



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Frances L. Edwards

**SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS
MONTH**

DATE: March 29, 2004

Approved

Date

COUNCIL DISTRICT: City-Wide

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council proclaims April 2004 as Earthquake Preparedness Month in San Jose.

BACKGROUND

The annual Earthquake Preparedness Month campaign during April encourages the residents to get "Ready to Ride Out The Quake!" During the past year we have seen a devastating earthquake in Iran, as well as a deadly earthquake within our own state in San Luis Obispo County. These events have shown the importance of mitigation steps, including strong building codes, and personal safety training. With the continuing focus on the possibility of terrorism it is important to highlight to residents that the emergency preparedness steps for earthquakes and other natural hazards are also the right steps to take to be prepared for an attack against our community.

ANALYSIS

1. San Jose **Prepared!** classes are a resource to the community to develop knowledge and equipment caches for all-hazards safety and emergency response in the neighborhood. San Jose **Prepared!** classes can now be offered in the neighborhoods using our trailer.
2. Office of Emergency Services staff members are distributing publicity materials and emergency preparedness brochures to the City's libraries, Senior Centers, community centers, City Hall Lobby and Community Policing Centers for distribution to the public throughout the month.
3. The first Saturday in April was the citywide San Jose **Prepared!** exercise, this year featuring a scenario of earthquake-caused damage leading to an explosion. This offered the residents of the neighborhoods, with the San Jose Prepared! teams, the opportunity to practice their skills and involve their neighbors in emergency preparedness.

4. The annual 24 hour Generator Test in the Emergency Operations Center, overseen by General Services' staff and RACES volunteers, will be held on April 24. Running the generator for a prolonged test once a year enables staff to evaluate and repair problems before the generator is required in an emergency.
5. On April 24 residents of San Jose are invited to the Old Emergency Operations Center at 171 West Mission to review the city's pre-disaster hazard mitigation activities and learn how they may become partners in ongoing emergency preparedness.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

San Jose *Prepared!* and RACES members have been invited to participate in all the Earthquake Preparedness month activities and urged to bring their neighbors to the events.

COST IMPLICATIONS

San Jose *Prepared!* activities and the overtime for City staff for the generator test are budgeted annually.

COORDINATION

Not applicable.

CEQA

Not a project.

Frances L. Edwards, Ph.D., CEM
Director, Office of Emergency Services