

Wrightwood's Golden Guardian Disaster Exercise



November 13-15, 2008

The 60 Day Event! How Volunteers made it happen.



View of Swarthout Valley following the San Andreas fault (red line) as it heads NW through Wrightwood.

A team made up of the Wrightwood Disaster Preparedness Team (WDPT), Wrightwood Fire Safe Council (WFSC), Wrightwood Communications Group (WCG), Wrightwood CERT (WCERT), and San Bernardino County ECS spent exactly 60 days planning the Wrightwood Golden Guardian Disaster Exercise (WGGDE).

John Aziz, WFSC Board member, and lead planner of the WGGDE, credited the volunteers and the involved agencies.

Part of the exercise included an automated phone call that went out to Wrightwood households, urging every resident to play a part in the exercise by calling in on Saturday and "checking in" during the mock earthquake.

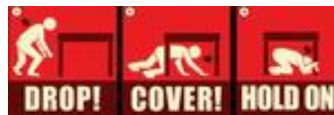
The exercise included a Medical Treatment Center, a CERT Headquarters, a phone bank, a shelter at Sunrise Church and a Command Center with Damage Reports, Exercise Control station, maps, organizational charts and radio officers coordinating radio traffic.

"What an incredible re-

sponse from the community," Aziz said. "The success of this exercise is due to the cooperation of the volunteer groups, and San Bernardino County Fire Department's ECS and OES. Everyone's hard work paid off big time."



Volunteers prepare community notification door hangers and emergency magnets.



Community Emergency Response Teams Activated

More than 100 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers exercised their response skills and community preparedness in the WGGDE on Saturday. CERT members undergo a seven-class, 21-hour training program coordinated by the San Bernardino County Fire

Department Office of Emergency Services. The course is funded by Congress through the Citizen Corps program and is free for residents. The CERT goal is to train citizens so they may apply the training learned in the classroom and during exercises to give critical support during disas-

ters to their family, loved ones, neighbors or associates in their immediate area until help arrives.



- **PAID FOR ENTIRELY WITH VOLUNTEER FUNDS!**
- **2,000 PARTICIPANTS TOOK PLACE IN WRIGHTWOOD'S FIRST GOLDEN GUARDIAN EXERCISE!**
- **1,402 CHECK-INS LOGGED BY OVER 500 PHONE CALLS!**
- **115 CERT GRADUATES PARTICIPATED IN WRIGHTWOOD'S FUNCTIONAL EXERCISE**

- **"WHAT AN INCREDIBLE RESPONSE FROM THE COMMUNITY," AZIZ SAID.**
- **WRIGHTWOOD CERT MEMBERS WENT DOOR TO DOOR DISTRIBUTING COMMUNITY EXERCISE NOTIFICATIONS TO ALL 2,800 HOMES IN THE COMMUNITY**
- **THE PRINCIPAL METHOD OF COMMUNICATIONS DURING THE EXERCISE WAS AMATEUR RADIO (HAM)**

Wrightwood's Golden Guardian Disaster Exercise



The Phone Bank ladies answered over 500 calls during Wrightwood's Golden Guardian Exercise. Logging over 1,400 Check-Ins!



"MY FIRST AID KIT NEEDS REPLENISHING."

"WHERE DO I TAKE A CERT CLASS?"

"I'M A SHUT-IN"

What Were Some Of The Community Responses?

Thank You for managing this check in for all of us, we appreciate it greatly!!!!!!

#

We are checking in from Twin Lakes are here and safe. Thanks so much for all you have done and are doing to help us prepare for what we sincerely hope never happens.

#

2 adults, 1 child and 2 dogs. 1 child on sleep over.

#

The YMCA Camp ELK has participated in the drill and established contact with YMCA Camp, Coulter Pines, AYF Camp Big Pines and Teresita Pines. Each Camp reported no problems.

Thank you

#

I live alone (widower). I have one dog.

#

I store one month of food (+ water & bleach) and have frozen food. In an emergency, I can shelter an additional 5 to 10 people. I have a 4-wheel drive Jeep Chero-

kee.

#

We survived at Locarno Drive!

#

We have always kept the wrench for the gas right next to the gas meter. I think that is a good idea. My first aid kit needs replenishing. You should do this every year.

Just like changing the batteries in your smoke detector.

Thanks for all your hard work.

#

Husband is at work. 4 dogs are asleep on the couch.

Thanks for all of your hard work!

