



VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF

MEDIA RELEASE

BOB BROOKS, Sheriff

www.VCSD.org

Nature of Event: Earthquake Abroad Reminds Residents to Prepare

Date & Time: April 7, 2009 10:00 AM

Unit Responsible: Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services

Narrative:

As rescue efforts from the 6.3 magnitude earthquake in Italy continue, the Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services is continuing its effort to educate and better prepare Ventura County residents should such a disaster occur in our community.

"Our thoughts are with the victims, families and rescue personnel in L'Aquila, Italy. The damages and loss of lives are truly a tragedy, yet an important reminder to Ventura County residents to be prepared," said Laura Hernandez, Assistant Director of the Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services.

Ventura County is vulnerable to a wide range of disasters including earthquakes, floods, fires, hazardous material incidents, transportation accidents, tsunamis and terrorism. Local officials are encouraging residents to be prepared by making an emergency supply kit, developing a family communications plan and being informed about the local hazards in Ventura County. Residents are also encouraged to consider making preparations in advance for family members with special needs and their pets.

"By taking some simple steps now we can protect our families and ourselves," said Hernandez.

The Emergency Planning Council adopted a theme of "Be Prepared Enough To Help Your Neighbor" earlier this year to encourage residents be prepared and ready to assist those around them in times of disaster.

Knowing what to do during a disaster may make all the difference when seconds count. During an earthquake or aftershock, residents should drop to the floor, take cover under a sturdy desk or table, and hold on to it firmly. Do not try to go outside during shaking. If outside, move to a clear area if you can safely do so avoiding power lines, trees, and other hazards.

For more information on preparing, responding and recovering from a disaster in Ventura County, please visit the County of Ventura website at www.countyofventura.org and click on the Disaster Information link. This website will also display current information in the event of an emergency and educate residents on the hazards in our area. Questions regarding disaster preparedness may be directed to the Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services at (805) 654-2551.

Administrator Preparing Release: Cynthia Elliott, OES Program Administrator (805) 654-3655

Follow-up Contact: Cynthia Elliott, OES Program Administrator (805) 654-3655

Approved By: Captain Ross Bonfiglio

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