

## The Office of Emergency Management Offers the Following Information

### **Warning:**

The Office of Emergency Management would like the residents of the City to be aware of a fraudulent earthquake warning letter that has circulated in various Los Angeles County communities. The U.S. Geological Survey warned residents on Monday, March 31 about a letter circulating on the Internet claiming that a large earthquake was imminent in Southern California. The letter surfaced following a recent series of earthquakes in Southern California including a magnitude 5.1 quake centered in La Habra on Friday, March 28.

### **Safety First During an Earthquake:**

You cannot tell from the initial shaking if an earthquake will suddenly become intense...so **always** Drop, Cover, and Hold On immediately! However, you may not always be at home or work, so here are some recommendations on how to keep safe when in different locations:



***In a high-rise:*** Avoid windows and other hazards. Do not use elevators. Do not be surprised if sprinkler systems or fire alarms activate.

***In a store:*** A shopping cart or getting inside clothing racks can provide some protection. If you must move to get away from heavy items on high shelves, drop to the ground first and crawl only the shortest distance necessary. Whenever you enter any retail store, take a moment to look around: What is above and around you that could move or fall during an earthquake? Then use your best judgment to stay safe.

***Outdoors:*** Move to a clear area if you can safely do so; avoid power lines, trees, signs, buildings, vehicles, and other hazards.

***Driving:*** Pull over to the side of the road, stop, and set the parking brake. Avoid overpasses, bridges, power lines, signs and other hazards. Stay inside the vehicle until the shaking is over. If a power line falls on the car, stay inside until a trained person removes the wire.

***In a stadium or theater:*** Stay at your seat or drop to the floor between rows and protect your head and neck with your arms. Don't try to leave until the shaking is over. Then walk out slowly watching for anything that could fall in the aftershocks.

***Near the shore:*** If severe shaking lasts twenty seconds or more, immediately evacuate to high ground as a Tsunami might have been generated by the earthquake. Move inland two miles or to land that is at least 100 feet above sea level immediately. Don't wait for officials to issue a warning. Walk quickly, rather than drive, to avoid traffic, debris and other hazards.

**Below a dam:** Dams can fail during a major earthquake. Catastrophic failure is unlikely, but if you live downstream from a dam, you should know floodzone information and have prepared an evacuation plan.

**For additional earthquake safety tips, please call the Office of Emergency Management at 951.413.3800.**

## **Wildfire is coming... Are you ready?**

### ***Ready. Set. Go!***

- ***Being Ready***

Wildfire Preparedness Being Ready for wildfire starts with maintaining an adequate Defensible Space and by hardening your home by using fire resistant building materials. Defensible Space is the buffer you create by removing dead plants, grass and weeds. This buffer helps to keep the fire away from your home. Hardening your home means using construction materials that can help your home withstand flying embers finding weak spots in the construction, which can result in your house catching fire. It takes the combination of both Defensible Space and the hardening of your home to really give your house the best chance of surviving a wildfire.



- ***Getting Set***

Before wildfire strikes, it is important that you get Set. Prepare yourself and your home for the possibility of having to **evacuate**. There are three main preparation actions should be completed and familiar to all members of your household long in advance of a wildfire.



### **Three Steps to Getting Set:**

1. Create a **Wildfire Action Plan** that includes evacuation planning for your home, family and pets.
2. Assemble an **Emergency Supply Kit** for each person in your household.
3. Fill-out a **Family Communication Plan** that includes important evacuation and contact information.

- ***GO!***

Evacuation Guide Give your household the best chance of surviving a wildfire by being ready to go and evacuating early. This includes going through pre-evacuation preparation steps (only if time allows) to increase your home's defenses, as well as creating a Wildfire Action Plan for your family. Being ready to go also means knowing when to evacuate and what to do if you become trapped. Remember:



When immediate evacuation is necessary, follow these steps as soon as possible to get ready to GO! Review your Evacuation Plan Checklist Ensure your Emergency Supply Kit is in your vehicle. Cover-up to protect against heat and flying embers. Wear long pants, long sleeve shirt, heavy shoes/boots, cap, dry bandanna for face cover, goggles or glasses. 100% cotton is preferable. Locate your pets and take them with you.

- See more at: <http://www.readyforwildfire.org/go#sthash.iM3akIEi.dpuf>

## **Hoarding Conditions are Fire Hazards**

Riverside County firefighters annually respond to fires at residential properties. The causes of residential fires can range from an electrical fire to an accidental cooking fire. During the investigation of some of these fires, it appeared that there was an excessive amount of debris throughout the residence that prevented a quick escape and created challenges to firefighters trying to make access to put the fire out – most likely due to hoarding.

Hoarding is an excessive collection of materials that interfere with day-to-day functions. The problem can cause safety hazards and can be life-threatening. Hoarding is a form of obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) and professional help may be necessary. Moreno Valley firefighters go to calls and have seen these conditions on numerous occasions. When observed, the Moreno Valley Fire Prevention Bureau will refer the problem to the Riverside County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS). This county agency is specially trained in how to handle mental health issues such as hoarding. The goal of DPSS is to help the individual get their life back while encouraging them to comply with local and state regulations.



So what are some of the signs of hoarding behavior?

- Blocked entries and exits due to the accumulation of large number of belongings.
- Narrow or limited pathways in the home due to accumulation of materials.
- Large piles of combustible materials such as newspapers, magazines, used food containers and rubbish.
- Excessive collection and storage of items in the residence, yard, and/or a vehicle that interferes with the intended use of that space.
- Foul odors emanating from the home.
- Excessive amount of companion animals.
- Vermin and/or insect infestations.
- Spoiled and/or rotting food.
- Accumulated human and/or animal waste.
- Non-working or inaccessible utilities, such as heat, running water, sewer, refrigeration.

Individuals who encounter hoarding situations are asked to contact the Moreno Valley Fire Prevention Bureau at [fireprevention@moval.org](mailto:fireprevention@moval.org). For more information on the Riverside County Department of Public Social Services, visit [www.dpss.co.riverside.ca.us](http://www.dpss.co.riverside.ca.us).