



**MAY 2014**

## **Quarterly Community Newsletter**

### **EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS**

Over the last few months we have received reports of earthquakes all over the east section of the Pacific Rim. It must be our turn. There were reports of earthquakes along the coastal regions of South America, Mexico, the U.S.A. and Canada. These are not new. They have happened before, from time-to-time. Therefore, it always a good idea to review and update our own earthquake safety and security just in case another big one happens here.

Here in the inland area of Riverside County, we have three faults to be aware of and concerned about. To the west of our Valley we have the Lake Elsinore Fault. Here in our Valley we have the San Jacinto Fault (it starts in the Cajon Pass above San Bernardino and travels thru to Anza). To the east, over the mountains, we have the famous San Andres Fault. All three of the faults could move and cause us trouble. It's very important that we, our family, our friends, and our neighbors be prepared when this will happen. Why? People will help us, right? Yes, they will. But they might not be able to get where we are for a few days. We must be able to help ourselves and the people who are around us at the time an earthquake happens. We are on our own until things begin to settle down.

We would like to make some suggestions to make us all safer.

First we'd like to suggest you consider signing up for the City of Hemet Community Response Team (CERT), offered by the City of Hemet Fire Department. Following is a description of what the CERT program has to offer.

Second, we would like to suggest you consider making plans with your Neighborhood Watch group. Following the CERT description is what we recommend you and your neighbors can do to make yourself safer until the outside world can help us.

## CITY OF HEMET COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) PROGRAM

If available, emergency service professionals are the best trained and equipped to handle emergencies, however, following a catastrophic disaster, the citizens of Hemet may be on their own for a period of time because of the size of the area affected, lost communications, and impassable roads. Recognizing this fact, the City has implemented a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. It was realized that some basic training in disaster survival and rescue skills would improve the ability of our citizens to survive until professional responders or other assistance could arrive.

This type of training has proven to be so beneficial that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has adopted and supported the implementation of a nationally standardized course.

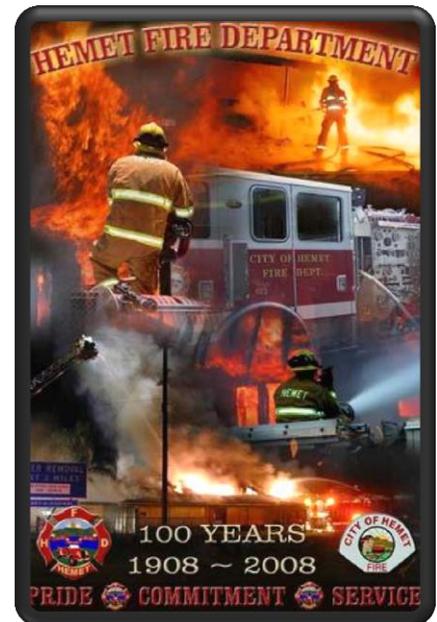
The Training Blocks include:

- 1. Disaster Preparedness.**
- 2. Disaster Fire Suppression.**
- 3. Disaster Medical Operations – Part 1**
- 4. Disaster Medical Operations – Part 2**
- 5. Light search and Rescue Operations.**
- 6. Disaster Psychology and Team Organization.**
- 7. Terrorism.**

Upon successful completion of the course, the participants receive a certificate of training. Course participants also receive a hardhat, reflective vest and equipment waist pack. They then become members of the City of Hemet CERT program. All course participants are invited back for an annual "Disaster Day" refresher training to practice and enhance their skills. With training and practice, the CERT teams will be able to do the greatest good for the greatest number after a disaster and communicate the needs of the community to the emergency services professionals who can then prioritize their responses.

The CERT program is actively supported by the Hemet City Fire Department and the Hemet Fire Fighters Association.

For more information about this program, contact **Buddy Riley** at: [BRRiley@cityofhemet.org](mailto:BRRiley@cityofhemet.org) or **(951) 765-2450**.



## **ROLE OF NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH DURING MAJOR DISASTER**

*Neighborhood Watch plays an extremely important role during a major disaster. Police and Fire services will be inundated with calls and in many cases will not be able to respond to minor calls or to check individual neighborhoods for damage and injury. The concept of "people helping people" really applies in a disaster situation because Neighborhood Watch members will be working within their block areas to check on the welfare of persons and property. The following are the procedures that should be followed by Neighborhood Watch Participants.*

### **A. Each Household Initially Checks Itself**

1. Calm everyone.
2. Check to see if anyone is injured.
3. Administer first aid if needed.
4. Survey damages to the house, check for structural damages as well as other property damage.
5. Determine if re-entry into the house is safe.

