



VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF

MEDIA RELEASE

BOB BROOKS, Sheriff

www.VCSD.org

Nature of Event: Ventura County Joins National Campaign in Recognizing September as National Preparedness Month

Date & Time: September 2, 2009 10:00 AM

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

Narrative:

The County of Ventura is taking part in a nationwide coordinated effort to encourage individuals, families and organizations to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. September is National Preparedness Month and the County of Ventura will be joining a wide variety of national, state and local organizations, including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, in educating the public about preparing for emergencies.

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services has continued its commitment to educating residents and improving operations during a disaster. Last year, efforts were focused on educating Ventura County employees by offering disaster preparedness courses and completing a survey to measure the level of employees personal preparedness. "The 2008 survey results showed us that 83 percent of our employees have taken steps to be prepared," said Laura Hernandez, Assistant Director of the Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services. This year the Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services is continuing efforts to educate employees to prepare for disasters. "It is important that our employees prepare at home in the event they are called to assist during a local emergency," said Hernandez.

All Ventura County employees are Disaster Service Workers. As Disaster Service Workers, the role of County employees includes reporting to work and being prepared to assist in an emergency as assigned by their supervisor, including activities that are outside their normal scope of work.

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Service is encouraging other employers to do similar planning with their employees and take measures to help employees be prepared at home, work and school. Knowing what to do during an emergency is an important part of being prepared and may make all the difference when seconds count.

For more information on National Preparedness Month, please visit the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's website at www.ready.gov.

For more information of how to prepare, please visit the County of Ventura website at www.countyofventura.org and click on the Disaster Information link. This website will display current information in the event an emergency, educate residents on the hazards in our area, and provide a resource on how to prepare, respond and recover from a disaster in our area.

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