

When the Ground Shakes.....Are YOU Prepared to Ride it Out?

It's no secret that seismic activity around the world occurs every day; yet we all are so surprised when it happens in our own back yard.

Earthquakes are unpredictable, unsettling and frightening. Californians, especially those of us in Riverside County are all too familiar with the power of earthquakes; it is a way of life.

We would all like to think we are "prepared" for an earthquake, but how prepared *are* you? Test yourself; considering the following:

- Does your family have an earthquake kit with enough supplies to sustain yourselves for up to 7-10 days following a large-scale earthquake?
- Does everyone in your home know how to shut off the gas or water main?
- If you are away from home and unable to reach your family after an earthquake, will they know what to do?

CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department and the Riverside County Board of Supervisors would like to remind residents that the www.rvcfire.org website offers a multitude of disaster preparedness tips and informational resources for earthquakes, floods, wildland fires and other disasters to ensure that our residents and visitors are informed *and* readyit's not *IF*, it's *WHEN*.

Riverside County Fire Chief John R. Hawkins adds, "Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training is an option for residents to be prepared in their own communities. With a few hours of training, teams of residents can really make a difference by learning how to assess damage, providing basic aid and assist with small fire suppression after an earthquake or other disaster."

Contact the Riverside County Fire Department Office of Emergency Services at 951-955-4700 to learn more about starting a CERT team in your neighborhood."

"The Riverside County Early Warning Notification System (EWNS) is an alert system that is free of charge and is used by Fire, Law Enforcement and the Department of Public Health to notify affected residents of life-safety instructions during a disaster, such as a major earthquake", said Riverside County 5th District Supervisor, Marion Ashley.

"Landline phones are already in the system, but residents can log on to the www.rvcfire.org website and sign-up to three cell phones to receive notifications in the event of a major emergency," Ashley continues, "a major earthquake could disrupt our daily lives and compromise services for days and even weeks."

Home Emergency Supplies: http://www.rvcfire.org/onLineServices/Safety/Documents/Home_Emergency_Supplies.pdf

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