### **B. Check On Your Neighbors. Disabled individuals and shut-ins are particularly vulnerable and may need assistance**

1. Go to your neighbors to assist with first aid and to help them survey damages to their home.
2. Try to determine if the house is safe for re-entry.
3. Offer your neighbor shelter if their house does not appear safe to occupy.

### **C. Prepare to Relay Information on Welfare and Damage**

1. As you check on your home and the people and property around you, make notes on your observations and the immediate needs of your neighborhood.
2. Have this information available so that you can provide this to Police or Fire personnel who may come to the neighborhood.
3. You may be directed to relay this information to Police and Fire via your Block Captains or Area Coordinators.
4. Do not expect immediate action from the person to whom you relay this information. They will alert the City Emergency Operations Center who will prioritize response and assistance.

### **D. Keep Phone Lines Clear So Important Calls Can Go Through**

1. In most major disasters, the phones are inoperative for a period of time.
2. Do not use the phone unless you have an emergency that requires immediate attention.
3. Avoid tying up 911 emergency lines. Police and Fire only have a limited number of these lines and they should only be used for a pressing emergency.
4. **DO NOT** call 911 to ask police/fire if we just had an Earthquake.

5. **DO NOT** call 911 to tell dispatchers we just had an Earthquake.
6. **DO** call 911 if you have a serious injury, fire, gas leak you cannot stop, etc.

E. **Have a Portable Radio Tuned to Emergency Announcements & Broadcasts**

1. Not all announcements may deal specifically with Hemet, but listen for those that give information on evacuations and sheltering areas.
2. The City Emergency Operations Center will give media releases as soon as possible, with details of the scope of a local emergency.

F. **Amateur Radio Communications**

1. If you have a Ham radio operator on your block, you should keep in touch with him/her. They will have radio access to the local Police and Fire services.

G. **Police and/or Fire Personnel will Attempt to inform Residents on the Status of the Event and Actions Needed to be Taken by Block Captains**

1. Area Coordinators and Block Captains will disseminate information as directed by the Crime Prevention Officer and/or the Volunteer Services Coordinator.

H. **Welfare Check Requests from Outside Areas**

1. Friends and relatives from outside our region will be concerned for the safety and status of people in our Community. The Crime Prevention Officer or Volunteer Services Coordinator may request that you contact various persons in your area, checking on their welfare and then report back to the Police Department.

## **VACATION SECURITY UPDATES**

It's Spring again! And all kinds of events could appear on your calendars; graduations, anniversaries, weddings, social events, picnics, sports events, and many more. Plus, we are getting close to Summer. You might want to travel to see your family or friends and/or enjoy an area away from your home. Go, have fun and relax! But first remember, home security is very important. Let us remind you of things you can do to make your home and possessions more secure even if you are not there.

**OUTSIDE:**

1. Go to the Post Office to stop your mail, or ask a family member or friend you trust, to pick up your mail every day.
2. Call your newspaper and ask them to stop the daily delivery. If you do not have a newspaper delivered daily, ask your mail-pick-up person to also pick up all throw-aways on your driveway or front bushes.
3. Ask a trusted neighbor to park in your driveway from time to time.

4. Make sure your gardening service continues to take care of your yard while you are gone.
5. Go to the Hemet Police Department and request Volunteers do Vacation Checks on your home. Allow 30 mins to complete the form so you understand the limitations and what the Volunteers will and will not do.
  - Main Station – 450 E. Latham Avenue.
  - East Sub Station – 1985 E. Florida Avenue.
  - Hemet Valley Mall Sub Station – 2200 W. Florida Ave., Ste 110.
  - West Sub Station – Target Center at 3663 W. Florida Avenue.
6. If you don't already have them, consider installing motion sensor lights on the outside of your home and/or garage where a burglar cannot easily unscrew the bulb.
7. Follow the 3/6-foot rule: Trim shrubs in front of your house and garage to no higher than 3 feet. Trim trees so that the lowest branches are at least 6 feet up. (That will create less space for burglars to hide.)
8. Do not hide a spare key to your home locks anywhere outside (flower pots, door mat, mailbox) that's remotely obvious. Give the keys to your trusted neighbor or friend.
9. Secure the first floor window air conditioner with a bracket outside and sliding window locks.
10. Do not line up your suit cases in the driveway as you pack your car or wait for a taxi. It broadcasts your absence. Try packing your car while it's in the garage or out-of-sight.

