

## The Office of Emergency Management Offers a Back to School Safety Message

There is a lot that can be done to plan for disasters, to limit risk, to increase the safety of students and teachers, and to ensure that schools recover quickly. However, the time to prepare is now!

In California, schools are required to have a disaster plan, to hold periodic “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” drills and to hold educational and training programs for students and staff. Parents should know the policies and procedures of their children’s school during times of disaster or crisis. Parents should also make sure the school has their updated emergency contact information. Keep your children’s school emergency release card current.



Parents have an important role in assuring the safety of their children whether at school or at home. The suggestions below are guidelines to help families prepare.

Prepare a school emergency supplies kit for each of your children. Let them help you put the kit together. What they have on hand when a disaster occurs could make a big difference in their safety and survival. A list of some of the recommended items that could be included in each child’s emergency supplies kit is as follows:

- Emergency drinking water (3-day to one-week supply)
- Non-perishable food (3-day to one-week supply)
- First aid kit and book
- Essential medications
- Lightstick or a flashlight with extra batteries
- Identification card
- Family photos
- Towelettes
- Blanket
- Medical release card
- Emergency telephone numbers
- Change of clothing
- Favorite toy

Teach your children what to do in an emergency and make sure they know their own names, addresses, and telephone numbers as well as the full names and contact information for parents and a second adult emergency contact.

***For additional information, please contact the Office of Emergency Management at 951.413.3800.***

## **The Office of Emergency Management Offers the Following Water Safety Information**

With the warm weather upon us, it is important to stay vigilant around children and adults alike while enjoying activities involving bathing and swimming at a pool, river, lake or beach. For children younger than five, drowning is a leading cause of injury, or lifelong disability and it is the leading cause of accidental death. As toddlers begin walking and exploring, statistics show an alarming rate of pool and other drowning's. The Office of Emergency Management would like to share the following tips to keep your children safe this summer:



- Constantly keep eyes on young children playing in or near any body of water, public pool, spa, or bathtub. A child can drown in the time it takes to answer a text message. Babies and toddlers have drowned in items as seemingly harmless as shallow buckets of water when left briefly unattended.
- Never leave a child alone near water while you answer the telephone or doorbell, attend to another child or turn to household chores, even for a few seconds.
- Fence your pool on all four sides with a barrier that is at least five feet high. Move lawn chairs, tables and other potential climbing aids away from the fence to help keep out children. Any gate or door leading to the pool area should be self-closing and self-latching, opening outward, with the latch placed on the poolside and out of reach.
- Install panic alarms on all house doors and windows leading to the pool area, automatic sliding door closers and an automatic safety cover over the pool.
- Check swimming pools for new anti-entrapment grates on drain suction outlets required by new laws to prevent the physical entrapment of the bathers.
- Keep reaching and throwing aids, such as poles and life preservers, on both sides of the pool
- Swimming lessons do not ensure safety. A child who falls into water unexpectedly may panic and forget his or her swimming skills. Adults who serve as caretakers for children should know how to swim themselves, and also be certified to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in an emergency. Immediate CPR could prevent death or brain damage.

We urge you to remind your families, friends, and neighbors to be aware of drowning risks and to prevent devastating water accidents. Have a safe and happy summer!

**For more information, please call the Office of Emergency Management at 951.413.3800.**

## **The City of Moreno Valley Fire Department Offers Information about Fire Resistant Landscaping**



Each year, homes are destroyed by wildfires. If you live in, or are planning to move to an area where homes are intermixed with woodlands, your home may be in jeopardy, and your life and the lives of your family may be at risk. Fire prone landscaping around homes increases the possibility of fire damage, while also hindering the activities of firefighters. There are many landscaping techniques that create a semi-fireproof zone or defensible

space around homes. A fire safe landscape isn't necessarily the same thing as a well-maintained yard. A fire safe landscape uses fire resistant plants that are strategically planted to resist the spread of fire to your home. The good news is that you don't need a lot of money to make your landscape fire safe. And you will find that a fire safe landscape can increase your property value and conserve water while beautifying your home.

### **Choose Fire Resistant Plants and Materials**

Create fire-safe zones with stone walls, patios, swimming pools, decks and roadways. Use rock, mulch, flower beds and gardens as ground cover for bare spaces and as effective firebreaks. There are no "fire-proof" plants. Select high moisture plants that grow close to the ground and have a low sap or resin content. Choose fire retardant plant species that resist ignition such as rockrose, ice plant and aloe. Fire-resistant shrubs include hedging roses, bush honeysuckles, currant, cotoneaster, sumac and shrub apples. Plant hardwood, maple, poplar and cherry trees that are less flammable than pine, fir and other conifers. Check your local nursery, landscape contractor or county extension service for advice on fire resistant plants that are suited for your environment, and help to plan your landscape.



- See more at: <http://www.readyforwildfire.org/landscaping#sthash.C35VdlxN.dpuf>