

Disaster Preparedness

Tiburon Police Department takes the lead in disaster preparedness for the Peninsula.



This year the Tiburon Police Department assisted with the “Get Ready” program, first by volunteering a Police Service Aide to help with class sign ups and then by getting the Police Service Aide position reclassified to an Emergency Services Coordinator for the peninsula. The Emergency Services Coordinator, Laurie Nilsen, works out of the Tiburon Police Station and continues to assist in the execution of Get Ready classes as well as many other tasks to prepare the peninsula.

Laurie Nilsen leads a Get Ready class

The Get Ready classes began in May 2006 and by the end of November had successfully trained over 2,200 people (over 1500 households) on the peninsula how to shelter in place and survive for at least 72 hours after a disaster of any kind. The Emergency Services coordinator organized over 60 classes, teaching over 15 of them.



To help promote the “Get Ready” program, Laurie Nilsen led a group of ready citizens in the Labor Day Parade. The Yellow and black banners were also highly visible on Main Street during Friday Nights on Main celebrations. Citizens were able to view items in sample disaster supply kits as well as sign up for classes.



Get Ready joins the Labor Day Parade

In order to prepare the employees of the Tiburon Police Department and the Town of Tiburon who would be working in, and or out of, the Emergency Operation Center, emergency supplies have been secured and are now stored at the Tiburon Police Station. Employees could potentially be working at the Emergency Operations Center for an extended period of time and would need food, water and sanitary supplies as well as a place to sleep if unable to get home. Items have been stored in the EOC and in the Tiburon Police Station attic to assure that employees will be cared for. Backpacks containing supplies are also being put together for emergency personnel in the field. These back packs will contain water, food, multi-purpose tools, rope, tarp and a spare flashlight among other things.



Training has been a key focus of the new emergency services coordinator. The State of California has required all city employees take disaster preparedness courses covering the National Incident Management System and the Incident Command System. Keeping all

members of Town Hall, Public Works and the Police Department in compliance has been a chore! All employees have taken courses through the County of Marin and through FEMA, who offers online courses. Practicing the skills learned in these classes is a key to being prepared.



The Emergency Operation Center was put to the test on October 1st during a special class for our Council Members who activated the E.O.C. at the end of a presentation. A couple of weeks later the EOC was once again activated for Golden Guardian, a state wide drill that simulated a large earthquake located very close to Tiburon. The outcome of these two exercises was many great ideas on how to make the E.O.C. easier and more efficient to operate out of in the

future.



Employees problem solve in the aftermath of an 8.1 earthquake

Laurie Nilsen has also arranged for shelter management training for citizen volunteers and is busy updating local shelter information. During the Golden Guardian Drill, a shelter was activated and citizens were able to work with the Red Cross in a realistic drill, complete with injured, displaced, and elderly victims as well as lost children.