



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Chief

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Home Depot Foundation Donates \$10,000 for Disaster Supplies

The Home Depot, San Bernardino County Disaster Corps and San Bernardino County Fire Office of Emergency Services have joined together to form a community partnership to better prepare the volunteers and residents of San Bernardino County and assist those in need when a disaster strikes.

Community Safety Fair

Saturday, July 20, 2013

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

(presentation 10:30 a.m.)

Home Depot

16005 Sierra Lakes Pkwy., Fontana

The media are encouraged to join us at 10:30 a.m. for a short public presentation. Speakers include Fontana Mayor Acquanetta Warren, Home Depot Store Manager Tia Jake, San Bernardino County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig and San Bernardino County Emergency Services Manager Michael Antonucci.

Citizens are encouraged to attend and learn how they can be better prepared for a disaster. The Safety Fair will feature exhibits from the American Red Cross, the County Disaster Corps, Emergency Communications Services, fire engines and a firehouse learning trailer from San Bernardino County Fire, hazardous materials displays, So Cal Gas, Southern California Edison, 2-1-1, as well as fingerprinting for the kids courtesy of the Fontana Police Department, and much more.

Background: In early 2010, the Home Depot Foundation donated \$60,000 worth of Home Depot gift cards to California Volunteers to support the California Disaster Corps. In June 2010 California Disaster Corps launched the statewide Disaster Corps for the five designated Disaster Corps Counties - Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Francisco, and San Diego, each receiving \$10,000 worth of gift cards from the Home Depot Foundation. San Bernardino County Fire Office of Emergency Services has been working closely with Home Depot to use the funds on supplies for the San Bernardino County Disaster Corps Program.

The California Disaster Corps is a first-in-the-nation effort to professionalize, standardize and coordinate highly trained disaster volunteers statewide. This program harnesses the power and passion of Californians to ensure our communities are safer, stronger and more resilient. The Disaster Corps is a cadre of 1,000 government-affiliated volunteers that meet Disaster Corps required training, typing, certification, and security screening guidelines. Disaster Corps volunteers represent a mutual aid resource that can be utilized statewide.

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What does this mean for the San Bernardino County Operational Area?

Disaster Corps volunteers are those who have demonstrated commitment to their volunteer program and strive to continue developing their skills and training to better support their program and their community.

Throughout 2012, 200 volunteers were selected from the already existing Emergency Communications Services (ECS) program and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) programs located within the unincorporated communities of San Bernardino County. The 200 volunteers have been FBI security screened and trained to fit the needs of San Bernardino County. These volunteers will eventually be deployable throughout San Bernardino County, with the potential of traveling to the other Disaster Corps Counties.

Benefits of Becoming a Disaster Corps Volunteer

Disaster Corps volunteers are set aside from regular CERT/ECS volunteers by having the ability to be deployed throughout other areas of San Bernardino County and partner Disaster Corps Counties. Disaster Corps members receive specialized training in SEMS and NIMS, plus First Aid and CPR training, if not already trained.

Come out to learn more from first responders, community organizations, and the many residents that volunteer their time to make everyone's lives safer.

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