

## GLOSSARY

### **Amateur Radio (HAM) Operator**

Amateur radio operator.

### **AWARE**

Alert, Well-prepared And Ready for Emergencies, a guide for creating community and neighborhood emergency plans. Available free online at [www.espfocus.org](http://www.espfocus.org).

### **Board of Supervisors**

The five-member Board of Supervisors represents the governing body of the County of Santa Cruz. Members are elected by voters in their respective districts.

### **Brush Clearance**

Best practice for creating “defensible space” for effective fire protection of nonertv, life and the environment. |

### **Community Based Organization (CBO)**

Community organizations that provide assistance to individuals, families, and special needs populations, before, during and often after an emergency or disaster.

### **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)**

An all-risk, all-hazard training available to residents and designed to help you protect yourself, your family, your neighbors and your neighborhood in an emergency situation. Training commitment ranges between 17-24 hours for the nationally-approved course of instruction

### **Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)**

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is a procedure used when a patient’s heart stops beating and breathing stops. It can involve compressions of the chest or electrical shocks along with rescue breathing. For more information on training opportunities, visit your local Red Cross Chapter [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

### **Catastrophic Disaster**

A disaster that has extraordinary levels of mass casualties, damages or disruption which severely affects population, infrastructure, environment, the economy or government functions and which requires extraordinary and sustained levels of resources and skills for recovery.

### **Communications Plan**

A plan that describes how you will communicate with others after a disaster. Contact information for members of your household and your out-of-state contacts.

### **Contact List**

A list of family members, staff and out-of state key partners in a crisis. The list should include home phone numbers, pager numbers, cell phone numbers, etc.

### **Critical Records**

Records or documents that, if damaged, destroyed, or lost, would cause considerable inconvenience and/or would require replacement or recreation at considerable expense to the organization.

### **Disaster Kit**

A Disaster Supply Kit is a pre-assembled group of items that will improve the health and safety of your family during a disaster.

## **Damage Assessment**

The process used to appraise or determine the number of injuries and human loss, damage to public and private property, and the status of key facilities and services resulting from a natural or human-caused disaster or emergency.

## **Disaster**

An unanticipated incident or event, including natural catastrophes, technological accidents, or human-caused events, causing widespread destruction, loss, or distress to an organization that may result in significant property damage, multiple injuries, or deaths.

## **Disaster Recovery**

Steps taking during and after an emergency or disaster intended to restore normalcy. Recovery typically begins immediately once the emergency stabilizes. Full recovery from a major disaster usually takes years.

## **Disaster Response**

Immediately following a disaster, priorities are protecting life and property, and meeting human needs such as water, food, shelter, and medical assistance.

## **Drop, Cover and Hold On**

Protocol that when performed correctly with an awareness of your surroundings, remains the most effective single piece of advice that you can follow when an earthquake occurs. For more information on Drop, Cover and Hold On, visit [www.earthquakecountry.info](http://www.earthquakecountry.info).

## **EarthquakeCountry.info**

This website contains information, videos and animations to help residents prepare for earthquakes. The handbook *Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country* is available at [www.earthquakecountry.info](http://www.earthquakecountry.info); a Spanish-language version can be found at [www.terremotos.org](http://www.terremotos.org).

## **Emergency**

An unforeseen incident or event that happens unexpectedly and demands immediate action and intervention to minimize potential losses to people, property, or profitability.

## **Emergency Alert System**

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) can address the entire nation on very short notice in case of a grave threat or national emergency.

## **Emergency Preparedness**

Governments, organizations, and individuals develop plans to save lives, minimize disaster damage, and enhance disaster response.

## **Evacuation**

Organized, phased, and supervised dispersal of people from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas.

## **Evacuation Routes**

Roads and highways identified by law enforcement to evacuate individuals out of harm's way to a safe area or shelter. Evacuation Routes may be identified verbally during an Evacuation Order or pre-designated in a written plan.

## **Evacuation Order**

A directive from the Sheriff or Fire departments to leave your home or business immediately. Failure to follow an Evacuation Order may result in endangerment to the lives of others, personal injury, or death. Once you have left the area you will not be able to return until the Order has been lifted.

## **Evacuation Warning**

Voluntary Evacuation means that it is time to prepare to leave your home and the area. Gather your family, pets, basic necessities and important paper work and listen for instructions from emergency responders. If you have special medical needs or have limited mobility, you should prepare to leave the area when an Evacuation Warning is issued.

## **Evacuation Shelter**

May be set up by the Red Cross at the request of the County if an area must be evacuated for an extended amount of time. The location for an evacuation shelter will be announced by local officials once a safety assessment is complete and the shelter is ready to accept those affected by the evacuation.

