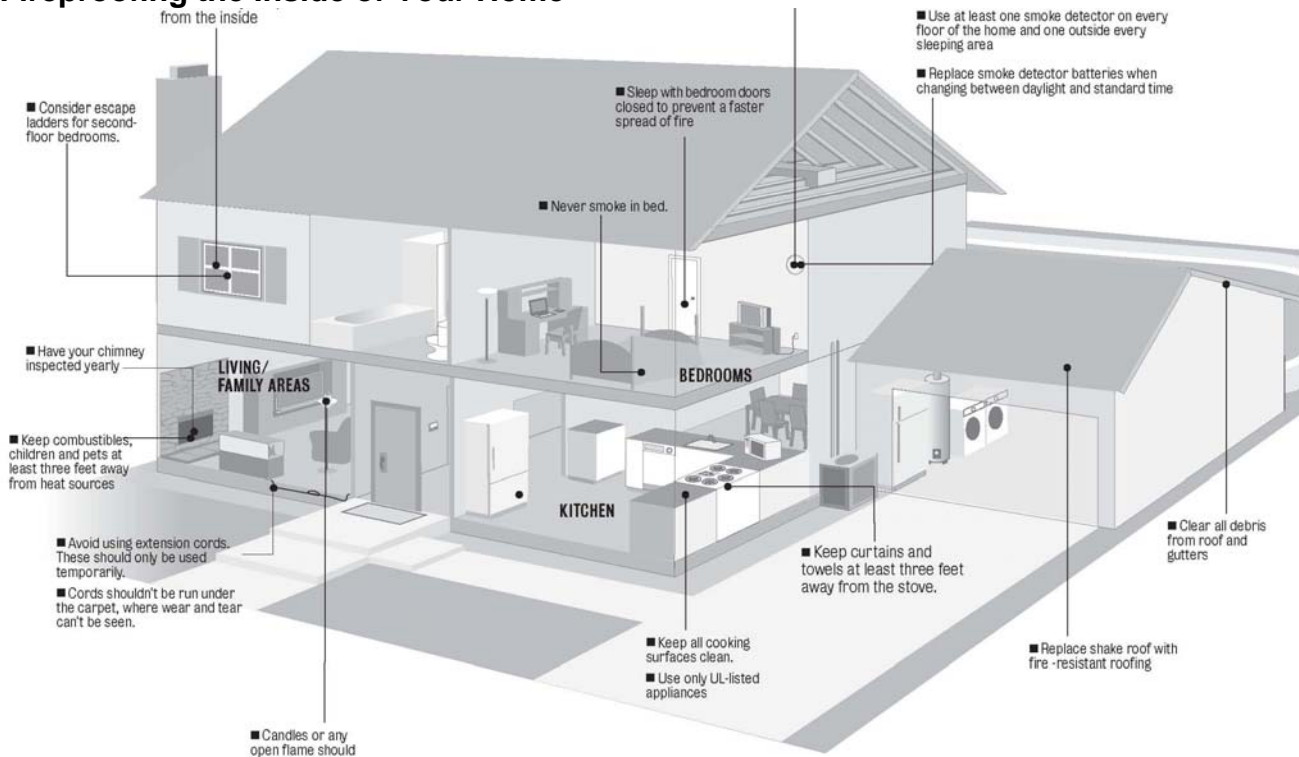
Remember, being prepared is one of the keys to surviving wildland fires. SRPET suggests the following simple steps that may save your life, those of your family and protect your home from the devastating effects of a wildland fire.

- Follow all local building, fire and hazard abatement codes
- Install smoke detectors on each level of your home, according to local building code, test them monthly and if one or more of your smoke detectors are battery operated, replace the batteries semi-annually
- Be sure you have properly operating fire extinguishers placed throughout your home and other structures
- Be careful when displaying your holiday decorations



- Carefully follow the instructions on all appliances and heating units and ensure not to overload your electrical system
- Keep matches, lighters and candles away from small children, especially children between the ages of 2 and 12 years old
- Be sure your heating and electrical systems are properly maintained, in good working order and change the heating filters as recommended by the manufacturer

### Fireproofing the Inside of Your Home







### 2.4.3 Health Tip

Smoke can hurt your eyes, irritate your respiratory system and worsen chronic heart and lung diseases. Smoke may worsen symptoms for people who have pre-existing respiratory conditions such as respiratory allergies, asthma, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) during a fire. Listen and watch for news or health warnings. Pay attention to local air quality reports. Include N-95 Dura-masks in your “Go-Bags.”

### 2.4.4 When Wildfire Approaches Checklist

Wildland fires generally spread very quickly. An entire structure may rapidly become engulfed in flames. There are numerous steps you can take to minimize the dangers associated with fires and improve your family’s chance of survival.

- Fill sinks and tubs with water
- Listen to the radio or watch television for instructions from official sources regarding the emergency (TV and radio announcements will come via the Emergency Alert System (EAS) or you may receive a phone call at home or on your cell phone from the Early Warning Notification System (EWNS))
- Park your vehicles facing the direction of escape with windows rolled up and keys in the ignition
- Place your “Go Bags” and Family Emergency Supply Kit along with valuables and other essentials in your vehicle
- Secure pets and livestock and prepare them for evacuation
- Turn on outside lights and leave a light on in every room in the house to make the house more visible in heavy smoke
- If time permits, cover up by wearing long pants, a long sleeved shirt, goggles and cap (100% cotton is preferable)
- Close doors behind you when evacuating to slow down the flames, smoke and heat
- If possible, assist any young children, seniors and persons with functional needs
- Move upholstered furniture away from windows and sliding glass doors
- Close outside attic, eave and basement vents, windows, doors, pet doors etc. – cover roof vents with non-combustible material so that flying embers can not enter through the vents / gables (see pictures on next page)
- Open or remove flammable drapes and curtains
- Close all interior doors to prevent draft
- Close the damper on your fireplace
- Shut off any propane at the source
- Turn off air conditioning / air circulation systems
- If you have a gas-powered pump for water, make sure it is fueled and ready
- Open electric gates so that first responders will have immediate access to your home and be sure you and your family are familiar with this process
- Evacuate as soon as directed by public safety officials or when danger is perceived



Attic Vent from  
inside



Attic Vent cover  
inside



View of Attic Vent  
from outside

## 2.4.5 Garage Door

- Disconnect any automatic garage door opener so that the garage door can still be opened by hand if the power goes out
- Use emergency release handle to dislodge trolley ONLY when garage door is CLOSED
- Weak or broken springs or unbalanced door could result in an open door falling rapidly and/or unexpectedly
- NEVER use emergency release handle unless garage doorway is clear of persons and obstructions
- Close garage door

### 2.4.5.1 How to disconnect the trolley

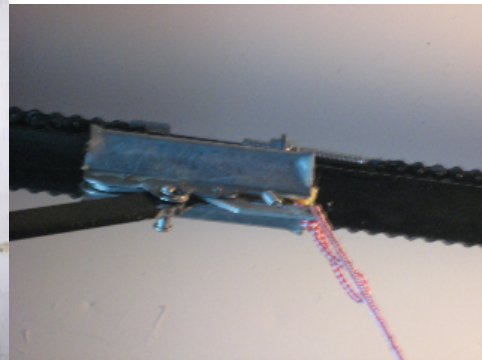
- The door should be fully closed if possible
- Pull down on the emergency release handle (so that the trolley release arm snaps into a vertical position) and lift the door manually
- The lockout feature prevents the trolley from reconnecting automatically and the door can be raised and lowered manually as often as necessary

### 2.4.5.2 To reconnect the trolley

- Pull the emergency release red handle toward the opener at a 45 degree angle so that the trolley release arm is horizontal
- The trolley will reconnect on the next UP or DOWN operation, either manually or by using the door control or remote



Red Handle



Garage Door Trolley

### 2.4.6 Avoiding a Household Fire

Protect your home from a house fire with some easy to follow fire safety tips including identifying fire escape routes and general fire protection safety and ensuring smokers exercise some caution. Here are some things you can do to avoid a home fire.

### 2.4.7 Avoiding a House Fire Checklist

- Do not leave items on the stovetop or in the oven unattended while cooking
- Keep flammable items including cleaners, solvents and paper or fabric away from the stove at all times
- Extinguish candles when leaving the room - do not leave candles burning, even if occupants will be gone "for just a minute" - make sure candles are completely out when retiring for the evening
- Never smoke in bed - be careful around all flammable materials - do not leave the room when a cigarette is burning
- Do not use fireworks
- Keep a careful watch on the barbecue (the National Fire Data Center estimates grills are the cause of more than 6,000 fires every year) - douse coals after use and do not over use the lighter fluid; sometimes barbecue fires can be hard to start, but they will flame up hours later
- Ensure that the fuel line connection is secure before using a gas grill
- Keep all grills in open areas to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning
- Smoke detectors and home fire alarms can help prevent injuries in case of a fire. Smoke detectors are inexpensive and are one of the best fire protection systems available
- Have a fire extinguisher in key areas such as the kitchen, bedrooms, workshop and garage – learn how to use a fire extinguisher
- Walk your family through a fire drill so everyone knows what to do and where to go in case of a fire
- Every room in the house should have at least two escape exits - if one of these is a window from a second story, install ladders that can be dropped from the windows - make sure children know where the family will reunite if they have to leave the house in case of a fire



