

October 2015

Birthstone: Opal or Tourmaline
Flower: Calendula or Cosmos

Pathfinder



CITY OF SANTA MARIA EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



Word has it ...

From your City Manager

Rick Haydon



Disaster preparedness should be on all our minds, with October being national earthquake preparedness month, and forecasters predicting a greater than 95 percent chance of an El Niño this winter. Never assume that an emergency, whether it be a natural disaster or a man-made one, will not affect you. It will.

As a reminder, upon becoming a City employee, each of us signed an "Oath of Office" card acknowledging that during times of an emergency, that all of us become disaster service workers and must report for duty. Now is the time for each of us to know how to pull together as a team in order to provide essential City services to the community.

In the event of a large-scale disaster, the City would coordinate our emergency response with other local, State, Federal agencies, as well as with private or non-profit agencies such as the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army. The City has several pre-determined locations to be used for congregate care and shelter depending on the magnitude and duration of the emergency.

Employees are encouraged to have a plan in place for their families, so that they can report to work knowing their families are prepared. It is important for individuals to prepare their own emergency kits with enough food and water (two quarts to one gallon per person per day) to last at least three days. If any in-home medical devices require electricity, consider alternative power sources such as a generator. Have extra blankets, coats, hats and gloves to keep warm.

Have a First Aid kit. Copies of important papers, such as insurance, bank account information, deeds and titles and medical documents, should be kept handy in case of an evacuation.

During a major disaster, you will be required to report to work at your department's designated work site(s). Please note, it will not be business as usual – so I encourage all departments to be prepared for disasters and each employee to know what is expected of them. Do you know where to meet after a disaster has struck? Do you have phone numbers printed out of your co-workers and supervisor(s)? Do you know how to contact your supervisor after-hours? Supervisors and managers should pre-identify personnel responsible for disaster assignments.

Do you think that your friends and neighbors will be relying on the City (you and I) for food and shelter? Are they in a position to be self-reliant? The reason why I ask that question is because at any given time of day in our City, we have fewer than 20 sworn firefighters on duty and a little more than that number of police officers out and about patrolling our City streets. So if the big one hits, we'll all need to be self-reliant – that's why we have the CERT Program. CERT stands for Community Emergency Response Team. The Fire Department offers a 28-hour CERT course to teach basic information and skills to assist you and your neighbors at the onset of a disaster. The next series starts in November; for information contact Roy Dugger, Emergency Services Specialist, at ext. 334.

We need to "Be Prepared," as the old Boy Scouts motto says. Be prepared for any struggles and to meet whatever challenges are ahead. When disaster strikes, all of us will be expected to come to work, knowing what to do, and do it well in the public eye.

Rick