#

Business, 1 1/2 million gallons of water in lake from May to November, Wrightwood Country Club Caretaker

#

Checking in for Two people living here mostly on weekends.

#

Checking In and Thank you for the community effort in

Disaster Preparedness. Two Adults reside at this address.

#

One full time person, one part time. No Health/limitation.

#

2 Adults, 3 dogs and 3 birds – everyone ok! Thanks.

#

Hi, I am checking in 1 resident -female 55 years old. I know it's a day later. I think I got the card on my door after the drill on Saturday?? Thank you. The list is very helpful and I put together a backpack to keep in my car using your checklist. I'm going to put together one to use at work too since you never know where you'll be. Anyway thanks again!

#

Yeah I'm here, 1 person AND two miniature Dachshunds, Snickers, and Oscar! Thanks again for being a great community and a GREAT place to live!

#

2 souls (plus 2 felines)

#



Amateur Radio operator Karen Young (N6PJJ) handles radio traffic from the Table Mountain 2 meter repeater.

Ham Radio Operators Practice Disaster Communications

The Great Southern California Shakeout provided the catalyst for the Wrightwood Communications Group (WCG) to conduct a Disaster Communications Net using Amateur Radio (Ham) immediately following the simulated 7.8 earthquake beginning at 10:00 am on Thursday November 13, 2008.

Damage assessment information was gathered from CERT Directors and ham radio operators and passed to San Bernardino County Fire Department.

Emergency radio traffic was also managed and passed in and out of the area by the WCG.

CERT members used FRS radios to contact Team Leaders/Team Communicators who in turn used Ham Radio to notify CERT Directors of activities and incidents within each division.

November 2008



Wrightwood CERT Responds



Fire Captain Wayne Bennett talks to CERT members before they are deployed on their task of surveying neighborhoods.

Over 150 Volunteers Participated In The Functional Exercise

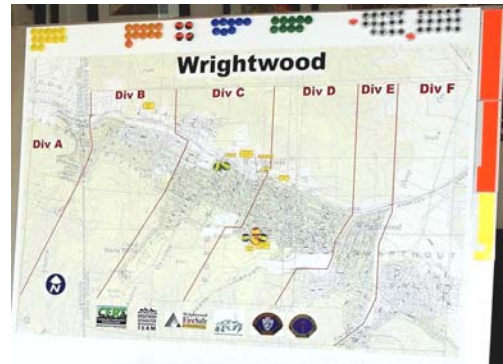


"I MUST COMMEND BONNIE ROSS'S HANDLING OF THE WRIGHTWOOD CERT COMMUNICATIONS. THERE WERE A LOT OF PROBLEMS SHE HANDLED LIKE A PRO!"

64% of Wrightwood CERT graduates participated in the Wrightwood Golden Guardian Disaster Exercise

MORE OF WRIGHTWOOD'S DISASTER PREPAREDNESS EFFORTS

Wrightwood's Emergency Radio Station 1610 AM played an important role during the Golden Guardian exercises. USGS provided a PSA radio announcement that included earthquake sound effects and scenarios about using Duck, Cover and Hold-On and what to do in bed or driving while an earthquake takes place. Listeners were then given further instructions on how they could participate in the community check-in and the CERT member activation and assembly location.



Community mapping efforts were used extensively during exercise planning and in the field during the functional exercise. The Swarthout Valley area of Wrightwood is divided into 6 geographic divisions corresponding to areas prone to flash flooding and debris flow in the valley.