- Assign a special closet for combustible materials and dangerous tools that you do not want your children to touch - put a lock on the door
- Do not overload electrical circuits with too many appliances - if your fuses blow or your circuit breakers are popping, hire an electrician to look at your system
- Do not run extension cords under rugs or carpets - cords can wear easily and may short out and start a fire
- Do not nail or staple electrical cords to the walls or baseboards - damaged cords can cause fire or shock hazards
- Replace frayed electrical cords before they can cause a fire
- Keep combustibles away from the water heater / furnace
- An electrical outlet or switch that is unusually warm or hot to the touch may indicate a potentially dangerous wiring condition - in such a situation unplug cords, avoid using switches and call an electrician to check the wiring
- Ceiling fixtures and recessed lights trap heat - use the manufacturer's recommendation for the correct wattage
- Always extinguish the fire in a wood stove or fireplace before leaving the house
- Unplug your hair dryer or any other small appliance in the bathroom when not in use
- Keep the handles of pots and frying pans turned inward
- To prevent grease fires, keep the stove clear of anything flammable, including pot holders, napkins and towels
- Keep a fire extinguisher on hand for extinguishing kitchen fires but remember to dial 911 first even if you are confident you can extinguish the fire

#### 2.4.8 In Case of Fire Checklist

- Call 911
  - Give your name, telephone number you are calling from, address, house number where the fire is, any helpful directions / description of location
  - Describe the type / nature of the fire (gas, wood, chemical, electrical)
  - Report any known injuries
- Turn off the electricity at the home(s) affected
- If you turn the gas off, you will need a professional to turn it back on**
- Get everyone out of the house **immediately**
- Without risk to any person**, get pets out of the house
- Immediately** let the fire department personnel know if any disabled person(s) or anyone not accounted for may still be in the residence
- Never go back into a burning home**
- If smoky conditions are present, remember that smoke rises and stay as close to the floor as possible
- Before exiting through a door, feel the bottom of the door with the palm of your hand - if it is **hot**, find another way out - **never open a door that is hot to the touch**
- Should your clothing catch fire: **Stop, drop...then roll.** - **Never run** - if a rug or blanket is handy; roll yourself up in it until the fire is out
- If trapped on an upper floor, hang something out of a window to signal rescuers



## 2.5 **Earthquake**

California is earthquake country! Thousands of earthquakes occur in California each year, but most are too small to be felt. Some cause moderate damage and injuries in a small area. Others can cause regional destruction.

There are three major faults and several minor faults that could impact the SRP. The major faults include the San Andreas Fault near the San Geronio Pass, the San Jacinto Fault, and the Elsinore Fault. Each fault has the potential to generate a significant earthquake that could impact the SRP and its communities. Because the San Andreas Fault is the longest fault in the region, it produces the largest earthquakes. Scientists estimate that large earthquakes on the San Andreas Fault occur about every 150 years. The largest earthquake on the southern portion of the San Andreas in recorded history occurred in 1857. The fault ruptured all the way from Parkfield in southern Monterey County to the Cajon Pass in San Bernardino County. Scientists estimate its magnitude was 7.9.

A repeat of this earthquake today would cause extensive damage, deaths and injuries throughout Southern California. Many scientists are even more concerned about the potential for a large earthquake on the southernmost section of the San Andreas (from the Salton Sea through the Coachella Valley to the Cajon Pass) where an earthquake has not occurred since around 1680. In Southern California alone, there are over 300 known faults that may also cause damaging earthquakes. Almost everyone in Southern California lives within 30 miles of one of these faults. When earthquakes on these faults occur in populated areas, the losses can be substantial. The Northridge earthquake in 1994 caused over 60 deaths, more than 9,000 injuries and \$40-\$42 billion in losses. No one knows when or where such a quake will occur, but everyone can reduce the risk of death, injury and property loss in an earthquake by following the Earthquake Safety suggestions listed below.

Visit [www.earthquakecountry.info](http://www.earthquakecountry.info) for additional step-by-step information.

### 2.5.1 **Earthquake Safety Checklist**

The following steps are excerpted from "Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country."  
The full text can be viewed and / or ordered at [www.earthquakecountry.info](http://www.earthquakecountry.info).

### 2.5.2 **Before An Earthquake**

- Fix potential hazards in your home
  - Install latches on kitchen cabinets
  - Secure TVs, stereos, computers and other heavy objects
    - Use putty or museum wax adhesive for smaller items
  - Hang mirrors and artwork from closed hooks
  - Secure top-heavy furniture and appliances to walls
  - Install flexible connectors on gas appliances
  - Strap water heaters to the wall per Code
  - Store flammable or hazardous materials on lower shelves or on the floor
  - Inspect your house and fix any potential weaknesses



- If any structure needs retrofitting, you may want to consult a professional on the following:
- The framing of your house should be bolted at least every 6 feet to the perimeter of the concrete foundation (every 4 feet in a multistory building)
- Homes with a crawl space should have plywood connecting the studs of the short “cripple” walls
- Larger openings in the lower floor, such as a garage door, should be properly reinforced
- Masonry walls and chimneys should be reinforced
- Have a Family Emergency Plan in place, a First Aid Kit on hand, a sufficient supply of water and your “Go-Bags” (See section 2.2 and 2.3 for details)

SRPET suggests the following tips for an earthquake disaster:

- Practice “**Drop, Cover, and Hold on**”
- Keep shoes and a flashlight next to each bed
- Learn how to properly use a fire extinguisher

### 2.5.3 During An Earthquake

- During earthquakes, **Drop** to the floor; take **Cover** under a sturdy desk or table and **Hold** on firmly
- If you are in bed, hold on and stay there, protecting your head with a pillow
- The area near outer walls is very dangerous - do not attempt to go outside during shaking
- If outside, move to a clear area if you can safely do so; avoid power lines, trees and other hazards
- If driving, pull over to the side of the road, stop in a safe area and stay in your car until shaking stops

### 2.5.4 After An Earthquake

- First check for injuries and damage
- Administer the ABC’s of first aid as necessary
- Carefully check children or others needing special assistance
- Do not move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of further injury (use spinal precaution)
- Get medical help for serious injuries
- Check for structural damage
- If you smell gas, shut off the main propane gas valve (if you turn the propane gas off, you will need a professional to turn it on)
- Shut off power at the main breaker switch if there is any damage to your house wiring
- Unplug broken fixtures or appliances because they could start fires
- Spilled hazardous materials such as household bleach, chemicals and gasoline should be covered with dirt or cat litter
- Stay away from chimneys or brick walls with visible cracks - do not use a fireplace with a damaged chimney



- Stay away from downed power lines and objects in contact with them
- Until you are sure there are no gas leaks, do not use open flames or operate any electrical or mechanical device that can create a spark
- Turn on your portable or car radio for information and safety advisories
- Call your out-of-state contact, tell them your status and then stay off the phone
- Check on the condition of your neighbors

**Never use the following indoors:**

- Camp stoves
- Gas lanterns or heaters
- Gas or charcoal grills
- Gas generators

These can release deadly carbon monoxide or be a fire hazard in aftershocks.

*Note:* Shelters will likely be overcrowded during this type of emergency. Do not leave home just because utilities are out of service or your home and its contents have suffered moderate damage. If you do evacuate, tell a neighbor and your out-of-state contact where you are going, and take your Go Bag, first aid kit and other essentials (See Section 4 for additional information).

## 2.6 **Flood**

**Flood Watch** means that there is the possibility of flooding. **Flood Warning** means that flooding has begun or is imminent.

A flood is defined as an overflow of water onto an area of land that is normally dry. In the Plateau communities, floods generally occur from natural causes such as a wet or rainy spring with heavy rainfall. Floods can also occur from human causes such as a dam impoundment bursting. A dam break is usually associated with intense rainfall or prolonged flood conditions. In the Riverside County area, an earthquake can also cause dam failure. The greatest threat to people and property is normally in areas immediately below the dam since flood discharges decrease as the flood wave moves downstream. Flash floods can develop quickly, sometimes in just a few minutes and without any visible signs of rain. Flash floods often have a dangerous wall of roaring water that carries rocks, mud, and other debris and can sweep away most things in its path. Flooding can also occur when a dam breaks or if community water tanks rupture, producing effects similar to flash floods.

Floods are generally classed as either slow-rise or flash floods. Slow-rise floods may be preceded by a warning time lasting from hours to days, or possibly weeks. Evacuation and sandbagging for a slow-rise flood may lessen flood related damage. Conversely, flash floods are the more difficult to prepare for because of the short or no warning time. Occasionally in desert areas, adequate warning may not be possible. Flash flood warnings can require immediate evacuation.



Be aware of flood hazards no matter where you live, but especially if you live in a low-lying area. Even very small streams, gullies, dry streambeds or low-lying ground that appears harmless in dry weather can flood. Be cautious when near or crossing streams, flood control channels or flooded intersections. Every state is at risk from this hazard. Use the following information and suggestions to help reduce your risk of death, injury and property losses from flooding wherever you live, work and play.

As with any disaster, you will want to have a Family Emergency Plan in place, a First Aid Kit on hand, a sufficient supply of water and your “Go-Bags” (See section 2.2 and 2.3 for details). SRPET suggests the following tips to be prepared for a flood disaster.

### **2.6.1 Flood Insurance**

Damage and other flooding losses are not covered by most homeowners’ insurance. However, FEMA offers special flood insurance through its National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Contact your insurance agent or call FEMA at (800) 638-6620 or visit [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) for more information or contact Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District at 951-955-1200 or at <http://www.floodcontrol.co.riverside.ca.us/>.

