

COPE eNewsletter

Citizens Organized to Prepare for Emergencies

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Update on COPE at Vista del Lago

There have been great strides made in the COPE program at VDL in 2013. We acquired a new generator and a new transformer box to run electricity in the clubhouse. We enhanced the radio capability of our on-site HAM operations. A set of ten walkie-talkies were ordered and distributed to section leaders. We added six new leaders or co-leaders in seven of our eight neighborhood sections.

Much of this was accomplished with the help of new recruits added when we held last year's Holiday party and Summer Pool Party. In the four months following the pool party we have meet and prepared the new recruits and help them with their individual sections. Some of them have had great success, gathering 80 to 90 percent of their households. Others have not, but are still trying. We have about 50 to

55% of the 309 VDL households under the program at this time. One of the new leaders, Bud, attempted an incentive program to encourage his households to put together their to-go bags and their at-home supplies kit. Only 2 or 3 responded. Another leader, Karen, had greater success with a Saturday morning coffee and cupcakes get together in the parking area of Villages. She promised them (through a flyer) to visit each of their gas meters to demonstrate the proper tool to shut off the gas in case there was a leak at any time, not just an emergency. This personal touch really paid off. ALL of her residents came, except those that were out of town or just one that is not signed up yet. We also outlined the "day of" procedures for an emergency. I sent an article and a flyer to the manager to

be included in the December VDL newsletter for the December Holiday Party. The article was in conjunction with the survey form. Since I have not been able to cover the entire area with leaders, I asked residents who had not been approached to fill out the enclosed form and drop it off at the clubhouse where I have a cubbyhole. I explained very emphatically that the information would ONLY be used for emergency purposes unless they gave permission to use their email address for announcements or the COPE eNewsletter. For 2014 we are planning to have training and drills with the walkie-talkies and the ham radio. And of course, put more efforts into covering the two sections that are without sufficient or any leaders. **Respectfully, Jefra Parlett, VDL Community and Zone 4C**

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If you are ever in the position that you need to open a can or a bottle of wine and you do not have an opener, these videos will show you how:

Wine bottle:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMMdN4AFtqE

Open can:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=EE3vMNwj7FQ&list=TLY1zqF8Fjkj7NXnNdbLVocullS_kOU_3Gf

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How do you prepare for blackouts? Here are a few tips from Ready.gov

Modified by Lauren

1. Follow energy conservation measures to keep the use of electricity as low as possible, which can help power companies avoid imposing rolling blackouts.
2. Fill plastic containers with water and place them in the refrigerator and freezer if there's room. Leave about an inch of space inside each one, because water expands as it freezes. This chilled or frozen water will help keep food cold during a temporary power outage, by displacing air that can warm up quickly with water or ice that keeps cold for several hours without additional refrigeration.
3. Be aware that most medication that requires refrigeration can be kept in a closed refrigerator for several hours without a problem. If unsure, check with your physician or pharmacist.
4. Keep your car tank at least half full because gas stations rely on electricity to power their pumps.
5. Know where the manual release lever of your electric garage door opener is located and how to operate it. Garage doors can be heavy, so know that you may need help to lift it.
6. Keep a key to your house with you if you regularly use the garage as the primary means of entering your home, in case the garage door will not open.

Chris

The Just In Time Disaster Training Library has a good Preparing for a Power Outage video.

Mel

Flashlights, batteries, candles. Lauren, Some of the things I've done recently to prepare of any type of disaster is to buy some sterno heater, the type you place under trays of food to keep them warm. Soup can be heated easily this way.

Matthew

We maintain a preparedness for a variety of situations but for a blackout potential, we charge our cell phones, and rechargeable batteries and double check the batteries in our All

Hazards/Weather Radio and our AM/FM radios. Obviously, we keep a supply of batteries on hand as a "back up" for our battery operated lights. We maintain several battery operated lights and keep the batteries in a small plastic bag attached to the light so as to prevent any corrosion within the lights. It is, also, wise to be sure the batteries in the smoke detectors and CO detector are functional. This is usually accomplished by changing the battery when the time changes. Also, we have a small generator that will keep the freezer or refrigerator functional, along with some lights. If the blackout is localized we may be able to use a TV for news and weather updates.

