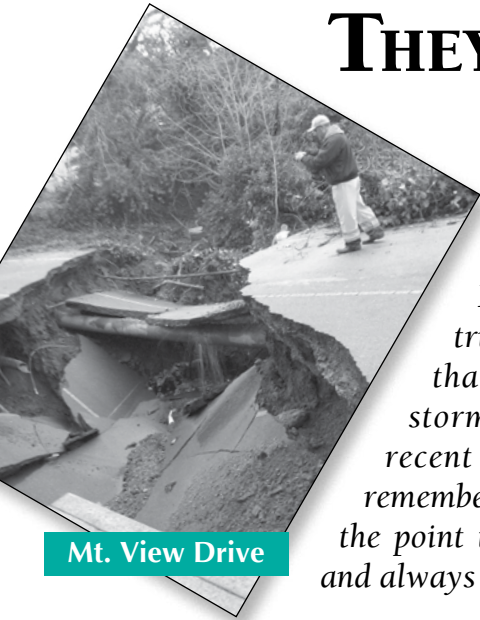


THEY'RE COMING. ARE YOU READY?

A favorite old line about living in the Golden State says,
**“In California, you have nothing to worry about!
Nothing, that is, except earth, air, fire, and water.”**

Like most jokes, it's only funny because it's true. We live on rumbling fire-prone lands that are often pummeled by strong Pacific storms. By recalling, as we do below, some recent and powerful local disaster events and remembering how frequently they occur, we make the point that natural disasters and calamities are, and always have been, part of living in California.



Mt. View Drive



Marina District

Though it seems like we haven't had substantial rains in forever, it was just two years ago when it poured so hard that Lafayette's creeks overflowed and blew out the storm drain beneath Mt. View Drive near Trader Joe's. Several residents moved out of their houses while the City spent nearly \$1M fixing the road.

That storm, though, was nothing compared to the one that hit the Bay Area six years ago, in January 2008. A major low pressure system brought more than 10 inches of rain to Lafayette, triggering landslides throughout town and causing flooding damage to many homes.

And who can forget New Year's Day, 1997, when that incredible pineapple express blew through the Bay Area? December had already been one of the wettest months on record when the tropical storm arrived, dropping more than ten inches of rain in Lafayette in just a few hours. The City recorded fifty-six separate flooding incidents and the soil became so saturated that a house up on Quail Ridge Road slid down its hill and was completely destroyed. Statewide, forty-three of California's fifty-eight

counties were declared disaster areas. Highway 50 across the Sierra was cut in five places by mudslides and flooding, and 16,000 California residences were damaged.

Let's also recall the Oakland Hills firestorm of 1991, which started just five miles from downtown Lafayette on a pleasant Saturday afternoon in October. Firefighters extinguished the smallish 5-acre blaze, but it re-ignited on Sunday morning and, driven by 65 mph gusts, rapidly spread southwest. By noon the conflagration had swept over Hiller Highlands and, with the wind tossing embers into the air, jumped across both Highway 24 and Highway 13. By the time it was finally contained, the Oakland Hills Firestorm killed 25 people and injured 150 others. It destroyed 3,354 houses and 437 apartment and condominium units, with economic losses estimated at \$1.5 billion.

And, of course, we mustn't neglect Loma Prieta. While it may seem like a distant memory now, it was just twenty-five years ago when the last really big earthquake walloped Northern California. At 5:04pm on October 17,

just as the ballplayers were warming up at Candlestick Park for game three of the World Series between the A's and the Giants, the earth shook, and shook hard. The earthquake was so strong – with a maximum Mercalli intensity of IX (*Violent*) and a magnitude of 6.9 – that the shock liquefied unstable soil located more than fifty miles away in San Francisco and Oakland. In the Marina District, four buildings were destroyed by fire, seven buildings collapsed, and sixty three structures were condemned. While the Bay Bridge suffered highly visible but relatively harmless damage, the earthquake pancaked a two-level freeway – the Cypress structure – near the Port of Oakland, where forty-two people lost their lives.

When it was all said and done, sixty-three people were killed in the Loma Prieta earthquake event, and more than 3,700 were injured. 12,000 residents lost power for several days, and the quake caused an estimated \$6 billion in property damage, becoming one of the most expensive natural disasters in U.S. history.