Wrightwood Emergency Information	
EMERGENCY	911
CHP Antelope Valley (LA City)	(323) 982-4900
CHP Victorville (High Desert)	(760) 255-8750
LA City Sheriff - Palmdale	(661) 272-2400
SB City Sheriff - Wrightwood	(760) 249-3212
LA City Fire - Antelope Valley	(661) 947-2111
SB Comm Center - when 911 down	(909) 822-8071
Wrightwood Fire Station 101	(760) 249-3206
Edison - power outage-down lines	(800) 611-1911
Gas Company - emergency	(800) 427-2200
Golden State Water	(760) 249-3824
SB City County Roads	(909) 387-8063
LA City Roads	(800) 675-4357
Angies National Forest	(661) 723-3620
Big Pines Visitor Center	(760) 249-3504
San Bernardino National Forest	(909) 383-5651
LA City Animal Control	(661) 940-4191
SB City Animal Control	(800) 472-5609
We Tip	(800) 782-7463
Emergency Radio 1610 AM	
Wrightwood Emergency Radio 24/7 with public service and emergency messages as incidents develop. Tune 1610 AM	
Evacuation Checklist	
Personal	Pets
<input type="checkbox"/> Address/Phone book w/#s	<input type="checkbox"/> Know Exactly Where They Are
<input type="checkbox"/> Family+Friends+Doctors+	<input type="checkbox"/> Leash
<input type="checkbox"/> Insurance+Mortgage Lender	<input type="checkbox"/> Pet ID Numbers+License #s
<input type="checkbox"/> Cash	<input type="checkbox"/> Pet Medication & Special Foods
<input type="checkbox"/> Changes of Clothing (a few)	<input type="checkbox"/> Stage Pet Carrier by Door
<input type="checkbox"/> Communication Equipment+	Documents
<input type="checkbox"/> Ham+FRS+Cell Phone+Pager	<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Account Numbers
<input type="checkbox"/> Computer and Data	<input type="checkbox"/> Birth+Marriage Certificates
<input type="checkbox"/> Drivers License+Photo ID	<input type="checkbox"/> Diplomas+Licenses+Credentials
<input type="checkbox"/> Evacuation & Area Maps	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial Papers+Investments+
<input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight+Batteries	<input type="checkbox"/> Savings Bonds+Certificates
<input type="checkbox"/> Glasses+Contacts+Hearing Aids	<input type="checkbox"/> Insurance Documentation
<input type="checkbox"/> Keys+Vehicles+House+Storage+	<input type="checkbox"/> Medical Records
<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Deposit Box+Gates	<input type="checkbox"/> Mortgage Papers+Deeds
<input type="checkbox"/> Medications+Medical Devices+	<input type="checkbox"/> Passports
<input type="checkbox"/> Prescriptions	<input type="checkbox"/> Receipts for Valuables:
<input type="checkbox"/> Photos+Videos+Sentimental	<input type="checkbox"/> Appliances+Electronics+
<input type="checkbox"/> Proof of Residency For Re-entry	<input type="checkbox"/> Furniture+Trailers+Vehicles
<input type="checkbox"/> Radio AM/FM+Batteries	<input type="checkbox"/> Tax Returns (recent)
<input type="checkbox"/> Stuffed Animals for Kids	<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle Titles
<input type="checkbox"/> Toiletries+Toilet Paper+Feminine	<input type="checkbox"/> Wills+Legal
<input type="checkbox"/> Water/Food (Special Diets)	
	Monthly Public Meetings
Wrightwood Fire Safe Council	7pm - 3rd Tuesday
Non-profit 501 (c) (3)	(no meeting in Dec)
Visit www.WrightwoodFSC.com	6000 Cedar St., Wrightwood
	(760) 249-5248

The WFSC developed and provided a unique refrigerator magnet that was delivered to all 2,800 homes by CERT as part of their door to door town survey following the simulated 7.8 earthquake.

More on the WGGDE Planning Team

The success of Wrightwood's Golden Guardian exercise did not just happen. Cooperation has been a key component to the progress the community continues to make in their efforts to be prepared for the many potential disasters the area faces.



The WDPT has done an incredible job of training over 180 CERT members with over 150 participating in some advanced training. Jack Jacobs is the contact person for anyone wanting to know more about upcoming CERT training. He can be reached by email at: mjacobs70@verizon.net

Wrightwood's advanced CERT is headed up by Directors Bonnie & Ed Ross. The Directors were very pleased

that over 25 people participated in this exercise who had not been involved in any

CERT meetings during the past year. You can contact Ed or Bonnie about Wrightwood CERT by email at: wrightwoodcert@msn.com

Chuck Nelson from the WDPT provided his logistics expertise to the WGGDE Planning Team. Chuck developed the Automated Community Notification Call System that was used successfully to contact 2,100 community residents by phone about the WGGDE.

The Wrightwood Fire Safe

Council, Wrightwood Communications Group and San Bernardino County ECS was represented by John Aziz.

The WFSC website has details on monthly meetings and fire safety information at www.WrightwoodFSC.com

The WCG website is located at: www.KW6WW.com

Phil Vondra is the Chair of the WDPT and grew up in Wrightwood. His involvement in local disaster preparedness dates back to filling sand bags as a kid during flash flooding and debris flows in the 70's. During debriefing following the WGGDE, Phil stated that he hadn't seen this type of community spirit demonstrated since those early boyhood years.

The WGGDE Planning Team would like to thank the Community and All Volunteers who made this exercise possible!