Jeff

After a long outage we have always had a generator available to maintain refrigerator/freezer integrity and lights for a bit, etc. We don't use the generator immediately, only when the power has been out for a while and will be.

Our primary outage supplies include flashlights and battery powered lamps. We have a propane stove in the kitchen, so cooking isn't an issue like an electric stove would be. Supplies are not an issue because of our moderately sized pantry. I admit that our environment encourages better self-sufficiency, but I heartily recommend that everyone stock a pantry, whether a closet or cupboard, with enough supplies for three days or more, and have a GOOD flashlight and extra batteries, along with a decent battery powered radio for news and information.

David

We keep lots of candles, along with various camping gear (sleeping bags, a couple of small stoves (not to be used indoors), a tent we can pitch in the house to contain warmth if needed, and auxiliary bedding for extra warmth. We also keep water purification tablets and a couple of water filters in case the water supply conks out, along with

several water containers. Our downstairs fireplace could also be used for warmth; we don't keep a supply of firewood, but there are plenty of dead branches in the back yard.

Glen

Several years ago I found a place that sold candles that most churches use. They are in a glass bottle so they will not burn down to start a fire, and they burn for several hours. I bought 12 of them for light when the power is out. I also found that if I put 3 or 4 together and put a grill over them they will heat water not a boil but awful close.

James

An inexpensive voltage converter easily attached to your car battery will continue to recharge dead phone batteries. An inexpensive converter will have 2 standard outlets on it. They will charge/ power most any appliance other than a computer. Keep an eye on your cars battery. If it starts to crank slowly, back the car out of the garage temporarily and allow it to idle while it charges the car battery. Do not allow car to idle in closed garage or where fumes may re-enter into the house. Thirty minutes should be sufficient. Read the directions and attach red leads to positive red colored leads on your car. Disconnect phones and other draw on inverter at night. Avoid charging all night. Recharges should take 2-3 hours maximum. Carry these inverters on the road with you. I do not recommend lighter connected units but they will work for a phone.

Remember to buy and keep handy a hand crank can opener. Lots of stock-in can goods. Be prepared.

Bruce

Maintain prescriptions drugs, don't let them run out. .

The City of Santa Rosa, The Fire Department, and COPE All Welcome Randal A. Collins as the new Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

Randy came to Santa Rosa from the District Programs Branch Director of the Field Services Division for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS). In this position Randy oversaw the State CBRNE Program and Indiana's regional collaboration initiative. He also had a collateral duty of commanding the Indiana Incident Management Assistance Team. Randy was promoted to this position after serving as the Operations Section Chief of the IDHS Response and Recovery Division for nearly a year. Concurrently, Randy serves as the President of the All Hazards Incident Management Teams Association and has been on their Board of Directors since its inception in 2010.

Randy moved to the IDHS from the Indianapolis-Marion County Emergency Management Division. There he served as the Director of Operations, Training, and Exercise for three years and as an Emergency Management Coordinator

for three years. While with Indianapolis, Randy was instrumental in developing a critical infrastructure program, updating the community outdoor warning system, and planning for large special events such as the Indianapolis 500 and the NCAA Final Four Championships.

Prior to being hired with the City of Indianapolis, Randy spent 2 years as the Indiana State Emergency Management Agency (now IDHS) as the Emergency Operations Center Coordinator. He also spent two years as a police / K-9 officer with the Mooresville Police Department. Additionally, Randy has twelve years serving in the United States Marine Corps as a mortar man, Scout-Sniper platoon leader, and urban warfare instructor.