## **Federal Emergency Management Agency**

Agency of the US government tasked with Disaster Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery planning. Also administers various grant programs after a disaster.



# FEMA

## **Fire Escape Plan**

A step-by-step plan of your residence that shows at least two ways to escape in case of fire.

## **First Aid Kit**

A well-stocked first-aid kit, kept within easy reach, is a necessity in every home. Having supplies gathered ahead of time will help you handle an emergency at a moment's notice. Keep one first-aid kit in your home and one in each car. Also be sure to bring a first-aid kit on family vacations.

## **Flash Flood Watch**

A flash flood is possible in your area.

## **Flash Flood Warning**

A flash flood is occurring or will occur very soon in your area.

## **Family Emergency Plan**

A plan that ensures that each member of your household is well-informed on potential hazards and knows what to do in case of an emergency. Family plans should include: escape routes, evacuation plans, family communications, utility shut-offs, safety precautions, pet care and insurance and vital records information.

## **FRS Radio**

Family Radio Service radios are a relatively inexpensive means of communicating in the event of a major disaster when phone service will likely be interrupted. Using FRS radios, you can communicate with your immediate neighborhood to assess damage and injuries and determine where resources are needed.

## **Hazard Mitigation**

Any action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from natural hazards.

## Meals Ready to Eat (MRE)

Meals ready to eat are foods that are already available for consumption. These are packaged food designed to have a long shelf life. They are also designed to require very little preparation work. Therefore, these meals are perfect for emergency survival preparation such as earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes and other natural disasters. These rations will be able to sustain individuals for a period of time until long-term relief aid comes.



## Neighborhood Watch

A neighborhood watch (also called a crime watch or neighborhood crime watch) is an organized group of citizens devoted to crime and vandalism prevention within a neighborhood.

## Neighborhood Networks

Neighbors coming together before a disaster to learn about each other and plan for neighborhood response and recovery after a disaster.

## NOAA Weather Radio (MWR) All Hazards

A nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

## Pandemic Flu

A pandemic is a global disease outbreak. A flu pandemic occurs when a new influenza virus emerges for which people have little or no immunity and for which there is no vaccine. The disease spreads easily person-to-person, causes serious illness, and can sweep across the country and around the world in a very short time.

## Phone Tree

A list of phone numbers provided to a group; notification by phone is started by the first person and continued until everyone has been notified.

## RAIN

If you suspect a problem with hazardous materials; Recognize the danger, Avoid the area, Isolate the area and keep others away, Notify authorities – then call 911. Remember to stay uphill, upwind and upstream.

## Red Flag

A Red Flag Warning is a forecast warning issued by the United States National Weather Service to inform area firefighting and land management agencies that conditions are ideal for wildland fire ignition and propagation. Red Flag Warning means high fire danger with increased probability of a quickly spreading vegetation fire in the area within 24 hours.

## Shelter-in-Place

Securing and protecting people and assets in the general area in which a crisis occurs. If authorities advise you to shelter-in-place you should turn off air conditioner and fan units, seal the gaps around windows and doors and listen to the radio for authorities to announce that the threat has passed. Do not venture out of your shelter area until you have been instructed that it is safe to do so.

## Small Business Administration (SBA)

SBA provides low interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private, non-profit organizations to repair or replace real estate, personal property, machinery & equipment, inventory and business assets that have been damaged or destroyed in a declared disaster. Additionally, SBA provides economic injury loans (operating capital) to businesses impacted by a disaster.

## Survival Area

An area designated for individuals to find refuge during a large wildland fire. Survival Areas should be used only if residents cannot evacuate to a safe area; they are usually safer than sheltering in a home in highly vegetated areas and are safer than sheltering in a vehicle.

## Vital Records

Records of life events including birth certificates, marriage licenses, and death. Can also include contracts or agreements that prove ownership of property, equipment, vehicles, products, etc.

## Wildland Fire

A wildfire is any uncontrolled, non-structure fire that occurs in the wilderness, wildland, or bush. Wildfires differ from other fires by its extensive size; the speed at which it spreads out from its original source; its ability to change direction unexpectedly; and to jump gaps, such as roads, rivers and fire breaks. Wildfires generally do not involve properties; however, with extensive urbanization of wilderness, they can cause extensive destruction of homes and other property located in the wildland-urban interface, a zone of transition between developed areas and undeveloped wilderness.

*The Santa Cruz County Public Health Department gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Los Angeles County in the development and creation of this Emergency Survival Guide.*

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