### **2.6.2 Before the Flood Checklist**

Take the following actions before the rains and flooding begin:

- Check with your local public works, building or planning department to see if you live in an area subject to flooding
- Clear debris and overgrowth from culverts, drainage ditches and creeks
- Work with neighbors to solve potential drainage problems and to avoid diverting debris onto their properties (consult a licensed civil engineer if you’re in doubt)

### **2.6.3 During a Flood Checklist**

- Relocate valuables from lower to upper floors
- Be prepared to move to a safe area before flood waters cut off access
- Disconnect all electrical appliances or turn off electric circuits at the fuse panel or circuit breaker panel before evacuating
- Do not drive or walk through moving water (you can be knocked off your feet in as little as six inches of water)
- Stay away from streams, flood control channels and other areas subject to sudden flooding
- Move to higher ground if you are caught by rising waters
- Use the phone only to report dangerous conditions or emergencies that are life threatening

### **2.6.4 After the Flood Checklist**

- Report damaged utilities to the appropriate agencies - maintain a safe distance from downed power lines and broken gas lines; immediately report them to the appropriate utility





- Listen to the radio or watch television for information and instructions from local officials
- Do not use fresh or canned foods that have come in contact with floodwaters
- Follow the instructions of local officials regarding the safety of drinking water – boil water for 10 minutes or purify water if you are in doubt - test well water before drinking
- Do not enter disaster areas
- Stay away from live electrical equipment in wet areas - check electrical equipment or appliances that have been in contact with water before using them
- Use flashlights, rather than lanterns, candles or matches, to check on the condition of buildings (flammable conditions may be present)

### **2.6.5 Health Tip**

Avoid floodwaters. Keep contact time with floodwaters to a minimum. Keep all children and pets out of floodwaters. The water may be contaminated by oil, gasoline or raw sewage. It is especially important to keep the water out of your mouth, eyes and nose. Wash your hands frequently with soap and clean water if you are exposed to floodwaters.

## **2.7 Public Health**

Public health emergencies may be related to outbreaks of infectious diseases (such as pandemic flu and West Nile virus), food and waterborne illnesses (such as *Salmonella* and *E. coli*) as well as other threats to the public's health and safety. Man-made attacks can also create public health emergencies.

In response to the terrorist events of September 2001, the Riverside County Department of Public Health established the Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch (PHEPR) in 2002. PHEPR's activities are funded by the following grants:

- The Centers For Disease Control and Prevention's Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program
- Metropolitan Medical Response System
- Department of Homeland Security (DHS), State Homeland Security Program
- Hospital Preparedness Program

The PHEPR Branch was established to assist and respond with an *All-Hazards* approach to all public health emergencies, natural or "man-made", including acts of terrorism.

The PHEPR Branch is responsible for the coordination of six key focus areas for public health preparedness:

- Local preparedness and readiness planning
- Surveillance and epidemiology capacity
- Biological and chemical agent laboratory capacity
- Communications and information technology
- Risk communications and health information dissemination
- Education and training



The PHEPR staff offers classroom and online education on topics such as emergency preparedness and weapons of mass destruction (WMD) for the community and first responders. Continuing education units are offered with most training. The PHEPR Branch also provides the community with comprehensive training from leading emergency preparedness experts. Examples include Pharmacy Emergency Response (University of Arizona) and EMS Operations and Planning for WMD (Texas A&M University).

The Riverside County Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch continually works to prepare the County and its health care system to respond to acts of terrorism and other public health emergencies. It is the vision of the PHEPR Branch to protect the County through a collaborative public health response by:

- Strengthening the public health infrastructure through mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery from public health emergencies
- Partnering with community agencies and organizations
- Reinforcing Riverside County hospitals' surge capacity capabilities
- Utilizing an All-Hazards emergency planning approach
- Maintaining a trained and optimal staff

For additional information, contact PHEPR, 951-358-7100 or visit [www.rivcophepr.org](http://www.rivcophepr.org).

### **2.7.1 Pandemic Flu**

A pandemic is a global disease outbreak. A flu pandemic occurs when a new influenza virus emerges for which people have little or no immunity and for which there is no vaccine. The disease spreads easily person-to-person causing serious illness and can sweep across the country and around the world in a short time.

It is difficult to predict when the next influenza pandemic will occur or how severe it will be. Wherever and whenever a pandemic starts, everyone around the world is at risk. Countries might, through measures such as border closures and travel restrictions, delay arrival of the virus, but it cannot be stopped.

Health professionals are concerned that the continued spread of a highly pathogenic avian H5N1 virus across eastern Asia and other countries represents a significant threat to human health. The H5N1 virus has raised concerns about a potential human pandemic because:

- It is especially virulent
- It is being spread by migratory birds
- It can be transmitted from birds to mammals and in some limited circumstances to humans and, like other influenza viruses, it continues to evolve

Since 2003, a growing number of H5N1 cases have been reported in Asia, Europe and Africa. More than half of the people infected with the H5N1 virus have died. It is believed that most of these cases have been caused by exposure to infected poultry. There has been no



sustained human-to-human transmission of the disease, but the concern is that H5N1 will evolve into a virus capable of human-to-human transmission.

Everyone can contract the flu. Certain people are more likely to suffer severe consequences. This includes the elderly, infants and pregnant women, those with a weakened immune system and those who have chronic illnesses (especially those with respiratory issues like asthma). Those individuals (and their families) are urged to obtain the flu shot every fall. Everyone can benefit from vaccination and that can help to reduce the spread of disease in communities.

### **2.7.2 What to do if You Have the Flu?**

The advice your grandmother gave is still the best. When sick get plenty of rest, drink lots of fluids and stay home to prevent spreading the flu. Over-the counter medicines are usually all people need to feel better (pain relievers, cough drops, etc.). Children should never be given aspirin when they have the flu since it may cause a rare but serious condition called Reye's Syndrome. Most people will not need to see a doctor when they have the flu; however, if symptoms become severe (problems breathing and extreme weakness) and a fever lasts for more than two to three days, consult with your doctor.

As with any disaster, you will want to have a Family Emergency Plan in place, a First Aid Kit on hand, a sufficient supply of water and your "Go-Bags" (See section 2.2 and 2.3 for details).

### **2.7.3 Pandemic Influenza**

Many of the simple steps to prepare for a flu pandemic also impact things you should do for a wide-range of other emergencies. These include:

- Talk to your family members
  - It is important to think about the health issues that could affect you and your family during a pandemic or other emergency
  - Consider what you will need to care for you, your loved ones and pets in your home
- Stay informed
- The following are sites where you can learn more about flu and how to stay healthy:
  - [www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov) - (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)
  - [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu) - (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
  - [www.ready.gov/america](http://www.ready.gov/america) - (U.S. Department of Homeland Security)
  - [www.prepare.org](http://www.prepare.org) - (Red Cross)
  - <http://bepreparedcalifornia.ca.gov/EPO/> - (California Department of Health Services)
  - [www.getimmunizedca.org](http://www.getimmunizedca.org) - (California Department of Health Services, Immunization Branch)

### **2.7.4 Health Tip**

While pandemic flu is of great concern, seasonal flu causes a great deal of illnesses and death every year. The flu shot is the best way to keep from getting the flu. The flu shot is



especially important for those who are most likely to get very sick from flu (like the elderly and infants). Even if you are not concerned about getting the flu, people rarely keep their illnesses to themselves. Avoid spreading the flu to others.

## 2.8 **Other Hazards**

Riverside County participated in a multi-jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) that was approved by FEMA and the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA) in May, 2005. This LHMP provides detailed identification and analysis of the potential hazards in Riverside County.

Additional potential hazards include: Landslides, mudslides, windstorms, tornadoes, heat emergency, cold weather emergency, hazardous materials, bomb threats and terrorism.

### 2.8.1 **Landslides / Mudslides**

When most people think about ground movement, they probably envision images of the ground below them moving from side to side, or up and down, during an earthquake. It is important that residents who live on steep hillsides and in canyons be prepared for landslides.

Areas that are not covered with vegetation, especially following a fire, are more likely to have landslides. This includes sliding, falling and flowing soil, rock, mud, brush and trees, particularly during or after heavy rains. Slow-moving landslides can cause significant property damage, but they usually do not cause injury or death.

Mudslides, however, are much more dangerous. According to the California Geological Survey, mudslides can easily exceed speeds of 10 miles per hour and often flow at rates of more than 20 mph. Because mudslides travel much faster than landslides, they can cause deaths, injuries and significant property damage.

As with any disaster, you will want to have a Family Emergency Plan in place, a First Aid Kit on hand, a sufficient supply of water and your Go-Bag (See section 2.2 and 2.3 for details). SRPET suggests that the following actions be taken to help reduce your risk of death, injury and property losses from landslides, mudslides and other types of ground failure.

For additional information on landslides and mudslides, visit,  
<http://www.nilesema.com/landslidetips.htm>.

#### 2.8.1.1 **Before the Landslide / Mudslide Checklist**

You can reduce the potential impacts of land movement by doing the following:

- Inspect slopes for increases in cracks, holes and other changes
- Build away from steep slopes
- Build away from the bottoms or mouths of steep ravines and drainage facilities



- Consult with a soil engineer or an engineering geologist to minimize the potential impacts of landslides / mudslides
- Use permanent measures, rather than sandbags, if possible
- Deflect, rather than stop or dam debris flow
- Plant appropriate vegetation to stabilize soil
- Use solutions that do not create problems for your neighbors

#### **2.8.1.2 Potential Landslide or Mudslide Checklist**

- Monitor the amount of rain during intense storms. More than three to four inches of rain per day, or a half-inch per hour, has been known to trigger landslides or mudslides.
- Look for geological changes near your home:
  - New springs
  - Cracked soil or rocks
  - Bulging slopes
  - New holes or bare spots on hillsides
  - Tilted trees
  - Muddy waters
- Listen to the radio or watch television for information and instructions from local officials
- Implement protection measures when necessary:
  - Anticipate runoff and place sandbags in areas as needed
  - Board up windows and doors
  - Prepare to evacuate if requested to do so
  - Respect the power of the potential landslide or mudslide
  - Remember, landslides or mudslides move quickly and can cause damage and kill
- Prioritize protection measures:
  - Make your health and safety and that of family members the number one priority
  - Make your home the number two priority

#### **2.8.1.3 Health Tip**

During a landslide or mudslide, water and sewage pipelines may break leading to a contaminated water supply. It is important to listen to your radio or television for the latest news on health and safety updates for the affected communities.

