

Museum readies county for Great ShakeOut

Hector Hernandez Jr., Highland News Posted: October 17, 2016, 3:41 pm



Angel Miranda receives a briefing from Michael Ramirez of County Fire OES before experiencing the county's new seismic simulator at the San Bernardino County Museum's Great ShakeOut event, Oct. 15.

In anticipation for the 2016 Great California ShakeOut earthquake drill, scheduled for 10:20 a.m. on Thursday Oct. 20, the San Bernardino County Museum held its annual earthquake preparedness event on Saturday, Oct. 15.

The event featured preparedness informational booths by County Fire Office of Emergency Services (OES), Rialto Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and County Animal Control. Emergency supplies retailers such as Home Depot and Simpler Life were also on hand to provide tips.

According to County Museum Media Specialist Jennifer Reynolds, the event used to be held with the Great California ShakeOut but was changed to precede the international earthquake drill three years ago. Over 10 million people at schools, businesses and homes worldwide are expected to participate in the annual drill.

"This allows people to get preparedness information here while still being able to be in the places they're most likely to be during an earthquake for the drill," Reynolds said. "We want to help the drill be most effective in helping people prepare."

There to share earthquake safety information and a simulated earthquake experience was the County Fire OES and the county's newly acquired Seismic Simulator.

The county purchased the simulator with funds left over from the Emergency Management Performance Grant, according to Michael Ramirez, County Fire OES.

"The county wants to use it to help educate people about earthquake safety," Ramirez said. "A lot of people use the most recent earthquake as their reference point but that experience can vary based on the earthquake and how far people were from the center. This simulator better orients people to the kind of shaking that could happen in a 'very strong' to 'violent' shaking event."

With four people seated in a model living room the simulator creates the lateral shaking similar to what could be felt in an estimated 6 to 7 point earthquake along the San Andreas Fault system.

"The experience brings home that in that kind of shaking you're not going to be able to walk or run outside," said Adela Brown, a volunteer of the County Fire OES. "We want people to drop, cover and hold on."

Ramirez said another important preparation to consider are securing furniture and household items to keep them from falling on people, especially children.

Brown also recommends people, especially those with long commutes to work, consider plans for getting home, contacting family and emergency contacts for getting children out of school.

If you work an hour from home and where your kids go to school you need a plan and someone who's an emergency contact and approved at the school to pick you children in case you can't make it home for some time. The freeways may be down, there may be heavy traffic, or the commuter trains may not be running. People should have a plan and emergency supplies in their car, Brown suggested.

For more information on the 2016 Great ShakeOut and earthquake preparedness, visit shakeout.org/california.

http://www.highlandnews.net/community/museum-readies-county-for-great-shakeout/article_e90b3102-94ba-11e6-9100-d357ad38c274.html

Red flag warnings in force as Inland Empire temperatures rise

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Red flag warnings that indicate high wildfire risk are in force Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016, in the San Gabriel Mountains, the Angeles National Forest, the Santa Monica Mountains, the San Fernando and Santa Clarita valleys and the beach cities, metropolitan L.A. and the Hollywood Hills. (Enhanced infrared satellite image courtesy of NOAA)

LOS ANGELES — A red flag warning indicating a high risk of wildfire will be in force in mountain, forest and valley areas of the Southland from today to Thursday because of fierce winds, low humidity, high temperatures and very dry vegetation.

Today's temperatures will be close to, or at normal levels but sharply higher by Thursday -- 22 degrees above normal in downtown L.A., 18 degrees higher in Burbank, and 19 degrees above the norm in Woodland Hills, according to the National Weather Service.

The red flag warning will be in force from 3 p.m. today until 8 p.m. Thursday in the San Gabriel Mountains in L.A. and Ventura counties, the Angeles National Forest in L.A. County, the Los Padres National Forest in Ventura County, the Santa Monica Mountains, the San Fernando and Santa Clarita valleys, and the L.A. coastal zone, which includes beach cities, metropolitan L.A and the Hollywood Hills.

The strongest winds are expected in the national forests and San Gabriel mountains, especially the Interstate 5 Corridor, with sustained wind speeds of between 20 and 35 miles per hour and 50-mph gusts, although gusts of more than 60 mph may be recorded at Whitaker Peak, said National Weather Service forecasters.

By late today, the north winds will shift to the northeast and become warm Santa Ana winds, blowing at between 20 and 35 mph and gusting to between 45 and 55 mph through Thursday, helping to lower humidity levels to between 3 and 15 percent, they said. The wind will be slightly tamer in the valleys and in Los Angeles.

"The combination of gusty north-to-northeast winds, very low humidity and warm temperatures will create critical fire weather conditions across the warning area," warned an NWS statement. "This in combination with the very dry fuels could cause very rapid fire spread along with extreme fire danger and fire behavior."

Along the coast, a beach hazard statement, a notch less severe than a high surf advisory, will be in effect through this afternoon, with the NWS forecasting surf of 4 to 6 feet and sets of up to 7 feet along west-facing

beaches, "Large waves and strong rip currents will increase the risk of ocean drowning," warned an NWS statement. "Sneaker waves can suddenly wash people off of beaches and rock jetties into the ocean."

The NWS forecast sunny skies today and the following high temperatures:

Avalon: 72 Big Bear: 67 Burbank: 77 Downtown Los Angeles: 76 Lancaster: 74 LAX: 72 Long Beach: 76 Mount Wilson: 73 North Hollywood: 77 Northridge: 81 Ontario: 78 Palmdale: 73 Pasadena: 77 Redlands: 79 Rancho Cucamonga: 78 San Bernardino: 81 San Gabriel: 76 San Pedro: 73 Santa Clarita: 76 Torrance: 71 Van Nuys: 79 West Covina: 78 Whittier: 77 Woodland Hills: 81

Temperatures will rise sharply Wednesday, when Long Beach is forecast to reach a high of 95 degrees, 19 degrees higher than today's forecast high, and a little less sharply on Thursday, when Long Beach will reach 101 degrees, 1 degree more than in the San Fernando Valley. Temperatures will begin a slow retreat on Thursday.

Sunny skies were forecast in Orange County, along with highs of 72 in Newport Beach and San Clemente; 74 in Laguna Beach; 77 in Anaheim, Irvine and Mission Viejo; and 78 in Mission Viejo and Yorba Linda, where Wednesday's high will be 94 degrees, rising to 98 degrees Thursday before falling back to 95 on Friday and several more degrees after that.

http://www.dailybulletin.com/general-news/20161018/red-flag-warnings-in-force-as-inland-empire-temperatures-rise