



### NEWS RELEASE

July 8, 2013

### City to Help Residents to Be Prepared

The power outage on June 28<sup>th</sup> was a sobering reminder that the majority of the residents in Santa Maria are not prepared for even a minor emergency. To encourage the public to be prepared, the City of Santa Maria Fire Department's Aware and Prepare Program will provide a hand crank/solar powered combination flashlight and radio to families who bring a photo of themselves with their disaster supply kit to the *Ready!* Santa Maria booth at the Santa Barbara County Fair, July 10-14<sup>th</sup>. Radios will be available on a first come basis and be limited to one per address.

Additional information and training will be available at the booth on what to have and what to do for a variety of scenarios. Free Hands Only CPR training will also be available at the booth.

Every resident should:

- Have supplies of food, water, medications, and other necessities to last one week or longer if they have the space and finances to do so at home. At a minimum, everyone should have a go-kit with food (canned or bars), water, medications, emergency contact list, and essential documents in case they have to evacuate.
- Have battery powered flashlights and radio with spare batteries. Hand crank and solar flashlights and radios are also encouraged. To provide light in a room, aim the flashlight toward the ceiling by placing it in a cup, jar, or vase. **DO NOT USE CANDLES.**
- Have a plan on how to contact family and friends if phones and cell service are disrupted. Have a meeting place to reunite with your family if you are separated when an emergency occurs.
- Unless you are directed to evacuate a building, stay indoors if it is safe to do so. Stay off of roads and streets so that emergency traffic and necessary evacuees have priority.

Questions may be directed to Roy Dugger, Aware and Prepare Manager, 925-0951 ext. 334.

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