### **2.8.2 Windstorms and Tornadoes**

You do not want to be blown away! High winds, particularly the hot, dry Santa Ana winds that visit Southern California, are another force of nature with which residents must reckon. High winds can cause structural and nonstructural damage, down power lines and increase the risk of wildfire. In some isolated canyon areas, Santa Ana gusts can reach speeds of more than 100 miles per hour, increasing the threat. Although tornadoes are more common in mid-western and southern states such as Iowa, Kansas and Texas, Southern California is not immune. The region averages about 20 tornadoes and / or water spouts per year.



According to the National Weather Service, tornadoes usually occur along the coast during the cold of winter, but they can occur during the summer.

As with any disaster, you will want to have a Family Emergency Plan in place, a First Aid Kit on hand, a sufficient supply of water and your "Go-Bags" (See section 2.2 and 2.3 for details). SRPET suggests the following actions to help reduce your risk of death, injury and property losses from windstorms and tornadoes.

#### **2.8.2.1 Before a Windstorm or Tornado Checklist**

- Check your home and roof for compliance with local building codes
- Secure antennas, satellite dishes and other roof fixtures
- Trim tree branches in contact with or near the roof and other parts of your home
- Practice evacuation drills
- Make sure your gas tank is full (Power outages might make fuel pumps unusable)
- Purchase a (battery powered) weather alert radio

#### **2.8.2.2 During a Windstorm or Tornado Checklist**

- Listen to the Emergency Alert System (EAS) on the radio or television station or a weather alert radio. (National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration - NOAA Weather Radio)
- Evaluate the impact of the winds in your area
- Go indoors; avoid areas near windows and doors; take cover under sturdy desks or tables located in an interior room (bathrooms with no windows, closets, and hallways) on the lowest floor of your home; protect your head and neck with your arms
- If outdoors, get away from trees, walls, signs, power lines or other objects that could fall and injure you
- Drive only in a life-threatening emergency

#### **2.8.2.3 After the Windstorm or Tornado Checklist**

- Check yourself and family members for injuries and treat those with minor injuries
- Only call 911 for those with major injuries
- Keep family members together
- Check for and document any damage:
  - Windows
  - Ceilings, roofs and walls
  - Utilities
  - Trees
  - Power lines
- Stay out of damaged buildings
- Cooperate with local emergency officials

#### **2.8.2.4 Health Tip**

Windstorms and tornados can irritate your eyes and respiratory system. It is important to stay indoors and use protective eye wear and a dust mask as needed. Also, keep yourself hydrated by drinking water.



### 2.8.3 Heat Emergency

During an average summer, over 400 people across the country die due to heat injuries and dehydration from exposure to the high summer temperatures. Clearly, heat can be a force, particularly in Southern California. Temperatures can exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit in the suburban valleys and temperatures of 110 degrees Fahrenheit in the low desert areas are not uncommon during the summer and fall. Heat-wave emergencies can strike very quickly. Although sun is necessary for life, exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation is potentially dangerous and can damage the skin. Varied burns result from prolonged exposure to UV rays, but some people also may burn from very little exposure. UV rays can significantly keep the skin from compensating for the excess heat.

Overexposure to heat or excessive exercise in the heat can also cause other injuries. The severity of such injuries increases with age; heat cramps in a younger person may be heat exhaustion in a middle-aged person, but may be heatstroke in an elderly person. This occurs because the person has not adapted to the heat and is unable to adjust to changes in the body. The following recommendations are designed to help you avoid heat-related death and injury.

#### 2.8.3.1 Before Extreme Heat Checklist

- Install window or air conditioners snugly; insulate if necessary
- Check air-conditioner ducts for proper insulation
- Install temporary window reflectors (for use between windows and drapes), such as aluminum foil covered cardboard to reflect heat back outside
- Weather-strip doors and sills to keep cool air in
- Cover windows that receive morning or afternoon sun with drapes, shades, awnings or louvers (outdoor awnings can reduce the heat that enters a home by up to 80 percent)

#### 2.8.4 During Extreme Heat Checklist

- Stay indoors as much as possible and limit exposure to sun
- Stay on the lowest floor of your home out of the sunshine if air conditioning is not available
- Consider spending the warmest part of the day in public buildings such as libraries, movie theatres, shopping malls and other community facilities (check with the Riverside County Community Action Partnership for local Cool Centers, 951-955-4900 or online at <http://www.capriverside.org/>)
- Use fans to increase the evaporation rate of the body
- Eat well-balanced, light and regular meals
- Dress in loose fitting, lightweight and light-colored clothing that covers as much skin as possible
- Protect face and head by wearing a wide-brimmed hat
- Never leave children or pets alone in closed vehicles
- Avoid strenuous work during the warmest part of the day
- When working in extreme heat, take frequent breaks and stay hydrated
- Avoid sudden temperature changes



- Set your air conditioning thermostat between 75 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit - if you do not have an air conditioner, take a cool bath or shower to stay cool
- Drink plenty of fluids even if you are not thirsty
  - Eight to 10 glasses of water per day are suggested
  - Drink even more if you are exercising or working in hot weather
- Use an appropriate sunscreen if you need to go out in the sun

#### **2.8.4.1 Symptoms of Heat Injury**

- Sunburn is usually a first-degree burn that involves just the outer surface of the skin. Symptoms include redness and pain
  - Severe cases may cause swelling, blisters, headaches and fever of 102 degrees Fahrenheit or above
- Heat cramps often are related to dehydration
  - Symptoms include increased sweating with painful muscle spasms of the arms, legs and occasionally the abdomen
- Heat exhaustion is the inability to sweat enough to cool you
  - Symptoms include fatigue, weakness, dizziness, nausea or vomiting as well as cold, clammy, pale, red or flushed skin
  - A marked body temperature rise will not occur
- Heatstroke occurs when the body stops sweating but the body temperature continues to rise
  - Symptoms include visual disturbances, headache, nausea, vomiting, confusion and, as the condition progresses, delirium or unconsciousness
  - The skin will be hot, dry and red or flushed even under the armpits
  - This condition is a severe medical emergency that could be fatal

Visit the following web sites for additional information related to heat injury:

<http://www.epa.gov/naturalevents/extremeheat.html>

<http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/heat.shtm>

With heat exhaustion or heatstroke, as with any emergency you will want to have a Family Emergency Plan in place, a First Aid Kit on hand, a sufficient supply of water and your “Go-Bags” (See section 2.2 and 2.3 for details).

#### **2.8.4.2 Health Tip**

Consult a physician for severe cases or call 911.

#### **2.8.5 Cold Weather Emergency**

Extreme cold and its effects can vary across different areas of the country. Even in regions unaccustomed to winter weather, near freezing temperatures are considered “extreme” cold. Whenever temperatures drop decidedly below normal and as wind speed increases, heat can leave your body more rapidly. These weather related conditions lead to serious health problems. Extreme cold is a dangerous situation that can bring on health emergencies in





susceptible people, such as those without shelter or who are stranded or who live in a home that is poorly insulated or without heat.

When winter temperatures drop significantly below normal, staying warm and safe can become a challenge. Extremely cold temperatures often accompany a winter storm, so you may have to cope with power failures and icy roads. Cold related issues can occur inside your home as well. Remember that it does not have to be extreme cold to be dangerous. Many homes may become too cold due to a power failure or because of an inadequate heating system for the weather, etc. The use of alternative heating sources may increase the risk of a household fire. There are steps that you can take in advance for greater safety in your home and in your car.

If you expect to be traveling where extreme cold weather is anticipated, schedule your vehicle for service prior to your trip. Check weather reports and road conditions. Prepare and take preventive measures to defend yourself against extreme cold weather conditions. You may have to cope with power failures, icy roads or an unexpected winter conditions. Most importantly, never leave a child or pet in your vehicle unattended. SRPET suggests you consider carrying the following items when planning a trip in cold weather.

#### **2.8.5.1 Cold Weather Emergency Vehicle Supply Checklist**

- Food and water (See section 2.2 and 2.3 for details).
- Blankets
- First aid kit and instruction manual
- A can and waterproof matches (to melt snow for drinking water).
- Windshield scraper
- Flashlight or battery-powered lantern
- Jumper cables
- Road maps
- Mobile phone and charger
- Compass / GPS
- Toolkit
- Paper towels
- Tow chain
- Tire chains
- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- Canned compressed air with sealant (for emergency tire repair)
- Brightly colored cloth to use as an emergency signal or battery powered flashers
- Collapsible shovel
- Sand or cat litter (to be used for traction)
- Work gloves



### 2.8.5.2 Health tip

Eating well-balanced meals will help you stay warmer. Drink warm, sweet beverages or broth to help maintain your body temperature. If you have any dietary restrictions, ask your doctor.

### 2.8.6 Hazardous Materials

Your home can be a hazardous material site! Hazardous materials aren't restricted to the highway, a local refinery or manufacturing firms. Motor oil, paint, pool chemicals and other common household products could make your home a potential site, particularly in an earthquake. Strong ground shaking could topple and break bottles and cans containing hazardous materials.

