



City of
OAKLAND
California

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News from: Oakland Fire Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Oakland 9th Annual CORE Citywide Emergency Preparedness Exercise

Oakland, CA — On Saturday, April 26, 2014, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, the City of Oakland Fire Department, Emergency Management Services Division will conduct its 9th Annual CORE Program Citywide Emergency Response Exercise.

Communities of Oakland Respond to Emergencies (CORE) is among the first community preparedness public education programs in the nation; established in 1989 after the Loma Prieta Earthquake.

“This event is an opportunity for Oakland residents to gather with neighbors and practice their skills in responding to a major disaster,” said Renee Domingo, Director of Emergency Management Services Division. Ms. Domingo went on to say “The goal of this year’s exercise is for participating groups to practice Neighborhood assessment, Disaster First Aid skills and radio communications in order to improve their ability to function in an emergency.”

The Annual CORE Citywide Exercise provides an opportunity for Oakland residents to test their disaster preparedness skills and capabilities at a neighborhood level. On Saturday, April 26th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, a simulated major earthquake on the Hayward fault will provide over 500 individuals representing over 30 neighborhoods throughout Oakland with an opportunity to practice their skills in responding to a major earthquake or other significant disaster. Other exercise participants will include local ham radio operators, City of Oakland staff and firefighters.

“Neighbors may have to rely on each other for at least the first 72 hours of an emergency; therefore, we must constantly grow resident preparedness that starts in the home and expands to neighborhoods. Oaklanders are encouraged to have a plan, know your plan, work your plan, and share your plan. Our department is here to help and support these efforts so all residents are trained, capable and ready.”
said Fire Chief Teresa Deloach Reed.

This year, in addition to the City-Wide Neighborhoods Exercise, CORE staff and lead instructors are hosting a neighborhood simulation exercise for individuals at the Oakland Fire Department Training Division located at 250 Victory Court in Oakland. This component of the event is designed to give those without a CORE neighborhood group the opportunity to participate in the Citywide Exercise.

“The steps you take now to prepare can make a significant difference in how well you, your neighborhood and the City of Oakland respond to and recover from a major disaster.” said Mayor Jean Quan.

Interested media should come to the Fire Training Center located at 250 Victory Court in Oakland between the hours of 10:00 am and 10:30 am, for an opportunity to see community members practicing plan, skills and what they’ve learned.

About CORE

CORE is a free emergency and disaster prevention, preparedness and response training program for individuals, neighborhood groups and community-based organizations in Oakland. CORE teaches self-reliance skills and helps neighborhoods establish response teams to take care of the neighborhood until professional emergency personnel arrive. A major disaster will overwhelm first responders, leaving many community members on their own for the first 72 hours or longer after the emergency. Since its inception in 1990, the CORE program has provided free, community-based training to more than 20,000 residents. Oakland residents who are interested in signing up for free CORE training or who would like help forming CORE groups in their own neighborhoods can contact CORE at (510) 238-6351 or core@oaklandnet.com.

Exercise plans, exercise guides, individual participant activity lists and other educational and information resources are available for download from the CORE website at www.oaklandcore.org.

For more information contact Renee Domingo at (510) 238-3939 or radomingo@oaklandnet.com.

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