### **INSIDE:**

1. Cover garage windows so that no one knows whether a car is inside.
2. Lock up ladders and tools that could be used to break in your garage or home or both.
3. Give your home a "lived in" look by putting lights on timers, in the kitchen, in the living room and in the bedroom; not just the front of the house.
4. Consider putting a radio on a timer. You might want to tune it to a talk show station. Make sure it can be heard outside the house, but not too loud.
5. Leave open, or partly open, a few blinds or shades on a few of your windows. Shutting all of them creates a deserted look.
6. Consider placing safety film over windows near door handles to make glass hard to break.
7. Turn down the volume of your home phones ringer.
8. Hide valuables well. Do not leave valuable or precious jewelry in your jewelry box.
9. Bolt down safes so they cannot be picked up and carried out.
10. Place solid sticks in the bottom track of your sliding glass doors and sliding glass windows.

11. Never leave an outgoing message on your phone's answering machine or your computer Facebook or other social network, announcing you are going on vacation. You can tell your friends what a great time you had when you get home.
12. Give the friend or neighbor who is watching your home the name, address, and phone number of the place you are vacationing in so they can contact you if they have a question or there is a problem.

## **SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRY**

Good News. Good News. Hemet PD's Deputy Chief Rob Webb and the Hemet Police Department launched another new program that will help people. The program is called **Special Needs Registry**.

The Special Needs Registry will help parents, caregivers, and people with conditions such as (but not limited to) Autism, Attention-Deficit-Disorder, Schizophrenia, Turret's Syndrome, hearing impairments, and Downs Syndrome. Police Officers will be provided personalized information from the Registry when they are called to help.

Here is how it works. If you are a parent or a caregiver for someone noted above, you can use your computer to access the Hemet Police website at [www.hemetpolice.org](http://www.hemetpolice.org) Once on the page, click **COMMUNITY SERVICES** then **SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRY**. The direct registration link is at: [www.cityofhemet.org/index.aspx?nid=629](http://www.cityofhemet.org/index.aspx?nid=629) .

Sample questions on the Registry form are:

- Is there a special interest (outside of their residence) that your loved one is drawn to?
- Is the registered person verbal or non-verbal?
- Does the registered person fear police or fire/EMS persons or emergency vehicles?
- If your loved one becomes confrontational, how could officers or rescue personnel calm them without your presence?
- Does your loved one have any triggers, i.e. Lights, sirens, loud radio voices?

If you need assistance with the application you can go to one of the four stations where volunteers can help you through the process. All the information in the registry is kept confidential and will only be used by law enforcement when / if needed.

The completed registration forms can be sent or dropped off at the following addresses:

Hemet Police Department

- ◆ Main Station – 450 E. Latham Ave. (Main Lobby)
- ◆ East Sub Station – 1985 E. Florida Ave.
- ◆ Hemet Valley Mall Sub Station – 2200 W. Florida Ave., Suite 110.
- ◆ West Sub Station – Target Center at 3663 W. Florida Ave.

The registry is a companion to the Hemet Police Department Alzheimer's Registry where older residents with Alzheimer, dementia, and similar conditions can also be signed up to help Police find them if they wander away from their homes.

# **STAY CONNECTED with the Hemet PD Quarterly Neighborhood Watch Newsletter!!**

## **To START your e-mail Subscription:**

Send an E-Mail to [nmiller@cityofhemet.org](mailto:nmiller@cityofhemet.org) with "Subscribe to Newsletter" in the Subject Line.

## **To CANCEL your Subscription:**

Send an E-Mail to [nmiller@cityofhemet.org](mailto:nmiller@cityofhemet.org) with "Cancel Newsletter" in the Subject Line.

## **To EDIT your Subscription:**

Send an E-Mail to [nmiller@cityofhemet.org](mailto:nmiller@cityofhemet.org) with "Edit E-Mail" in the Subject Line. Please include your new e-mail address in the e-mail.