As with any emergency, be sure you have a First Aid Kit on hand (See section 2.3 for details) along with the number for the Poison Control Center (PCC) - 1-800-222-1222 in case a hazardous material emergency occurs.

#### 2.8.6.1 Hazardous Household Products

Hazardous products and substances are classified into four categories based on the property or properties they exhibit. **Corrosive** substances or vapors deteriorate or irreversibly damage body tissues with which they come in contact and erode the surface of other materials. **Flammable** substances are capable of burning in the air at any temperature. **Toxic** substances may poison, injure or be lethal when they are absorbed through the mouth or skin or inhaled into the lungs. **Reactive** substances can produce toxic vapors or explode when they react with air, water or other substances.

- Abrasive cleaners, scouring powders
- Ammonia, bleach-based cleaners
- Batteries
- Chlorine bleach
- Disinfectant, oven cleaners, drain openers and cleaners
- Glass, toilet bowl and window cleaners
- Pool and photographic chemicals
- Rug and upholstery cleaners, floor, furniture or shoe polish
- Air fresheners
- Engine cleaners and degreasers, gasoline, diesel fuel, kerosene, transmission fluid and motor oil
- Hair spray and deodorants
- Paints, primers and stains or varnishes
- Rug and upholstery cleaners and spot removers
- Solvent-based glues and solvents for cleaning firearms
- Wood preservatives
- Antifreeze
- Model paints
- Car wax solvents
- Chemical fertilizers
- Pharmaceuticals



- Fungicides
- Insecticides
- Oil or water based paints
- Mothballs
- Nail polish and remover
- Pet products (flea collars and sprays)
- Animal poisons

*Note:* Avoid mixing chemical products or cleaners. Mixing chemical products or cleaners can cause toxic or poisonous reactions.

## **2.8.7 Disposing Household Products**

There are several ways you can dispose of hazardous household products. Check with your local Hazardous Waste Material collection for additional information.

### **2.8.7.1 Alternative Cleaning Products**

Several non-hazardous materials are readily available for use in cleaning carpets, dishes, upholstery, windows and other items, deodorizing sinks, as well as removing rust and stains. They include baking soda, cornstarch, lemon juice, soap and water, steel wool and vinegar.

Consider the following tips when you buy household products:

- Read directions and health warnings
- Look for the least-hazardous product
- Purchase child-resistant container
- Use multipurpose cleaners
- Buy only what you need

Consider the following tips when you store household products:

- Use original containers for storage
- Regularly check containers for wear and tear
- Store materials in a cool, dry place
- Separate incompatible products

When using household products, keep in mind the acronym **LIES**:

**L**imit amount of materials stored

**I**solate the products in enclosed cabinets and keep containers tightly covered

**E**liminate unused or unneeded supplies

**S**eparate incompatible materials

Also do the following when you use household products:

- Note and post the number of the local Poison Control Center, 1-800-222-1222
- Read and follow directions carefully
- Use only the amount indicated
- Avoid mixing chemical products or cleaners



- Avoid splashing
- Wear protective clothing, a dust mask and safety glasses
- Work in well-ventilated areas
- Take frequent breaks for fresh air
- Keep away from children and expectant mothers

## 2.8.8 Terrorists Threats

Fear is a normal human reaction to natural disasters and other events that hit suddenly and threaten our safety, our loved ones and our daily lives. Terrorists use this natural reaction to multiply the effect of their actions in order to advance their political or social goals. Until recently, many Americans believed that terrorism only affected other countries. Now we know that it can happen here, but we don't know where or when. Much of the fear caused by terrorism, or the threat of it, is based on this uncertainty: not knowing whether it will hurt us or our loved-ones directly or whether it will target our own community or workplace.

Governmental officials are working hard to find terrorists and to limit their ability to harm Americans. At the same time, there are things that each of us can do to limit the terrorists' ability to frighten us. The terrorists are not in charge. We have control over our peace of mind and can help ensure our safety by taking some of the same actions that we would take to prepare for earthquakes, floods or fires. We can also contribute to the safety of others by becoming more aware of our surroundings and reporting suspicious activities or items to local officials.

Review your company's procedure for dealing with bomb threats. If one does not exist, work with the appropriate personnel to establish a policy or procedure.

Preparedness starts with having a Family Emergency Plan in place, a First Aid Kit, a sufficient water supply and your "Go Bags: (See section 2.2 and 2.3). SRPET suggests the following for a terrorist emergency.

### 2.8.8.1 During a Terrorist Attack

If you are in a public facility and a terrorist attack occurs, terrorists are counting on surprise, fear and confusion to add to the impact of their actions. If you realize an attack is underway, gather your strength to pause and think. Look around to see what is happening and what immediate steps can be taken to protect yourself and others around you.

- If there is flying debris, **Drop** down; **take Cover** under something sturdy, and **Hold on** with one hand while protecting your head and neck with the other
- If there is smoke, get near the floor, cover your mouth and nose with a cloth and move carefully toward the nearest exit
- If it is necessary to evacuate, try to do so calmly - look for marked exits and stairways - never use elevators - help others who are moving more slowly or who may be disoriented
- If you are not directly affected by the attack, stay calm, think before you act, encourage others, and comfort children - turn on news radio or television, and listen for official instructions - follow the directions of authorities



### **2.8.8.2 After a Terrorist Attack**

Try to stay calm. Think before you act. Do not let terrorists intimidate many by hurting a few.

- Stay informed. Listen to official reports and instructions on the radio or television
- If officials order an evacuation, cooperate quickly and follow their instructions regarding evacuation routes and shelter locations
- If officials tell you to shelter-in-place, they mean for you to stay inside your home, vehicle or workplace until it is safe to come out (they will provide you with detailed instructions)
- Do not leave your sheltered location or return to the evacuated area until local officials confirm that it is safe to do so
- Implement your family emergency plan, and notify your out-of-state contact of your location and status
- Be aware of the psychological impact that terrorism can inflict, even when it happens to people you do not know personally

### **2.8.8.3 Health Tip**

Acts of terrorism may result in little physical damage, but they can bring fear, confusion and uncertainty into everyday life. It is important to understand that strong emotional reactions to such events are normal. Be sure to re-establish daily routines for work, school, play, meals and rest. Work with the support networks within your community.

### **2.8.9 Bomb Threat Preparedness**

You may receive a strange call or package! Terrorists use violence or the threat of violence to advance their political, social, or religious goals. In recent years, bombs have been a popular weapon for terrorists around the world. Explosive devices can be simple and made at home, or high tech and complex. Bombs can be large or small and easily disguised. They can be thrown into an area, left behind and triggered remotely or activated when they are disturbed. They also can be carried or driven into a target area by a suicide bomber. Most of the bombings in this country are attributed to vandalism or mailbox bombings. Professional terrorists, on the other hand, look for targets that symbolize their causes and that will gain them maximum attention: government buildings, corporations, banks, airports, embassies, cultural landmarks, animal laboratories, abortion clinics and tourist attractions. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and law enforcement agencies have taken extensive measures to prevent explosive attacks by terrorists. Public places, airports, critical infrastructure, and governmental facilities have implemented far greater security measures than existed before September 11, 2001.



## **SECTION 3: ANIMALS**

### **3.1 *Preparing Your Small Pets for Emergencies***

If you are like millions of small pet owners nationwide, your pet is an important member of your household. The likelihood that you and your pets will survive an emergency such as a fire, flood, tornado or terrorist attack depends largely on emergency planning done today. Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as assembling a pet emergency supply kit and developing a pet care buddy system, are the same for any emergency. Whether you decide to stay put in an emergency or evacuate to a safer location, you will need to make plans in advance for your small pets. Keep in mind that what is best for you is typically what is best for your small pets.

It is best to take your small pets with you when you evacuate. However, if you are going to a public shelter, it is important to understand that pets are not allowed inside shelters. Only service animals are allowed to accompany their owners in to a shelter. In Riverside County, when a shelter is opened for evacuees, an animal shelter will be opened to accommodate any small pets. The animal shelter will be set up as close as possible to the shelter where evacuees are located so they can visit with their small pets. For larger pets / animals (such as horse, llamas) a larger animal shelter will be opened if necessary.

Create a back-up plan in case you cannot care for your small pets yourself. Develop a buddy system with neighbors, friends and relatives to make sure that someone is available to evacuate or care for your small pets if you are unable to do so. Be prepared to improvise and use what you have on hand to make it on your own for at least five days, maybe longer.

This information was developed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in consultation with: American Kennel Club, The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), American Veterinary Medical Association and The Humane Society of the U.S.

Preparing for the unexpected makes sense. Get Ready Now.

#### **3.1.1 Pet Emergency Supply Kit Checklist**

Just as you do with your family's emergency supply kit, think first about the basics for survival, particularly food and water. Consider two kits. In one, put everything you and your pets will need to stay where you are. The other should be a lightweight, smaller version you can take with you if you and your pets have to get away. Plus, be sure to review your kits regularly to ensure that their contents, especially foods and medicines, are fresh.

