

NEWS

From the Office of

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 13, 2009



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Lucerne Valley Receives Disaster Preparedness Trailer

LUCERNE VALLEY – A trailer loaded with supplies for responding to disasters and training volunteers was presented to the Lucerne Valley community today by San Bernardino County Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt and County Emergency officials.

The trailer will be used by Lucerne Valley's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), a group of volunteers who have received training in disaster response. The trailer is one of four purchased through a \$75,000 allocation of Supervisor Mitzelfelt's district discretionary funds.

"CERT teams are an invaluable resource in responding to disasters, especially in outlying communities such as Lucerne Valley, and these trailers will provide them with training equipment and materials, as well as supplies for an actual disaster," said Supervisor Mitzelfelt. "I have been a strong advocate for disaster preparedness and it was my honor to be able to provide the funds to purchase these important trailers."

Mitzelfelt also serves on the California Seismic Safety Commission and is well-informed about the potentially disastrous effects of a major earthquake. He also served as co-chairman of the San Bernardino County campaign for the Great Southern California ShakeOut last November, the largest earthquake disaster drill in history, with as many as 5 million Southern Californians participating.

During his remarks today, he also pointed out that the region is no stranger to disaster, with major wildfires and floods in recent years.

Mitzelfelt praised those who have made the commitment to become CERT volunteers, which requires 20 hours of training in first aid, light search and rescue, and medical triage. He encouraged as many as possible to join the CERT program.

"These residents understand that in a major disaster, especially an earthquake, government resources will be stretched thin and people could be on their own for days or longer," said Mitzelfelt. "They have taken the initiative to be prepared to help their families and their neighbors survive in the aftermath."

The other trailers will be located in Oak Hills, Harvard (east of Barstow) and Needles. They will be available for training and disaster support in surrounding communities as well. Previously, there was only one CERT trailer in the High Desert, located in Apple Valley.

Residents who would like more information about CERT should contact their local emergency manager or call (909) 356-3998 and ask for the CERT coordinator.