*We've had disasters in the past and we will have more in the future.
We cannot control when or how natural disasters arrive. We can, however, choose to be prepared for them.
They are coming. Are you ready? Take a look at the checklists inside to see if you are!*

A FAMILY DISASTER PLAN



Disasters strike quickly and without warning. They often force families to evacuate their neighborhood or confine them to their home. Creating a family disaster plan is therefore essential, and it can be a lifesaver.

To help prepare, imagine that you have no telephone service, no electricity, no gas, no water, or sanitation service. Imagine that all the businesses are closed and all services are shut down. What will you do and what will you need at home until help arrives?

Your family members may not all be together when a disaster strikes. Therefore you should ask an out-of-state friend or relative to be your family's emergency contact. Everyone in the family should know that they must call that person and check in after a disaster. Be sure everyone carries an emergency contact card. Discuss what to do if you need to evacuate your home, and consider the special needs of seniors and disabled family members. Don't forget to include pets in your plan.

Pick specific places to meet for different situations. Meet right outside your home if there is a sudden emergency, such as a fire. Parks or outdoor areas are good places to meet if you cannot return home after an earthquake. And choose an out-of-town meeting place in case of evacuation.

Plan Checklist

- Print and fill out the handy Family Emergency Plan Form from www.Ready.gov.
- Post emergency telephone numbers by your telephones (fire, police, ambulance, etc.).
- Make copies of vital documents and store them with your out-of-state emergency contact.
- Teach children how and when to call 911 or your local number for emergency help.
- Look for possible hazards in your home, particularly things that might fall from high places.
- Make sure you have adequate, up-to-date insurance coverage.
- Determine the best evacuation routes from your home.
- Buy emergency supplies and assemble a supply kit.
- Buy fire extinguishers and show family members where they are and how to use them.
- Install smoke detectors near bedrooms.
- Teach family members when and how to turn off the water, gas, and electricity.
- Take CERT training and Red Cross first aid/CPR classes.

Practice Your Plan

It's not enough to put together your plan; you've got to practice it! Quiz your kids every six months so they remember what to do. Review evacuation plans with seniors and family members with special needs. Replace stored water and food every six months. Test your smoke detectors monthly and change the batteries at least once a year. Test and recharge your fire extinguisher(s) as needed.

Educate Yourself at Lamorinda CERT

The Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program helps train people to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their communities. A CERT course benefits every citizen who takes it, and makes people better prepared for disasters. Lamorinda CERT holds meetings on the 2nd Monday of each month, 7pm at the Orinda Library Garden Room. More information at www.lamorindacert.org.

For more information...

There are scores of quality websites with more information regarding emergency preparation. For a sample, check out these online resources:

For Residents: www.ready.gov

For Families with Children:
www.ready.gov/kids

For Pet Owners:
www.evacuatemypet.com

For Business Owners:
www.ready.gov/business

For People with Disabilities:
www.ready.gov/individuals-access-functional-needs



For Live Emergency Notifications/Alerts...

To keep people informed, the Lafayette Police Department blasts live texts out to people's cell phones during significant public safety events. To receive essential live text notifications during emergencies from the Lafayette Police Department, sign up here: www.Nixle.com.

To Get Involved...

Lafayette's **Emergency Preparedness Commission** prepares businesses, residents and schools for a natural disaster by developing risk awareness, providing education, and advocating for ongoing emergency and disaster preparedness in the community. The Commission also sponsors the Neighborhood Captains Program. You can help! Attend a meeting to learn how. The Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the City Offices, located at 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #265.

FIVE PART EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

Your experience after an emergency can range from inconvenient to disastrous. Being prepared with the right supplies can make all the difference.

Here's Your Checklist:

1. HOME WATER

Store a one-week supply of water. Water is more essential to survival than any other supply. Replace supply every six months.

- Store one gallon per person per day for drinking (extra for sanitation and pets)
- Store water tightly in clean plastic containers
- Store in a cool place away from sunlight

2. HOME FOOD

Store a one-week supply of non-perishable food that doesn't need refrigeration, cooking, or water. Every six months, pick up a few replacement items.

- Precooked food in a can or package, including beans, pasta, vegetables, fruit, juice, milk, meat, fish, peanut butter, dried fruit, unsalted nuts, and crackers
- Manual can opener for canned food
- Staples such as sugar, honey, tea, coffee
- Vitamins, protein energy bars, comfort snacks
- Special food for infants and those with allergies

3. HOME SUPPLIES

These are essential supplies to have ready for use after an emergency. Put contents in a large plastic garbage can with wheels or other container that you can easily move.

