



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

Volume 15, Issue 7

West Valley Senior Lead Office (818) 374-7630
Sergeant Randy Hoffmaster - Sergeant Frank Avila

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Log onto www.lapdonline.org today! You can view information on crime in your neighborhood; you can get the monthly newsletter and sign up for e-policing, a real-time way to get information from LAPD to you!

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



Please join West Valley Area Captains John Egan and Nick Zingo with the communities of Encino, Reseda, Tarzana and Van Nuys as we celebrate the 28th National Night Out at Randal D. Simmons Park, located at the south west corner of Wilbur Ave. and Vanowen St., in Reseda (next to the West Valley Area Police Station).

This is a community event for all to enjoy a **FREE** barbecue and movie under the stars. Movie presentation will be a "G" rated movie for kids. There will also be informational booths on how to prepare yourself, your loved ones, and your work place in the event of an emergency.

National Night Out is a "Community-Police Awareness" event held every year country wide on the first Tuesday of August. It is meant to increase awareness about police programs in the community, such as drug prevention, Neighborhood Watch and other anti-crime efforts. It brings our neighborhoods together with law enforcement and represents the kind of spirit, energy, and determination that help make our neighborhoods safer throughout the year. The main focus of this year's event is Community Emergency Preparedness.

The West Valley Area is one of the few divisions in Los Angeles that has received a 5 National Awards for outstanding community participation at National Night Out. Please join us as we celebrate another successful event in the West Valley. Bring your kids, your friends and your neighbors!

For more information please contact the L.A.P.D. Community Relations Office at (818) 374-7690.

ENCINO:

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Contact Officer Trulik for information on the next Encino Neighborhood Watch Meeting.

EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS



Are you ready for the next earthquake? Every year California has over 1,000 earthquakes. Most of them we do not even feel. Does your family know what to do if they are not at home, work or school?

Things to do before an earthquake:

- Create a family earthquake plan and designate a place to meet.
- Practice how to drop, cover and hold.
- Learn first aid.
- Keep emergency phone numbers and a phone number of an out of state contact.
- Make sure you have a working smoke alarm with extra batteries.
- Learn where the gas, water and electrical shut-offs are located.
- Secure your water heater and appliances with earthquake safety straps.
- Make an emergency kit with the following items: handi-wipes, plastic bags, pet supplies, extra money, food (special foods), water, manual can opener, medicine, first aid kit, photo ID of your children and pets, tools, walking shoes, clothes, solar blanket, flashlight, battery operated radio, and extra batteries.
- Make an emergency kit for your home, auto and office.
- Have an extra wheelchair, cane, glasses and hearing aid (extra batteries) for special needs people.
- Check chimneys, roof and wall foundations for stability. This should be done by a licensed contractor.

LAKE BALBOA:

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Contact Officer Ham or Paredes for information on the next Lake Balboa Neighborhood Watch Meetings.

During an earthquake:

- Drop cover and hold. (Stay under safe cover until the shaking stops.)
- Stay away from windows and doors.
- If inside, stay there unless you feel your life is in danger.
- In a car, pull over to the side of the road. Stay in your car.
- If you are in a wheelchair, stay in the chair, lock your wheel brakes and protect your head with your arms as best you can.
- In a high rise building, if you are not near a desk or table, move against an interior wall. Protect your head with your arms.
- DO NOT use an elevator.

After an earthquake:

- STAY CALM
- Make sure your family and pets are all accounted for.
- Avoid broken glass. (Make sure you are wearing shoes.)
- If you smell gas, get out and shut off the gas and electricity.
- Check for structural damage. (If you do not feel safe, get out.)
- Listen to your battery-operated radio for emergency information.
- If in a car, drive to a safe location. Do not park under an overpass.
- If outside, get away from building, electrical wires and trees.

RESEDA:

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Next Neighborhood Watch Meetings – Thursday, July 14 – 7:00 p.m.

