

Lessons of Katrina & Rita

The images and lessons of Hurricanes Katrina & Rita are graphic and should remain burned into our memories for many years. The most important lesson learned is the need to be prepared. Preparedness comes at many levels including federal, state, county, city and the individual citizen. Particularly in the case of Katrina and even with days of notice that the hurricane was approaching, all these levels of government, as well as citizens, were caught unprepared.

California is not immune from a potential widespread disaster. Fires, floods and earthquakes are just some of the potential disasters in the Bay Area that have struck in the past and *will* strike again in the future.

Milpitas citizens must be aware of the emergency preparations in our community:

1620 AM

The City's radio station on 1620 AM broadcasts updated information about Milpitas twenty-four hours a day and is the public's primary source of information in the event of an emergency. This system can operate even during widespread power outages. To hear this vital information, every household in this community needs a battery operated AM/FM radio. Keep a radio and plenty of extra batteries with your emergency supplies.

COMMUNITY WARNING SIRENS

Community warning sirens are located in northern and southern areas of town. When you hear the sirens, remain in doors, close all windows and doors, turn off your heaters and air conditioners (in case of a chemical release), and tune your radio to **1620 AM** for instructions.

TELEMINDER SYSTEM

The Teleminder System is a computer-controlled device that will telephone homes and businesses in a designated area with a message providing emergency information. This system is used when a specific area of town is threatened, such as following a chemical leak.

CARE AND SHELTER FACILITY

The Milpitas Sports Center, located at 1325 E. Calaveras Blvd. is this City's designated care and shelter facility for residents whose homes may be damaged and uninhabitable.

CITIZEN PREPAREDNESS: Keep a 7-10 day supply!

When a widespread disaster strikes the Bay Area, millions of people may be affected. Citizens must understand the absolute importance of keeping their family prepared. Supplies in the home of food, water, flashlights, batteries, radios, first-aid items, prescription medications, eye-glasses and other essential items are absolutely critical. Your Milpitas Office of Emergency Services now recommends that *citizens keep a 7-10 day supply* of essential items readily available. Keep these life saving items in large plastic containers so you can take your supplies with you should it become necessary to evacuate your home to another community or to the Care and Shelter facility.

CITIZEN EMERGENCY TRAINING

Citizens can best be prepared by taking emergency training offered by your Milpitas Fire Department. Strategic Actions for Emergencies (S.A.F.E.) training provides detailed instruction for citizens of all ages on how to be prepared for an emergency and what you should do after the next disaster strikes. This training offers instruction on how you can help yourself and your neighbors.

www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov

The City website will carry important information in the post-disaster recovery phase.

Call your Milpitas Office of Emergency Services (OES) at (408) 586-2800 for more information on being prepared and to register for citizen training offered at no cost.