



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Are You Prepared in Case of an Emergency?

**Register for the Community Emergency Preparedness Academy that begins  
September 4, 2013 – Hurry, Space Limited!**

**(Rancho Santa Margarita, California)** – In the event of a major disaster or even a more common emergency, do you know what to do to care for yourself and family until help arrives?

The City of Rancho Santa Margarita will host a **free** 8 week Community Emergency Preparedness Academy (CEPA) to provide residents with critical information and skills to care for themselves, their families and neighbors when emergency responders may not be able to respond.

Topics include Earthquake Preparedness, Disaster Plans, Fire Safety and Fire Extinguishers, Wildfire Preparedness, First Aid, CPR and Defibrillators, Light Search and Rescue, and more.

After completing all sessions, participants will be trained how to prepare themselves, their homes and their families for emergencies; and how to help their community during larger emergencies.

The course begins on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> and continues on Wednesday evenings for eight weeks, with the last class held on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Classes run from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Bell Tower Regional Community Center, located at 22232 El Paseo, next to City Hall. (In place of the October 16<sup>th</sup> class will be CPR and First Aid training on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>.)

Meals (box lunches from area restaurants) and cold drinks will be provided prior to class at 6:00 PM. Class size is limited to 25 members and registration is required. The course is **free** and open to all adult residents of Rancho Santa Margarita who are able to attend the entire program. Teenagers attending with parents are also welcome.

CEPA is a collaborative effort by the City, Orange County Sheriff's Department, Orange County Fire Authority, Doctor's Ambulance Service and the American Red Cross, and Doctor's Ambulance Service provides a sponsorship to cover all of the costs of the program. CEPA is especially vital for residents living near rural canyon areas, such as Rancho Santa Margarita, which are vulnerable to wildfire or the disruption of infrastructure caused by earthquakes.

To register for the course, contact Steve Rhyner, Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Rancho Santa Margarita at [srhyner@ocsd.org](mailto:srhyner@ocsd.org) or 949.635.1809.

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