- Food: Keep at least five days of food in an airtight, waterproof container
- Water: Store at least five days of water specifically for your small pets in addition to water you need for yourself and your family



- Medicines and medical records: Keep an extra supply of medicines your small pets take on a regular basis in a waterproof container
- First aid kit: Talk to your veterinarian about what is most appropriate for your pets' emergency medical needs (Most kits should include cotton bandage rolls, bandage tape, scissors, antibiotic ointment, flea and tick prevention, latex gloves, isopropyl alcohol, saline solution and a pet first aid reference book)
- Collar with ID tag, harness or leash: Each pet should wear a collar with its rabies tag and identification at all times. Include a backup leash, collar and ID tag in your pets' emergency supply kit; place copies of your pets' registration information, adoption papers, vaccination documents and medical records in a clean plastic bag or waterproof container and add them to your kit; consider talking with your veterinarian about permanent identification such as micro chipping and enrolling your pet in a recovery database
- Crate or other pet carrier: The carrier should be large enough for your small pets to stand, turn around and lie down
- Sanitation: Include pet litter and litter box if appropriate, newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags and household bleach to provide for your pets' sanitation needs.
- A picture of you and your small pet together: If you become separated from your small pet during an emergency, a picture of you together will help you document ownership and allow others to assist you in identifying your pet; include detailed information about species, breed, age, sex, color and distinguishing characteristics
- Familiar items: Put favorite toys, treats or bedding in your kit; familiar items can help reduce stress for your pets

### **3.1.2 Plan What You Will Do in an Emergency**

Be prepared to assess the situation. Use whatever you have on hand to take care of yourself and ensure your pets' safety during an emergency. Depending on your circumstances and the nature of the emergency, the most important decision is whether you stay or evacuate. You should understand and have plan for both possibilities. Use common sense and the information you are learning here to determine if there is immediate danger.

In any emergency, local authorities may or may not immediately be able to provide information on what is happening and what you should do. However, watch TV, listen to the radio or check the Internet for instructions. If you're specifically told to evacuate, shelter-in-place or seek medical treatment, do so immediately.

Create a plan to evacuate. Plan how you will assemble your pets and anticipate where you will go. Secure appropriate lodging in advance depending on the number and type of animals in your care. Consider family or friends willing to take in you and your pets in an emergency. Other options may include: a hotel or motel that takes pets, a boarding facility, such as a kennel or veterinary hospital that is near an evacuation facility or your family's meeting place. Find out before an emergency happens if any of these facilities in your area might be viable options for you and your pets.



Gather contact information for emergency animal treatment. Make a list of contact information and addresses of area animal control agencies including the Humane Society or SPCA, and emergency veterinary hospitals. Keep one copy of these phone numbers with you and one in your pets' emergency supply kit. Obtain "Pets Inside" stickers and place them on your doors or windows, including information on the number and types of pets in your home to alert firefighters and rescue workers. Consider putting a phone number on the sticker where you could be reached in an emergency. And, if time permits, remember to write the words "Evacuated with Pets" across the stickers should you flee with your pets.

### **3.1.3 Stay Informed - Know About Types of Emergencies**

Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as assembling an emergency supply kit for yourself, your family and your pets, are the same regardless of the type of emergency. However, it's important to stay informed about what might happen and know what types of emergencies are likely to affect your region as well as emergency plans that have been established by your state and local government. For more information about how to prepare, visit **[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)** or call 1-800-BE-READY.

Be prepared to adapt this information to your personal circumstances and make every effort to follow instructions received from authorities on the scene. With these simple preparations, you can be ready for the unexpected. Those who take the time to prepare themselves and their pets will likely encounter less difficulty, stress and worry. Take the time now to get yourself and your pets ready.

Preparing for Your Pets Makes Sense. Get Ready Now! To download the pet brochure, visit <http://www.ready.gov/america/downloads/pets.pdf> .





### **3.2 *Preparing Equine and Large Animals for an Emergency***

You should be aware that actions you take before, during and after a natural or man made disaster could save your large animals. When an emergency or natural disaster occurs, it is always in the best interest of the large animal veterinarian and the large animal owner to be prepared. Catastrophic events can adversely affect the health and well-being of the large animals. Preparation must be as thorough as possible knowing that circumstances will highlight the weaknesses rather than the strengths of those involved.

Remember, there may not be sufficient time to evacuate your large animals in a fast occurring event. Prepare now to better assist you and your large animals. Consider having your large animals marked, micro-chipped and registered so you can be reunited after a disaster occurs. Have a current photograph available of your animal.

Shelter-in-place may be the safest action to take in a rapidly occurring event. If emergency vehicles are responding to a fire, it is important to leave the main access road of Clinton Keith Road open for emergency responders to use.

Important steps to consider in establishing a disaster and emergency response plan include:

- Educating large animal owners
- Establishing a local response system
- Address transportation issues
- Preparing for actual hands-on emergency rescue situations

#### **3.2.1 Resources for Large Animal Owners**

Preparation is a key part of making sure your large animals are safe and taken care of in a crisis situation. One must understand who the other resources are and what their plan is in order for a coordinated response to result. The American Association for Equine Practitioners (AAEP) has collected best practices to make sure you, the large animal owner, have vital information available to you before a disaster strikes. For additional information from AAEP, visit <http://www.aaep.org/>.

#### **3.2.2 Plan Ahead Before a Disaster Occurs**

- Familiarize yourself with the types of disasters that can occur in your area and develop a plan of action to deal with each type
  - Some disasters to consider are wildland fires, earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, severe winter weather, nuclear power plant accidents with release of radioactivity in to the environment and hazardous material spills
- Survey your property to find the best location to keep your animals in each type of disaster
  - Identify a corral or large fenced in field
  - Check for alternate water sources in case power is unavailable and pumps and automatic watering systems are not working after a disaster



- Permanently identify each large animal by tattoo, microchip, brand, tag, photograph (4 views-front, rear, left and right side)
- Record its age, sex, breed and color with your record of this identification
  - Keep this information with your important papers
  - If not identified at the time of the disaster in the above manner, paint or etch hooves, use neck bands or paint telephone number on side of animal
- Consult with your veterinarian for what immunizations are advisable
- Be sure your large animals' vaccination and medical records are written and up-to-date
- Have documentation of any medicines with dosing instructions, special feeding instructions and the name and phone number of the veterinarian who dispensed the drug
- Place a permanent tag with your name and phone number and the large animal's name on each halter
- Prepare for an emergency by:
  - Having enough fresh water and feed on hand for five days
  - Keeping trailers and vans maintained, keep vehicles full of gas and ready to move at all times (Acclimate your horse to trailers and vans)
  - Keeping ball lock key in the stock / horse trailer for easy access
- **PRACTICE YOUR PLAN**

### 3.2.2.1 Livestock Supply Checklist

- Food: Keep at least five days of feed
  - Consider keeping easily stored and transportable pellets on hand in a sealed container
- Water: Store at least five days of water for your livestock
  - Consider a storage tank and remember to check it regularly for water quality, changing as necessary
  - For those with wells, remember that during a power service interruption, the well will not work unless you have a generator (Contact Southern California Edison for details)
  - Consult with your veterinarian on use of water from swimming pools if you cannot store a sufficient supply (ensure no ash or debris is in the water)
- First Aid Kit: Talk with your veterinarian about what is most appropriate for your livestock needs
  - Include: cotton bandage rolls (sterile sanitary napkins as a substitute), vet wrap, scissors, betadine scrub, antibiotic ointment, latex gloves, isopropyl alcohol and saline solution
- If a County or City shelter is opened for evacuees, an animal shelter will be opened for small pets and if necessary, a shelter for large animals will also be opened*
  - This information will be available through Early Alert System (EAS) or local law enforcement officers
  - Keep in mind that large animals, who are otherwise docile, may become panicked in an emergency and can be hard to handle or even dangerous



- Consult with your veterinarian about how to best manage panic stricken livestock
- If you are not at home and an evacuation is called for, make arrangement ahead of time with another ranch or neighbor to relocate your animals
- All animals should be microchipped to ensure they can be reunited with their owners after an emergency

### **3.2.3 At the Time of the Disaster**

- **STAY CALM! FOLLOW YOUR PLAN!**
- Listen to the Emergency Alert System (EAS) or Early Warning Notifications System (EWNS) or local law enforcement officers for official information about where large animal shelters are located
- Know how to locate large animal care providers offering services during the disaster and any special instructions about actions you should take to protect your animals
- If you are instructed to evacuate your large animals from your property, you will be notified by Riverside County Animal Services and / or Riverside County Fire Department – Office of Emergency Services where large animal shelter is located
  - Riverside County Animal Services has pre-identified various locations to use as a large animal shelter but depending on the occurrence, the location will be identified at the time of the incident
- If you evacuate, take your large animals' immunizations and health records with you
- If you must leave your large animals unattended at home, leave them in the safest area possible that you previously selected such as high ground in a flood or in a corral or properly cleared area in a wildland fire
  - Leave enough water for the length of time you expect to be gone

NOTE: There may be times when taking your horses with you is impossible during an emergency. So you must consider different types of disasters and whether your horses would be better off in a corral or in a fenced field. Your local humane organization or Riverside County Animal Services office may provide you with information about your community's disaster response plans related to large animals. For additional information go to <http://www.humanesociety.org>

### **3.2.4 After the Disaster**

- Be careful about leaving your large animals unattended outside after the disaster
  - Familiar scents and landmarks may be altered and the large animals could easily become confused and lost
  - It is best to place them in the safest area possible
  - Be sure fences are intact as some may be damaged by the disaster
  - Check fences and pastures for sharp objects that could injure large animals
- If any large animals are lost during the disaster check with Riverside County Animal Services, local veterinarians, humane societies, stables, race tracks, equestrian centers, surrounding ranches and other facilities that might house large animals



- Listen to the Early Alert System (EAS) for information about groups that may have accepted lost animals
- If you find someone else's large animal after the disaster, isolate it from your animals until it is returned or can be examined by a veterinarian
- Use extreme caution when approaching and handling unknown or frightened large animals
- Consult with your veterinarian, the state veterinary medical association and the Department of Agriculture for information about any disease outbreaks that may have occurred as a result of the disaster
- Be prepared to identify and document ownership when claiming lost large animals

