

## **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!