

RANCHO SANTA FE
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FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Rancho Santa Fe, California 92067-0410

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FREE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING PLANNED FOR SPRING

RANCHO SANTA FE, CA – The Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District (RSFFPD) is looking for volunteers to be a part of Rancho Santa Fe's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)! CERT is an all-hazard, all-risk training designed to teach citizens how to protect themselves, their families, and their neighbors during and after a large-scale disaster.

Citizens 18 years of age and older who live or work within the RSFFPD are eligible to join Rancho Santa Fe's CERT. Participants will undergo eight training sessions, held on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings, beginning Wednesday, February 28, and concluding Saturday, March 24, 2006.

CERT participants will learn to prepare for various disasters like earthquakes, floods and wildfires; work as a team to apply basic fire suppression strategies; conduct triage under simulated conditions; perform head-to-toe patient assessments; apply first aid techniques and treat wounds; identify potential search and rescue situations; and use safe techniques for debris removal and victim extrication.

There is no cost to become a CERT member and successful participants will receive a CERT hardhat, vest, gloves, and other safety equipment. CERT is sponsored by the RSFFPD and all classes are taught by Rancho Santa Fe firefighters and staff. Members of neighborhoods, community organizations, or workplaces are encouraged to join.

Citizens can get more information about the Rancho Santa Fe CERT program, including a full schedule and application, via the fire district's web site, www.rsf-fire.org, or by calling (858) 756-5971, ext. 149, to speak with the CERT Coordinator.

CERT was first established by the Los Angeles City Fire Department in 1986. In 1993, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) began promoting nationwide use of LAFD's

CERT concept. Since then, CERT programs have been established in all 50 states, including local CERT programs in the cities of Coronado, El Cajon, and San Diego.

The mission of the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District is “to protect life, property, and environment through prevention, preparedness, education and emergency response.” Formed in 1946, the Fire District now spans approximately 42-square miles and protects over 21,500 citizens. The Fire District currently operates out of four full-time fire stations and serves the communities within and surrounding Rancho Santa Fe and 4S-Ranch.

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