

COPE eNewsletter

C I T I Z E N S O R G A N I Z E D T O P R E P A R E F O R
E M E R G E N C I E S

Keep Your Records Safe in Case Disaster Strikes

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
Keep Your Records Safe	1
Radio Corner	2
DP4VP Partnership	3
Save These Dates	4

Some natural disasters are more common in the summer. But major events like hurricanes, tornadoes and fires can strike any time. It's a good idea to plan for what to do in case of a disaster. You can help make your recovery easier by keeping your tax and financial records safe. Here are some basic steps you can take now to prepare:

1. Backup Records Electronically. Many people receive bank statements by email. This is a good way to secure your records. You can also scan tax records and insurance policies onto an electronic format. You can use an external hard drive, CD or DVD to store important records. Be sure you back up your files and keep them in a safe place. If a disaster strikes your home, it may also affect a wide area. If that

happens you may not be able to retrieve your records.

2. Document Valuables. Take photos or videos of the contents of your home or business. These visual records can help you prove the value of your lost items. They may help with insurance claims or casualty loss deductions on your tax return. You should store them with a friend or relative who lives out of the area.

3. Update Emergency Plans. Review your emergency plans every year. Update them when your situation changes. Make sure you have a way to get severe weather information. Have a plan for what to do if threatening weather approaches.

4. Get Copies of Tax Returns or Transcripts. Visit IRS.gov to get [Form 4506](#), Request for Copy of Tax Return, to

replace lost or destroyed tax returns. If you just need information from your return, you can [order a free transcript online](#) or by calling 800-908-9946. You can also file [Form 4506T-EZ](#), Short Form Request for Individual Tax Return Transcript or [Form 4506-T](#), Request for Transcript of Tax Return.

5. Count on the IRS. If you fall victim to a disaster, know that the IRS stands ready to help. You can call the IRS disaster hotline at 866-562-5227 for special help with disaster-related tax issues.

Visit IRS.gov to get more about IRS disaster assistance. Click on the [‘Disaster Relief’](#) link in the lower left of the home page. You can also get [forms and publications](#) anytime on IRS.gov. To get them in the mail, call 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676).

RADIO COMMUNICATORS CORNER

On Saturday and Sunday, June 28 & 29th, the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs joined all ham radio operators throughout the world to spend 24 hours to see how many contacts each club could make, and how far away those contacts are. There are various ways each club can earn points in this contest and it gets really exciting to participate in this event. There was also

an educational class on building an antenna, a bbq, and this year they were joined at the park by the Steamers, a train club that runs small gauge trains on small gauge tracks. This activity was a fun way to spend the weekend out in the fresh air, enjoying the company of like minded friends.

COPE had a display to help share the COPE mission and to update radio enthusiasts of the progress the COPE Radio Communicators have made

in the past year.

Several new contacts were made and old friends visited. COPE Rad/Comm members, Wells KK6EXC; Karen, KK6GJW; Eric, AA6EM; Lee KE6EAQ; Adrienne, KI6MED; Glynn, N6GN were either there all weekend or stopped by to say hello. Mike Cereris came by to lend a hand putting up the canopy. If anyone would like more information, contact Lola.

By Lola KK6HRE



**Eric McHenry and Lola Beckley
deep in thought over radios!**



**Lola Beckley, CSR COPE Coordinator
and SCRA Member**

DP4VP

Disaster Preparedness for Vulnerable Populations



Skip Jirrels— Sebastopol CERT, Diana Christopher— Burbank Housing, and Richard Ruge—DP4VP are co-hosting *The Joy of Preparedness* on KOWS radio. This is a two hour radio program on the first Sunday of every month from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. KOWS is a small radio station in Occidental with a planetary reach through the internet. KOWS is 107.3 FM. If KOWS does not reach your radio, you can listen to the program on their website at KOWS107.3.org. Their

studio On-Air Phone is (707) 874-1073. Future programs planned:
 July 6, 2014: COPE, CERT, and Map Your Neighborhood
 August 3, 2014: Ham Radio, American Red Cross, and 211
 September 7, 2014: Area Agency on Aging/ California Senior Legislature: Preparing Seniors, Elder Abuse and Fall Prevention.
 The next meeting of DP4VP will be on Wednesday, August 20, 2014 from noon to 2:00 pm at the Santa Rosa Utilities Field

Operations Building, 35 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa, CA. At this meeting there will be a presentation by Iola Beckley, COPE Coordinator and Chris Jeffery, the Santa Rosa ADA Coordinator. (COPE = Citizens Organized to Prepare for Emergencies) (ADA = Americans with Disabilities Act)
 The November 19, 2014 meeting will be at the Sonoma County Emergency Operations Center.

Their website is: thejoyofpreparedness.com
 Please check it out.

*Mission of DP4VP:
 To awaken in each of us the necessity, the will, and the commitment to act for individual and communal self sufficiency in the event of a disaster.*

Upcoming Events

SAVE THESE DATES

- ⇒ Neighborhood Leader BBQ, August 2, 2014. 2—6 pm
- ⇒ Neighborhood Leader—'Train the Trainer' Training, August 21, 2014. 6:30—8:30 pm
- ⇒ Now That You Have Your Radio License, Now What!? Beginning radio handling class. Thursday, September 18th, 6:30—8:30 pm
- ⇒ COPE Radio Communicators Organizational & Orientation meeting, Thursday, October 9, 2014
- ⇒ COPE Earthquake and Radio Drill, Saturday, October 18, 2014, 10 am—noon.



Watch the COPE eNewsletter and emails and flyers for more complete information

**CITIZENS
ORGANIZED TO
PREPARE FOR**

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Your closest family is your neighbor.

*"Organizing the City of
Santa Rosa,
neighborhood by
neighborhood, street by
street, block by block, to
survive and recover from
any major disaster,"
A.G.*