### **3.2.5 American Association for Equine Practitioners (AAEP)**

The following AAEP links provide important information for large animal owners regarding disaster planning for large animals:

[Emergency Planning Workbook](http://www.thehorse.com/pdf/emergency/emergency.pdf) – <http://www.thehorse.com/pdf/emergency/emergency.pdf>

[Disaster Action Guidelines For Horse Owners](http://www.marylandhorseindustry.org/disaster.htm) -  
<http://www.marylandhorseindustry.org/disaster.htm>

[Emergency Preparedness: Important Tips for Horse Owners](http://www.aaep.org/health_articles_view.php?id=251) -  
[http://www.aaep.org/health\\_articles\\_view.php?id=251](http://www.aaep.org/health_articles_view.php?id=251)

[Disaster Planning for Horse Farms](http://www.aaep.org/health_articles_view.php?id=263) - [http://www.aaep.org/health\\_articles\\_view.php?id=263](http://www.aaep.org/health_articles_view.php?id=263)

[Guidelines to Follow During Equine Emergencies](http://www.aaep.org/health_articles_view.php?id=50) -  
[http://www.aaep.org/health\\_articles\\_view.php?id=50](http://www.aaep.org/health_articles_view.php?id=50)

### **3.2.6 Register Your Large Animals**

Remember to register your ranch, go to <http://www.srpets.info/animals.html> and click on the link "Register Your Large Animals". By registering your large animals, Riverside County emergency responders, Animal Services and Riverside Emergency Animal Rescue Services will have a better understanding of how many animals may need to be evacuated. Having this information before an emergency occurs provides emergency responders with important information on resources needed during an evacuation involving large animals.

[http://www.disastersrus.org/MyDisasters/pets/DIST\\_DisasterHorseBrochure.pdf](http://www.disastersrus.org/MyDisasters/pets/DIST_DisasterHorseBrochure.pdf)



### **3.3 Riverside Emergency Animal Rescue System (R.E.A.R.S.)**

During the summer of 2003, Southern California fell siege to wildland fires. The Mountain Fire in southwest Riverside County was the defining incident which brought to the forefront the need for a formal and organized animal rescue program in Riverside County. There were many lessons learned. It was realized that government agencies do not have enough staff to handle a massive animal evacuation; the services of many volunteers were not able to be utilized because they had no formal training and there was no organizational structure; and animal rescue groups must be part of the emergency plan so they don't impede fire engines and emergency vehicles in the course of their work.

Following the aftermath of the Mountain Fire, an ad-hoc committee was formed with representatives from Riverside County Sheriff's Department, Riverside County Department of Animal Services, Riverside County Fire Department – Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the California Highway Patrol (CHP).

The committee realized the need for an initial training program and continuing training in order to provide for the safety of the volunteers. Initially a basic class was developed consisting of an overview on the areas of Incident Command System, Law Enforcement Issues, Animal Evacuation Procedures, Fire Line Safety and Animal Handling. After completing the Basic Class, volunteers were issued an R.E.A.R.S. identification card. Later in the year continuing training included Flood Training, Trailer Inspection and Maneuvering.

The original ad-hoc committee has evolved into the R.E.A.R.S. Council that oversees all aspects of the organization. R.E.A.R.S. is the system that has been developed to perform animal rescue, evacuation, sheltering and care and welfare of domestic and livestock animals within Riverside County during times of disaster or extraordinary emergencies.

#### **3.3.1 R.E.A.R.S. Deployment**

R.E.A.R.S. may be deployed anywhere within the County of Riverside for emergency activities. Local government can also request R.E.A.R.S. through the normal call out procedure. R.E.A.R.S. may also be deployed out of County by the Operational Area Coordinator, Riverside County Fire-OES.

#### **3.3.2 R.E.A.R.S. Activation**

R.E.A.R.S. is activated through a pager or a telephone call out procedure. Riverside County Animal Services will always be the lead for R.E.A.R.S., though it may be assisted on scene by another coordinating council agency such as Riverside County Sheriff, Riverside County Fire/OES, CALFIRE or California Highway Patrol (CHP).

Riverside County Animal Services Supervisor (*Animal Rescue Coordinator*) will be located at the Incident Command Post (ICP) while another representative establishes an Animal Staging Area (*Animal Staging Manager*) nearby. This staging area will be in close proximity to the Incident Command Post (ICP), though not close enough to



interfere with Incident Command Post (ICP) or operational activities. The nature of the size and quantity of animal rescue equipment and vehicles necessitates an Animal Staging Area separate from the Incident Staging Area. This will be the area where equipment is checked in, configured in teams and then deployed to perform animal rescue activities.

Rescued animals are brought to Animal Staging for inventory, tagging and emergency first aid and then transported to boarding facilities by transport teams.

### **3.3.3 R.E.A.R.S. Training**

All R.E.A.R.S. members have been trained in the following modules:

- Incident Command System (ICS)
- Wildland Fire Behavior
- Animal rescue techniques
- Emergency scene vehicle operations
- Water and flood operations
- Trailer techniques
- Trailer inspections and maneuvering



## SECTION 4: SHELTER-IN-PLACE GUIDANCE

### 4.1 *Shelter-in-Place*

Shelter-in-Place is one of the basic instructions you may receive from public safety officials during an emergency in your community. Sheltering in place will provide you and your family immediate protection for a short time in your home. If you are told to shelter-in-place, take your children and pets indoors **immediately**.

Following are some general suggestions that will guide you before, during and after an emergency. There may be situations when it is best to stay where you are to avoid any uncertainty outside. There are other circumstances, such as during a tornado or a chemical incident, when specifically **how** and **where** you take shelter is **a matter of survival**. You should understand the different threats and **plan for all possibilities**.

#### 4.1.1 Planning For An Emergency

- Study your surroundings for fixed and mobile sources of hazardous materials
- Learn about any emergency communications where you live and work
- Riverside County Fire/OES can provide necessary information
- Prepare a shelter-in-place kit appropriate for the type (s) of emergencies that could occur near you
- The kit should contain duct tape for sealing cracks around doors and windows; 2-4 mil plastic sheeting (preferably precut to size) to cover windows; a battery-operated AM/FM radio; flashlight with fresh batteries; bottled water; towels; toys for young children; candles; matches; first-aid kit and medicine and other items essential for your family's survival
- Check the kit every six months to make sure all the supplies are still there and that they are fresh
- Find out which radio, television and cable systems in your area broadcast emergency information
- Learn CPR and first-aid
- For a place to shelter, select a room in your house that has few or no windows
- The room should have a telephone for emergency use
- Make sure all family members know what to do in an emergency, whether they are at home, school, work or outdoors
- Review your plan periodically and conduct practice drills



#### 4.1.2 During An Emergency

When you learn of the emergency:

- **Immediately** take your family and pets to the room you have chosen as a shelter; if your children are at school, do not leave your house to go get them; going outside could expose you to hazardous conditions; also, schools have emergency plans of their own
- Shut off heating, cooling and fans that draw in air from the outside
  - If you have a fireplace, close the damper
- Shut and lock doors and windows
  - Locking makes a better seal
  - Cover any windows with plastic sheeting
  - Seal cracks around the door and windows with duct tape
- Turn on a radio or television to a local station that broadcasts emergency information
- Stay tuned until the "all clear" message is broadcast
- Stay off the phone
  - It should be used for emergency calls only
- Be prepared to evacuate if ordered to do so by public safety officials
  - Evacuation instructions will be announced over the EAS (radio / TV) or through the EWNS (phone)

