



NEWS



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Redlands Disaster Council members learn how therapy dogs help during disasters

Sandra Emerson, Redlands Daily Facts

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REDLANDS >> The act of petting a dog may offer someone the support they need to get through a crisis.

That's where HOPE Animal-Assisted Crisis Response comes in.

Teams of specially trained handlers and dogs are deployed to locations following disasters to offer comfort and encouragement to victims and first responders.

"Many times when we walk into a room after a disaster, our dogs will pull us toward someone because they sense that person needs help now," said Pam Bertz from the Pacific Southwest Region for HOPE, to the Redlands Disaster Council Monday at City Hall.

Bertz, with her dog Rustee, and Bari Voersma, with her dog Star, shared HOPE's mission and work in the community with the disaster council, which meets quarterly to discuss emergency and disaster-related matters.

Recently, HOPE teams went out to North Park Elementary School in San Bernardino to offer support to students and teachers following the shooting earlier this month that killed a special education teacher and her student.

Voersma said she and Star assisted the crisis counselors on campus to calm some students who were visibly upset over the tragedy and help others feel comfortable enough to talk.

"The kids just were so overwhelmingly happy to have the dogs there," she said. "I can't tell you what a wonderful feeling it was for us to be there for them and the reactions that we had from them. They asked us if the dogs were going to make them safe. We said they're here to make you feel good. It was a really amazing experience."

The disaster council also heard an update on the Ready SB County Preparedness smartphone app, which assists users in preparing for and responding to disasters.

"The county has a free app that actually makes emergency preparedness as simple as it's ever been before," said Carrie Cruz from the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**/Operational Area/Office of Emergency Services.

The app allows users to send a notification to contacts about their status, view alerts from the National Weather Service and the county, and view the location of local hospitals, shelters and public safety facilities. It also helps them create a family emergency plan and offers information on preparing for a variety of disasters.

For more information, go to www.readydl.com/landing/eoc06071/index.html.

<http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/general-news/20170426/redlands-disaster-council-members-learn-how-therapy-dogs-help-during-disasters>

San Bernardino Law Enforcement Anti-DUI Presentation at Pacific High School

Inland Empire News
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San Bernardino Police Department, California Highway Patrol, And Office Of Traffic Safety Team With Pacific High School For “Every 15 Minutes” Anti-Dui Presentation

San Bernardino, Calif – The City of San Bernardino Police Department, California Highway Patrol, **San Bernardino County Fire Department**, and the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) has teamed with Pacific High School to present “*Every 15 Minutes*” an anti-DUI presentation to its students on Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at approximately 10:00 a.m. The presentation will focus on the reality and consequences of underage drinking and driving. The presentation will include a re-enactment of a DUI collision involving students from Pacific High School. Pacific High School will participate in the two-day educational program designed to expose students to all facets of what occurs during a DUI related collision and traumatic post effects of these incidents.

The second day (April 27th) will consist of an assembly/mock funeral for the students killed in the previous day’s crash. The assembly will begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude at approximately 11:00 a.m. The focus of the assembly stresses that the decision to consume alcohol can affect many more people than just the one who drinks. This very emotional and heart-wrenching event will illustrate to students, the potentially dangerous consequences of alcohol use, regardless of how casual they believe their use may be.

<https://inlandempire.us/san-bernardino-law-enforcement-anti-dui-presentation-pacific-high-school/>

Firefighters Union Question Twentynine Palms Equipment Levels

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A Twitter notice and a Facebook post from the local professional firefighter’s union says public safety is at risk in the city of Twentynine Palms. The postings question a decision by **County fire** to have just one medic engine in Twentynine Palms, claiming it places public safety at risk. The tweet and post from San Bernardino County Professional Firefighters Local 935 said they, “Do not support ‘1’ medic engine covering close to 300 square miles. Calls to Interstate 40 could involve multiple hours of the City of Twentynine Palms being left unprotected. Public safety is at risk in the City of Twentynine Palms.” The post says the City is 59.1 square miles and County fire wants to add 200 more square miles of response area for one medic ambulance.

<http://z1077fm.com/firefighters-union-question-twentynine-palms-equipment-levels/>