## **To DOWNLOAD and/or view Newsletter from our Web-Site:**

Go to [www.hemetpolice.org](http://www.hemetpolice.org) then click **Community Services** then **Quarterly Newsletter**.

## **To RECEIVE TEXT and/or E-MAIL ALERTS from the Hemet Police Web-Site:**

Go to <http://www.cityofhemet.org/list.aspx> then follow the 'NOTIFY ME' instructions. Select 'POLICE' under the NEWS FLASH HEADING.

## **To follow HEMET POLICE on FACEBOOK:**

Go to <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Hemet-Police-Department/509975339028943?ref=ts> and LIKE US!

***\*\*As always, we will NEVER sell, loan, rent or otherwise share your personal information\*\****

## **HEMET POLICE WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU**

### **DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION? WE HAVE ANSWERS!**

Send your comments, suggestions, question, or just interesting thoughts to the Hemet Police Department. We might even publish them in a future edition of the Quarterly Newsletter. Reach us at:

**Hemet Police Department  
Neighborhood Watch  
1985 E. Florida Avenue  
Hemet, CA 92543**

**Phone  
(951) 765-2415**

**E-Mail  
HPDEastStation@gmail.com**

**Fax  
(951) 765-2412**

## Procedures for Ordering & Installation of Neighborhood Watch Signs

Approved NW signs may be purchased at a retailer of your choosing, but we recommend you utilize well-known and established businesses like (but not limited to) National Neighborhood Watch Institute, Amazon, or local Hemet retailers.

Once one (or more) of the signs are purchased and approved by a member of the NW Team, the NW team-member will deliver the sign(s) to the Hemet PD Community Services Sergeant. The Sergeant will make an appointment with City crews for installation. Installation times cannot be guaranteed and will be completed as time allows.

Signs will be limited to roadways where the general public can see them and will only be installed on established City-Maintained poles. Do not purchase more signs than can be installed on City-Maintained poles. Generally these are City light or traffic poles within a neighborhood, although City staff will determine final locations based on safety and visibility. Signs will not be installed on Private Property.

The approved signs are:

**REFLECTIVE Masked Bad Guy – POLICE**

**REFLECTIVE Boris the Burglar – POLICE**

**Optional Customization may include: Hemet Police Department 911 or 951 765-2400**

**No other Customization is authorized.**

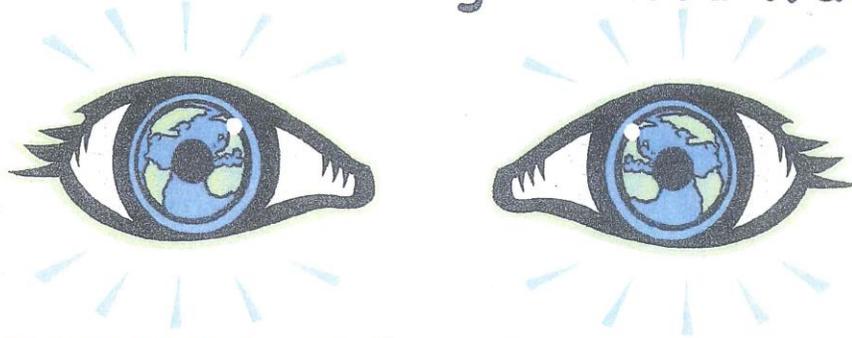
The approved size (for either option) is:

**18" x 24"**



**\*\* Please verify the sign you choose to purchase is an approved REFLECTIVE sign. Hemet PD and the City of Hemet will NOT be responsible for failure to install unapproved signs \*\***

## Just what is a "Neighborhood Watch?"



**IT IS NOT** a Vigilante Posse or Committee

**IT IS NOT** a street patrol group

**IT IS NOT** a social club

**IT IS**

a group of nearby neighbors of yours who remain alert to overt or suspicious activity in your immediate neighborhood and who alert the authorities of those activities.

**IT IS**

a group of your neighbors who meet occasionally to share information and ideas about means to maintain and improve the safety of our homes and our community.

**IT IS**

a group of your neighbors who will keep an eye on your home while you are away on vacation or other extended absence.

**WE NEED YOU - COME JOIN US**