



Charles C. Gibson, Chief of Police

PREPAREDNESS MATTERS

Be a partner in preparedness...be ready!



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Contra Costa Community College District • 500 Court Street • Martinez, CA 94553 • (925)229-1000 • <http://www.4cd.net>

National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month and we challenge you to become a partner in preparedness:

- Get a kit
- Make a plan
- Be informed
- Get involved

National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort held each September to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. National Preparedness Month 2007 is sponsored by the [U.S. Department of Homeland Security](#).

The goal of the month is to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies and to encourage individuals to take action. Throughout September, Homeland Security will work with a wide variety of organizations, including local, state and federal government agencies and the private sector, to highlight the importance of family emergency preparedness and promote individual involvement.

We invite you to review the National Preparedness Month information in this newsletter and participate in this important effort.

In This Issue:

National Preparedness Month.....Page 1
 District Preparedness: What's New?.....Page 2
 Amateur Radio Operators Needed.....Page 4



Community Emergency Response Team training helps provide community members with the skills needed to help others during times of emergency.

Photo Credit: Teddy Terstegge, CCCC Police



Be sure to visit the Emergency Preparedness section of the District website to learn more about the ways you can stay safe during an emergency!

www.4cd.net/911

"Fortune favors the prepared mind."
-- Luis Pasteur

District Preparedness: What's New?

As many of you may already know, I was recently appointed to a newly-created position in our department. On July 1, I became the full-time Emergency Services Coordinator for our district. In addition to being the agency contact for terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) issues, I will be responsible for district-wide management of our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and emergency preparedness programs.

Recent Events:

Over the past year, we have had a number of events or incidents affect our district. While most offered only minor inconvenience, nearly all of these incidents could have been worse if conditions were different or they had not been handled properly. These incidents include:

- CCC Governor's visit (Oct '06)
- DVC bomb threats (Oct '06)
- LMC Constitution Day Event (Nov '06)
- DVC fire and evacuation (Mar '07)
- Virginia Tech tragedy (Apr '07)
- LMC/DVC criminal threats (Apr '07)
- LMC bomb threat (May '07)
- DVC power outage (May '07)
- Calpine chemical release (May '07)
- Martinez grass fire (Jul '07)
- DVC Warrant Sweep (Jul '07)
- Kirker Pass radiation release (Sep '07)

During the past few months, one of the questions I am most frequently asked has been:

"What is the District doing to prepare for emergencies?"

At the end of August, I answered that question when I presented a report to the Governing Board on the state of the District's emergency preparedness. I am sure you'll be pleased to hear that their response to this presentation was highly favorable and supportive.

This article is an abbreviated version of that report and I hope that you will all find it of interest.

Accomplishments

First, I was very happy to report that we had already completed a number of significant projects.

Continued on Page 3



A Walnut Creek Police Bomb Squad member assists at the scene of last year's bomb threat at Diablo Valley College.

Photo Credit: Tom Gill, CC County Sheriff's Dept.

Tip of the Month:

Do your part to keep your workplace free of hazards.

To minimize your risk of injury during an earthquake, secure furnishings and store heavy objects near floor level. Keep aisles and emergency exits clear at all times. Store chemicals and tools safely.

Remember: Safety is everyone's responsibility!

District Preparedness (from Page 2)

Our list of accomplishments includes:

- Development of a full-time Emergency Services Coordinator assignment
- Establishment of an emergency preparedness section on the District website
- Completion of District Police “Active Shooter” update training
- Completion of a variety of public education activities, including an emergency procedures orientation for all new district employees
- Participation in a number of local and regional emergency preparedness, response, and planning groups
- Expanded participation of our police department in local mutual aid programs

It is important to note that most of these projects, while they may be considered complete, are ongoing efforts.



Officers from CCCCD and Pleasant Hill Police Departments respond to a simulated “active shooter” incident during a joint training session.

Photo credit: Teddy Terstegge, CCCCD Police

Current Actions

In addition to these recent successes, a large number of preparedness projects are currently in progress.

These include:

- District-wide emergency training for all response, support, and management personnel
- Update of our District Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)
- Upgrade of existing Emergency Alert Systems (EAS), including installation of alert sirens at CCC, DVC, LMC, and SRC
- Development of an Emergency Public Information Officer (EPIO) Team
- Development of a district-wide Emergency Preparedness Committee
- Implementation of a public education campaign to promote emergency preparedness
- Expansion of the District’s Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program
- Development of disaster supply caches (with planned expansion to include *all* district sites)
- Development of a District Police Mobile Command Post
- Establishment of a district-wide drill and exercise program
- Expansion of the District Police Special Event Team (SET) functions to include emergency preparedness activities

Future Projects

While we are making a great deal of progress toward our preparedness goals, there remains a great deal of work ahead. In the near future, our district will be expanding its efforts to include:

- Disaster Service Worker programs to train key district personnel
- Emergency Operations Guides to provide user-friendly access to emergency information
- Crisis Management Teams at all sites
- Emergency Operations Centers at all sites

There will be many opportunities for you to become involved in the preparedness process over the weeks and months ahead. We’re getting ready. *Are you?*



Next Month:

Would you know how to react if a major earthquake struck the Bay Area? Our next issue will be dedicated to earthquake safety and preparedness.

Other Features:

- **Getting Involved**
- **Workplace Preparedness**
- **Disaster Service Workers**



Did you know...

Did you know that our district has a new method of communicating important information during times of emergency?

If an emergency occurs and it affects any of our campuses or district sites, District Police may post information and updates on the Internet. The Alert Bulletins page may be accessed through the District Home Page or directly through this URL:

http://www.4cd.net/police_services/alertbulletins.asp

We recommend you bookmark the page for quick access during an emergency.

Upcoming Preparedness Events:

Fall 2007: Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training at DVC

Spring 2007: Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training at CCC

Amateur Radio Operators Needed

Since the ability to communicate is critical to the success of any response effort--and we may not always be able to rely on traditional methods of communications, our district Emergency Services Unit is planning to develop and license its own team of radio operators. These radio operators will be used to help support communications between our district and other emergency response organizations.

If you are an FCC-licensed amateur radio operator and interested in helping establish a Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) unit within our district, please contact the Emergency Services Coordinator (contact information below).



Comments or Questions? Suggestions for future issues? Please contact the Emergency Services Coordinator:

Officer Teddy M. Terstegge
 Los Medanos College Office
 2700 East Leland Road
 Pittsburg, CA 94565
 (925)439-1505 (Telephone)
 (925)427-1665 (Fax)
 E-Mail: tterstegge@losmedanos.edu