



City of Huntington Beach Emergency Preparedness Information

Recent disasters are a reminder of the devastating impact they can have on people and communities. The city is exposed to a variety of hazards such as earthquakes, flood, tsunami, terrorism, etc., and our greatest individual defense is being prepared. During an incident, emergency response personnel may become overwhelmed and resources will be limited. Are you fully prepared if disaster strikes Huntington Beach today?

Preparing for a disaster is a top priority of the city's Emergency Management and Homeland Security Program. Countless hours have been spent preparing disaster plans, training our employees and volunteers, organizing exercises, and ensuring that the city is prepared for any emergency that may occur in our community. However, we cannot do it on our own.

This handout outlines three important steps you and your family should take to be prepared. Get a Kit, Make a Plan and Get Educated.

Get a Kit

Local officials and relief workers will be on-scene after a disaster, but cannot reach everyone immediately. You may need to survive on your own after an emergency. This means having your own food, water, and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for at least three days. In addition, basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment, and telephones may be cut-off for an extended period of time.

There are several different types of kits including a 72-hour Disaster Supply Kit, Grab-n-Go Bags, and Car Supply kits that are essential to being prepared. These kits are a collection of basic items a family would need to stay safe and be comfortable during the early onset of a disaster.

Some of the basic supplies that should be included in the kits are:

- Water: One gallon per person, per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food: At least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit, prescription medications and glasses
- Toiletries, moist towelettes, garbage bags, and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Copies of important family documents such as insurance policies, identification and bank account records stored in a waterproof, portable container
- Cell phone with charger

For a more complete list and instructions, please visit the online resources provided.

Make a Plan

Family members may not be together when disaster strikes so it is important to plan in advance; how to contact one another; how to get back together; and what to do in different situations.

The following emergency plan templates are available at www.ReadyOC.org

- Family Emergency Plan
- Pet Emergency Plan
- Senior Emergency Plan
- Evacuation Plan

Stay Informed

Preparedness can be used for man-made disasters, as well as natural ones. Knowing what to do during an emergency is an important part of being prepared and may make all the difference when seconds count.

The city does disaster education through several modes, but most effectively through Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). CERT is a FEMA endorsed training program that helps to prepare you to assist others in your community in the event of a disaster. By becoming CERT trained, you will gain the skills to save lives and property



Emergency Notification Systems

During an emergency, public safety officials must provide the public with life-saving information quickly. The City of Huntington Beach uses multiple methods to provide information to the public, such as the Emergency Alerting System (EAS), AlertOC, HBTB 3, etc. Once an emergency notification from public safety officials is delivered, follow the instructions provided.

Emergency Alert System (EAS)

The EAS system is a national public warning system that requires radio, TV and cable TV stations to provide federal, state and local authorities to deliver important emergency information. Although most stations will broadcast EAS messages, 107.9 KWVE is Orange County's primary station and will broadcast all EAS messages.

The EAS system will be activated and will provide instructions on actions to take before, during and after an emergency. If you receive an EAS message, **DO NOT call 911 for information.** This congests the 911 system and could prevent someone with a life threatening emergency from receiving services.

Alert OC

AlertOC is a mass notification system designed to keep Orange County residents and businesses informed of emergencies and certain community events. By registering with AlertOC, time-sensitive voice messages from the County or City in which you live or work, may be sent to your home, cell or business phone. Text messages may also be sent to cell phones, e-mail accounts and hearing impaired receiving devices.

To register, visit www.AlertOC.org.

Online Resources

www.ReadyOC.org

www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/preparehb

www.Ready.gov

www.ShakeOut.org

www.AlertOC.org

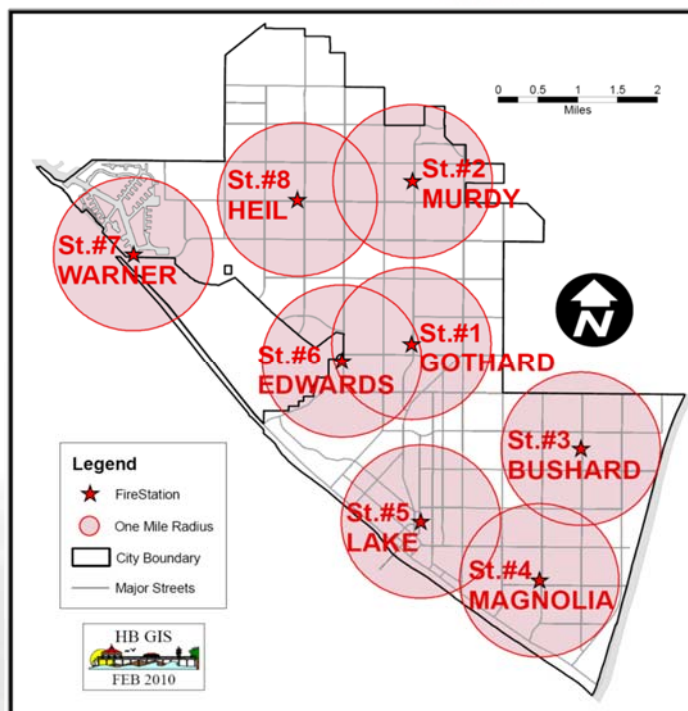


Siren System

"Seek More Information"

Huntington Beach has sirens located at all eight city fire stations. The sirens are tested on the **First Friday** of each month at noon. The sirens may be activated for ANY impending emergency and are NOT specific to any one emergency.

If you hear the sirens, and it is NOT the first Friday of the month, turn on your television and radio (107.9FM, KWVE) and await further instructions.



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