

September is National Preparedness Month

By NBPD Emergency Services Coordinator Katie Eing

The recent earthquakes in Southern California and the landslide in Rancho Palos Verdes serve as recent reminders that disasters can strike at any time. During the month of September, which has been designated as National Preparedness Month by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Newport Beach Fire and Police Departments encourages community members to “start a conversation” to become better prepared for all disasters and emergencies.

If you are new to emergency planning, or could use a refresher, a great place to start is the [“Newport Beach Ready” Emergency Preparedness Guide](#). The guide contains critical information on water and food storage, building an emergency kit, evacuation checklists, basic first aid, animal preparedness and tips on what to do in specific events. The guide is in PDF form to allow for easier printing (we recommend residents print copies as references in the event of a power outage).



Click on photo for a larger image

Courtesy of NBPD

NBPD Emergency Services Coordinator Katie Eing (right) with Fire Services Coordinator David Gibson (left) who oversees Newport Beach's CERT Program. When it comes to disaster preparedness, it is a team effort involving Police and Fire – and the community.

The city's [Disaster Preparedness](#) website has additional information and videos on how to prepare for a variety of natural and man-made emergencies, such as [earthquakes](#), fires, [tsunamis](#), [storm flooding](#), [power outages](#) and acts of [terrorism](#). It also includes a list of partner agencies, such as [FEMA](#) and [ReadyOC](#), along with links.

If you haven't done so already, we encourage you to sign-up for emergency notifications.

–For Newport Beach emergencies, significant traffic impacts and police activities, you can subscribe to the Police Department's [Newport Notified](#) system to receive direct communication. You can configure your Newport Notified account as desired to receive text messages, emails, and voice mails to cell phones and landlines.

–Major Newport Beach and countywide emergency alerts will be broadcast through the [AlertOC mass notification system](#), operated by the County of Orange in collaboration with local cities. Through AlertOC, time-sensitive voice messages from the County of Orange or Newport Beach can be sent to your home, cell, or business phone. Text messages can be sent to cell phones. AlertOC can also send messages to email accounts and TTY devices.

–Please note that during a serious emergency, with a need to communicate life-saving information quickly, the city will utilize the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system. The WEA system sends text message alerts to all cell phones within a designated geographic area, with no sign-up or subscription required. Because it reaches all cell phones, residents and visitors alike, WEA is a critical component of the city's emergency alert systems.

If you would like in-depth training on emergency preparedness, along with hands-on first aid and rescue techniques, consider joining Newport Beach's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, taught by city firefighters and lifeguards. The CERT training is designed to help residents assist themselves, their families and neighbors in the event of a major disaster where first responders may not be immediately available. You can go [here](#) for more information on CERT, and [here](#) to apply for the program. Classes start September 17.