#### 4.1.3 After An Emergency

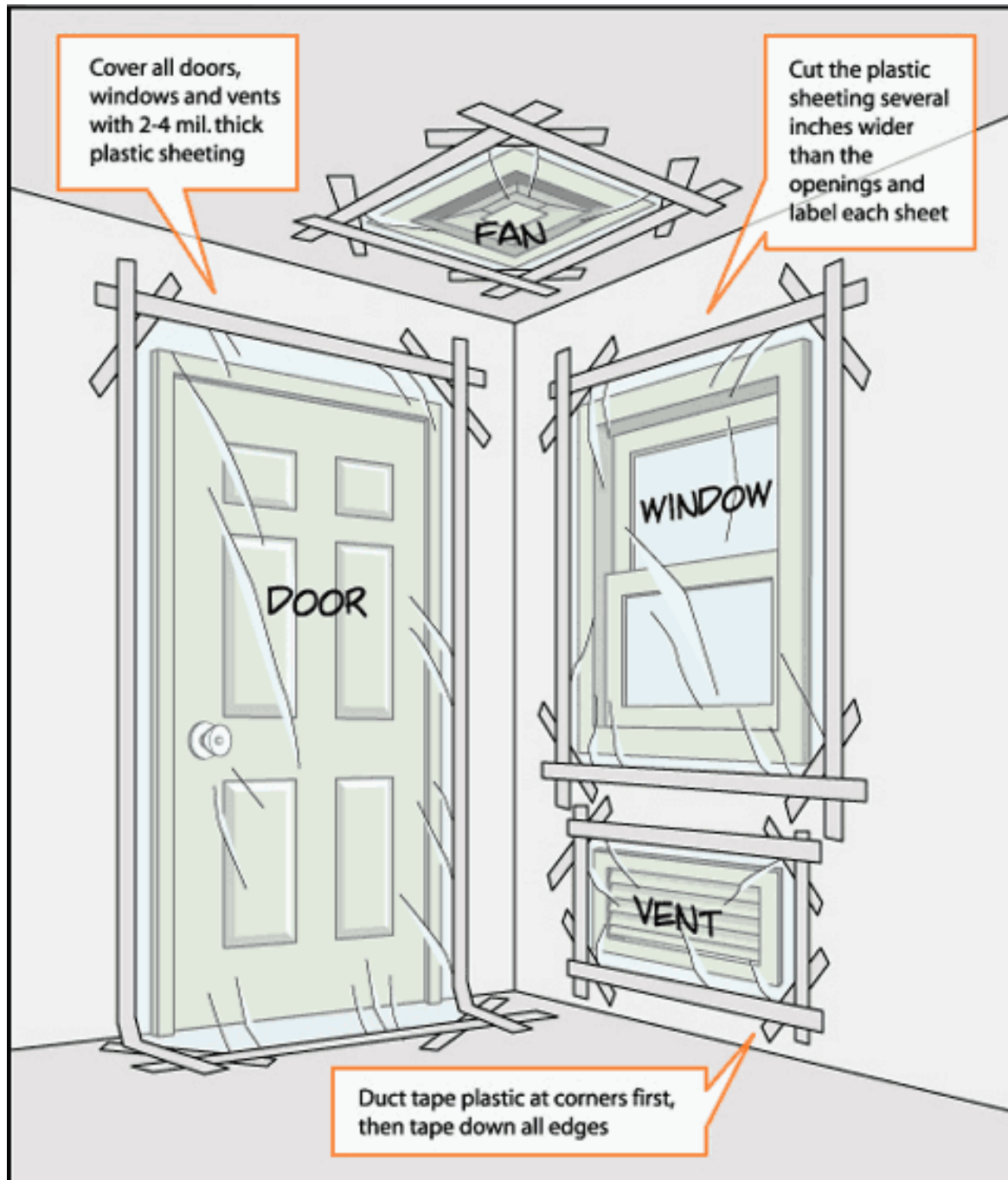
When you hear the "all clear" message over the EAS or EWNS, you should:

- Open doors and windows
- Turn on your heating/cooling system to ventilate the house
- Go outside if safe to do so
- Check your home and property





If you are instructed by local authorities to take shelter, do so immediately.



[Click here](#) to view, download or print the diagram with graphics.



## **SECTION 5: EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS**

### **5.1 *Early Warning Notification System***

The operational concept of the EWNS is to provide first responders an additional tool to alert, warn and inform the public of an incident that impacts part or all of Riverside County. Through the use of EWNS, we can reduce the number of incoming calls to 911 by providing to the public the specific information on an incident or emergency.

The EWNS must be used in conjunction with other alert and notification systems already in place (i.e. Emergency Alert System (EAS), Emergency Digital Information System (EDIS), official media reports / press releases (law, fire or public health), door to door notifications)

One of the following County agencies will have the responsibility to activate EWNS:

- Office of Emergency Services
- CALFIRE/Riverside County Fire
- Riverside County Sheriff
- Community Health Agency

The system will be utilized when there is a threat to life or property to get information out to the public.

Riverside County residents can add their cell phone numbers to the EWNS database by visiting [www.countyofriverside.us](http://www.countyofriverside.us). On the right side of the page under 'News & Highlights' is a section on 'EWNS'. Click on this section and follow the instructions to register additional cell phone numbers.

Below are some key characteristics and functions of the Riverside County EWNS:

- The system can make up to 250,000 phone calls per hour
- The system uses GIS technology to allow the user to select the target audience from either a map or pre-identified call list
- The audience can be as small as a block, or as large as an entire city
  - The system will automatically notify key department personnel anytime a message is sent from the EWNS
- The telephone data is updated every 30 days
- The system is an off-site, hosted solution with data centers in 12 different locations across the United States
- The system can determine the difference between a live answer, an answering machine and a non-answer
  - The system will leave messages on an answering machine



- The system uses Text to Speech technology to convert a typed message into a verbal message
  - Messages in others languages can be recorded and used

## 5.2 ***Emergency Alert System***

### **Emergency Alert System (EAS) /Weather Alert**

EAS is a network of public broadcast stations and interconnecting facilities that have been authorized by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to operate in a controlled manner during a war, state of public peril or disaster or other national emergency. The system is devised to provide the President and Federal government a means of emergency communications with the general public. It may be used on a voluntary basis during day-to-day situations posing a threat to safety of life and property.

The EAS is used for warnings of an immediate action such as child abductions, tornadoes, flash floods, evacuations of areas due to an incident (such as hazardous spill) or other events requiring immediate action.

The activation of this system can be initiated by the Operational Area (OA) or Law Enforcement based on information received from the field or emergency responders. This information should also be coordinated with the County of Riverside Public Information Officer (PIO).



## SECTION 6: CONTACTS

The following is a partial listing of contact agencies that supplied information for this guide and may be able to provide additional emergency information.

### 6.1 *Agency Telephone Numbers:*

- Riverside County Office of Emergency Services – 951-955-4700
- Bear Creek Station 75 – 951-698-8338
- CALFIRE/Riverside County Fire – Public Affairs – 951-940-6985
- Riverside County Dept. of Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Response – 951-358-7100

### 6.2 *Web sites*

#### **American Association for Equine Practitioners**

859-233-0147

[www.aaep.org/](http://www.aaep.org/)

#### **American Red Cross – Riverside County**

(888) 831-0031

[www.riversidecounty.redcross.org](http://www.riversidecounty.redcross.org)

#### **California Department of Health Services, Immunization Branch**

[www.cdph.ca.gov](http://www.cdph.ca.gov)

#### **California Highway Patrol**

[www.chp.ca.gov](http://www.chp.ca.gov)

1-800-tell CHP (835-5247) – Non emergency

#### **Caltrans – General questions**

[www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov)

(916) 654-5266

#### **Camp Pendleton**

760-725-9045 – Activated during emergencies only

[www.cpp.usmc.mil](http://www.cpp.usmc.mil)

#### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)



### **Emergency Survival Program**

[www.espfocus.org](http://www.espfocus.org)

### **Federal Emergency Management Agency – FEMA**

500 C Street S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20472

1 (800) 621-FEMA (3362)

TDD: 1 (800) 462-7585

Fax: 1 (800) 827-8112

<http://www.fema.gov/>

Click on the '*Plan Ahead and Are you Ready?*' for important information

### **Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management**

1275 N. Eastern Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90063

(323) 980-2260

[www.lacounty.gov](http://www.lacounty.gov) - Click on Government, select Departments, Commissions and agencies, click on the letter "O" and select Office of Public Safety, select Community Partnership programs and then select Emergency Preparedness under Categories

### **North County Fire Authority Joint Powers Authority**

[www.northcountyfire.org](http://www.northcountyfire.org)

### **North County Fire Protection District**

<http://www.ncfireprotectiondistrict.org>

### **Orange County Fire Authority**

(714) 573-6000

[www.ocfa.org](http://www.ocfa.org)

### **Orange County Office of Emergency Management**

(714) 834-5400

[www.ocgov.com](http://www.ocgov.com) - click on Emergency tab for information

### **Orange County Sheriff**

(714) 647-7000 or (949) 770-6011

[www.ocsd.org](http://www.ocsd.org)

### **CALFIRE/Riverside County Fire**

[www.rvcfire.org](http://www.rvcfire.org)

CALFIRE/Riverside County Fire Public Affairs, 951-940-6985

The line is staffed seven days a week from 8 am – 6 pm. During an emergency the line is staffed 24 hours a day. Riverside County Fire Incident Information – major incidents, go to



[www.rvcfire.org](http://www.rvcfire.org) –click on “Incident Information” tab at the top and then look for the location of the event / fire.

**Riverside County Animal Services - Western Riverside County  
City Animal Shelter**

6851 Van Buren Blvd.  
Riverside, CA 92509  
951-358-7387 OR 888-636-7387

<http://rcdas.org/home/>

**Riverside County Fire Department - Office of Emergency Services**

P.O. Box 1412  
Riverside, CA 92501  
(951) 955-4700

<http://www.rvcfire.org/opencms/functions/oes/>

**Riverside County CERT Training Schedule**

<http://www.rivcocert.org>

**Riverside County Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response**

951-358-7100

[www.rivcophepr.org](http://www.rivcophepr.org)

**Riverside County Sheriff**

951-955-2400

[www.riversidesheriff.org](http://www.riversidesheriff.org)

**San Diego County Emergency Information**

[www.sdcountyemergency.com](http://www.sdcountyemergency.com)

**San Diego County Office of Emergency Services**

(858) 565-3490

email: [oes@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:oes@sdcounty.ca.gov)

[www.co.san-diego.ca.us/oes/](http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/oes/)

**Santa Rosa Plateau Emergency Taskforce**

951-955-4730

[www.SRPET.info](http://www.SRPET.info)

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security**

[www.ready.gov/america](http://www.ready.gov/america)



## SECTION 7: ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AAEP	American Association for Equine Practitioners
CalEMA	California Emergency Management Agency
CERT	Community Emergency Response Team
CHP	California Highway Patrol
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DPG	Disaster Planning guide
EAS	Emergency Alert System
EDIS	Emergency Digital Information System
EWNS	Early Warning Notification System
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
ICP	Incident Command Post
ICS	Incident Command System
LHMP	Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NOAA	National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration
OA	Operational Area
OES	Office of Emergency Services
PCC	Poison Control Center
PHEPR	Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response
PIO	Public Information Officer
R.E.A.R.S.	Riverside Emergency Animal Rescue System
SPCA	Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
SRP	Santa Rosa Plateau
SRPET	Santa Rosa Plateau Emergency Taskforce