



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City of San Diego's Office of Emergency Services Urges Residents to Plan Ahead for Potential Emergencies

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF BEING READY WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego's newly relaunched Office of Emergency Services (SDOES) urges residents to take time during National Preparedness Month to review safety procedures at home and work. San Diegans need to prepare for potential life-threatening situations, such as wildfires, earthquakes, major storms and floods.

National Preparedness Month is recognized each September to promote family and community disaster planning now and throughout the year. Wildfires currently burning in California are a stark reminder that preparedness is paramount.

"Disaster preparedness is a year-round responsibility. There is no better time than now to think about safety," said Christopher Heiser, Executive Director of SDOES. **"National Preparedness Month reminds us to have a plan for potential threats."**

SDOES reminds residents to review their [emergency plans](#), create an [emergency supply kit](#) and [stay informed](#). There are a number of preventative measures San Diegans can take to help keep their families, pets, homes and businesses safe. [Getting involved](#) with community groups and organizations is an excellent way to remain prepared throughout the year.

Alert San Diego

The countywide Alert San Diego is a regional notification system that will send telephone notifications to residents and businesses within San Diego County impacted by, or in danger of being impacted by, an emergency or disaster. Sign up at readysandiego.org.

Fire Safety

With more warm weather on the way, the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department recommends San Diegans use Ready, Set, Go! as a guide for developing emergency plans for responding to wildfires. The [Ready](#).

[Set, Go!](#) action plan provides information, multiple checklists and suggestions for what you need to supply a proper emergency kit. It also includes a printable contact information sheet and more.

Earthquakes

Because of its location on two tectonic plates, California is a high-risk area for earthquakes. Earthquakes can happen without warning and can result in injuries and damage to property and roads. The state of California offers a free [Homeowners' Guide to Earthquake Safety](#) that can help you prepare for an earthquake and determine what to do after a quake occurs.

Flooding

The City provides Flood Insurance Rate Maps and National Flood Insurance Program information that can help property owners prepare in areas near the coast, along rivers and creeks and low-lying areas. Also, people who live or work in areas downstream from reservoir dams could be impacted if a dam failed due to earthquake or another catastrophe. Learn more by visiting the City's Floodplain Management [page](#).

Evacuations

In any emergency, it is important to follow the recommendations of our public safety professionals. The [San Diego Police Department](#) provides evacuation coordination for safe and expeditious clearing of homes and businesses during emergency situations when necessary. Listen and follow their instructions for your safety.

About the San Diego Office of Emergency Services

SDOES was announced last month by Mayor Todd Gloria as part of a series of proposed public safety priorities and reforms. Formerly known as the Office of Homeland Security, the program was moved out of the San Diego Police Department in an effort to better focus the office on emergency preparedness. To learn more about SDOES, visit sandiego.gov/oes.

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