No regular meeting in August due to National Night Out

Ann Kinzle Community Room located in the L.A.P.D. West Valley Area Station

TELEPHONE COMMUNICATION

After a major disaster most of our normal methods of communication will be interrupted; telephones will be out, the mail won't be delivered, and you may be isolated at work or unable to travel to your family. It's normal to want to check on your family. You need to limit your calls if you want the system to work. The solution is to have one out-of-state contact for all your family members. This way your relatives and friends will not be tying up the phone lines trying to get to each other. You will be able to reach an out-of-state person before you reach someone locally. When you reach your out-of-state contact KEEP IT SHORT AND QUICK. The phone system could go out at any time. Give your condition and the condition of your family members; get information on members who are not with you; tell them you'll call them back in a few days, then say good bye and hang up.

INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY READINESS

Create a family earthquake plan! Know the safe spot in each room; under sturdy tables, desks or against inside walls. Know the danger spots: windows, mirrors, hanging objects, fireplaces and tall furniture. Conduct practice drills. Physically place yourself and your children in safe locations. Learn first aid and CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) from your local Red Cross or other community organization. Decide where your family will reunite if separated. Keep a list of emergency phone numbers. Choose an out-of-state friend or relative whom family members can call after the quake to report your condition. Remember to stay calm!

TARZANA:

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Contact Officer Scoggins for information on the next Tarzana Neighborhood Watch Meeting.

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ITEM TO STORE FOR AN EARTHQUAKE?

SAFE DRINKING WATER

A good rule of thumb is 5 gallons PER PERSON (minimum). Treat your pet as a family member when thinking how much to store. Loss of safe drinking water can be deadly. Most people will be feeling the effects if they are without water for more than 36 hours. Dehydration occurs much quicker than starvation. The City water supply is vulnerable to the effects of a large earthquake. Contaminants can get into the drinking water supply through ruptures in the pipes, through the mixing of the sediments, through the adulteration of filtering systems, etc. **DO NOT STORE ANY PLASTIC WATER CONTAINER DIRECTLY ON CONCRETE.** The concrete will leech chemicals into the water, contaminating it and also degrading the plastic bottle, causing failure.

PORTABLE AUTO SURVIVAL KIT

Okay, you've prepared your home for a possible earthquake. What about when you're away from home? In your car or at work?

Southern Californians spend a great deal of time in their vehicles. Our sprawling megalopolis necessitates the use of vehicles for even the simplest of errands; thus we also need to prepare ourselves for survival when we are away from home. A portable survival kit kept in our car and another in our office will give us that ability.

HERE IS A LIST OF ITEMS WHICH SHOULD BE KEPT IN YOUR MOBILE SURVIVAL KITS:

- Nylon carrying bag or day-pack
- Bottled water
- Non-perishable food
- Can opener
- Transistor radio and EXTRA batteries
- Flashlight and EXTRA batteries
- Fire extinguisher (ABC type)
- First aid kit
- Gloves
- Essential medication (if refrigeration is not required)
- Blanket, sleeping bag, space blanket
- Sealable plastic bags
- Pre-moistened towelettes
- Small tool kit
- Matches and lighter
- Walking shoes and extra socks
- Change of clothes
- Jacket
- Cash (small denominations and coins)

Remember, you could be stranded for up to 72 hours. Make sure you have enough supplies to meet your needs.

COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

- Suggest that local organizations of which you are a member undertake specific preparedness programs or acquire special training to be of assistance in the event of a damaging earthquake.
- Participate in neighborhood earthquake preparedness programs.
- Attend training for neighborhood residents in preparedness, first aid, fire suppression, damage assessment and search and rescue.
- Develop self-help networks between families and your neighborhood through a skills and resources bank which include a listing of tools, equipment, materials, and neighborhood members who have special skills and resources to share.
- Identify neighbors who have special needs or will require special assistance.
- Have your neighborhood develop a secret signal to notify friends if everything is okay. Don't use obvious signals. This could identify vacant houses to criminals.