Randy is Certified Emergency Manager through the International Association of Emergency Management and is qualified as a Type 3 Incident Commander in the Indiana Incident

Management Position Qualification System. Randy also has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in law enforcement from the University of Indianapolis. He has participated as an instructor for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, the Center for Domestic Preparedness, Western Community Policing Institute and the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. Throughout his public safety career, he has participated in response and recovery efforts to 18 presidentially declared disasters and emergencies. His most recent incidents were in response to Hurricane Sandy and a tornado outbreak in Southern Indiana.

Randy is originally from Greenwood, Indiana and now lives in Santa Rosa with his wife and son.



Brittany Meadows Reports:

By Sandy Stoddard

Last week The neighborhood's Disaster Preparedness Committee held its semi-annual meeting. Among topics discussed were (not a complete list):

1. The "Home inspection check list" for committee members to use after a major earthquake has been updated to include emergency contact names and numbers.
2. Outdated items in the neighborhood's emergency medical box have been replaced. The cost of the replacement items was \$12.70.
3. Several examples of window signs to be used after a major earthquake have been provided to the neighborhood by the City

of Santa Rosa coordinator for COPE (Citizens Organized to Prepare for Disaster.) One states that the residents of the household have evacuated the home due to earthquake damage. The second sign indicates that there is a pet inside. The committee will reproduce these signs and distribute them around the neighborhood.

4. A draft "Mission Statement" was discussed for the "Brittany Meadows Disaster Preparedness Committee", which sets out in print the roles of committee volunteers in support of neighborhood safety and security.

Mission Statement (Draft):

The Brittany Meadows Disaster Preparedness Committee consists of neighborhood volunteers, helping to prepare their families and homes and those of their fellow residents for potential major disasters; most specifically inevitable earthquakes. They also serve voluntarily as neighborhood emergency response coordinators, when a major disaster occurs. Additionally, committee members serve to help promote awareness of safety and security issues, which could impact residences in the neighborhood.

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Brittany Meadows (Draft) Mission Statement Continued:

- Coordinate neighborhood efforts to prepare for and respond to major disasters, particularly earthquakes.
- Through Internet e-mail and Facebook, communicate regularly with residents in the neighborhood about disaster preparedness and general security awareness.
- Serve as community contacts with the City of Santa Rosa COPE system; keep COPE leadership apprised of emergency preparedness efforts in the neighborhood.
- Coordinate neighborhood participation in the City of Santa Rosa "Neighborhood Watch" program, with the goal of promoting community cooperation and awareness to prevent crime and to keep the neighborhood safe.
- Meet as a group semi-annually to discuss and implement, as necessary, steps to increase neighborhood emergency preparedness; publish minutes of these meeting to the entire neighborhood.
- Maintain a current data bank of residential information for each household (e.g. names of family members, pets, disabilities, unique skills relative to disaster response, etc.), so that in the aftermath of major earthquake or other disaster, committee emergency responders can affectively assess the status of each neighborhood home and occupants; update the data bank annually and meet with new neighbors soon after they have moved in to glean their household info; respect the privacy and confidentiality of the information in the data bank.
- Schedule periodic training, demonstrations, informational briefs, etc. to help maintain a solid level of knowledge and general awareness of disaster preparedness within the neighborhood.
- Coordinate and cooperate with the adjacent neighborhood (Lomita Heights) leadership to provide mutual support in advance of and in the aftermath of potential disasters; exchange information on matters of safety, security and disaster preparation.

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CAN YOUR FAMILY COPE IN AN EMERGENCY?

Do your children have earthquake eyes? Do you? When you walk into a building, notice where the exits and staircases are. What if you are in a store or mall during an earthquake and the lights go out? Keep in mind where you are in relation to the perimeter of a room or building so you can head toward a wall and follow it to an exit. Note potential sources of danger...large glass windows, heavy chandeliers....or what might protect you from danger...strong construction or heavy furniture where you can take cover. Earthquake eyes can save your life.



City of
Santa Rosa
Fire Department