- Battery/solar-powered/hand crank radio with extra batteries
- Flashlights and batteries
- First aid kit and instruction guide
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags, and plastic bucket for emergency toilet
- Empty garbage can to store waste
- Extra warm blankets or sleeping bags for each person
- Sturdy gloves
- Scissors, duct tape, and plastic sheets/bags to cover broken windows or create shelter
- Bungee cords, utility knife, crowbar, and other tools to help repair damage or create shelter
- Wrench or pliers to turn off gas, water, electricity

4. TO GO BAGS

These are supplies that you can use at home or take with you in case of a home evacuation.

- Local street maps and shelter information
- Copies of vital documents/ID in a waterproof bag or wallet (passport, emergency contact list, insurance/bank info, and family photos for identification purposes)
- List of allergies/medicine/dosages for entire family
- Emergency cash and change
- Pocket flashlight and batteries
- Pocketknife, tape, permanent marker, notepad
- One-month supply of prescription medicines, refilled before the expiration date
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust masks to help filter contaminated air
- Sturdy shoes, warm coat, compact rain poncho, and a hat with a brim/visor for warmth and sun/rain protection
- Toothbrush, small container of sunblock lotion, tampons, lip balm, mints
- Energy bars and small bottle of water



5. EXTRAS

- Emergency reference information or printouts from www.ready.gov
- Household unscented chlorine bleach for water purification
- Extra pair of prescription glasses
- Books, games, puzzles for children
- Family camping tent if you have to sleep outside
- Special care items for infants, children, seniors, and people with disabilities.
- Camping mess kits or paper cups/plates, disposable utensils, and paper towels
- Camping stove, fuel, and matches
- Camera to record damage
- Food, water, blankets, and medicine for your pets.



City of Lafayette
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
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LAFAYVIGNETTES • FALL 14

An Uncontested Election • The deadline to file papers to run for City Council came and went and only two people – both incumbents – chose to run for the two open seats. The November election has thus been cancelled, saving perhaps \$25,000 in ballot costs.

Back to the Future: Lafayette Plaza Shops Ready for Business • The exterior renovations for the historic shops along Lafayette Plaza are complete, so now it's just a question of finding the right tenants for the spaces. The property owner is seeking a mix of restaurants and businesses that will take advantage of the large lawn area and café setting.

After School Pilot • A new after school enrichment program, run by the City's Recreation Department, is now available at the public school campuses. With 250 kids enrolled at four elementary school sites, the program is off to a good start!

No More Pumping! • It took twenty years of planning and fundraising, but we're relieved that the City no longer has to pump sewage out of the Buckeye Fields bathrooms. A new sewer line was recently installed, making the old septic tank obsolete. Savings? About \$20,000 a year.

Brick Gone Wrong? • After hearing a word or two or three about the high contrast brickwork, the City urged the builders of Merrill Gardens, at 2nd St. and Mt. Diablo Blvd., to come up with a more pleasant alternative. They did and, at the City's request, hand-stained almost every brick on the façade. Thanks to Merrill Gardens for the cooperation!

The Birds, um, Chickens and the Bees • The City Council recently introduced an ordinance that will allow but also regulate the keeping of chickens and bees in single family zoning districts. The final vote will take place on October 27th.



LLLC FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY!

The Lafayette Library and Learning Center will celebrate its 5th Anniversary with **A Literary Festival on Sunday, November 2, 11am to 3pm.**

The community is invited to this FREE event featuring guest authors including Elizabeth Rosner, Michael Slack, David Schwartz, Thien Pham, Denys Cazet, Joe Di Prisco, Marissa Moss and more. There are activities for all – fun kid activities, writing workshops, music, and food. For more information call 925-283-6513 x102 or visit lllc.org

The Lafayette Library and Learning Center is a nationally-recognized, transformational model for the American Public Library, and home to the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium where 12 premier regional arts, science and educational organizations have partnered to bring resources directly to the library.

CITY DIRECTORY

For Council Members call: **284-1968**

Council Members

Don Tatzin	Mayor
Brandt Andersson	Vice Mayor
Michael Anderson	Council Member
Mark Mitchell	Council Member
Traci Reilly	Council Member

Messages to **all** Council Members:
cityhall@lovelafayette.org

Administration

General Reception and	284-1968
Steven Falk, City Manager	Fax: 284-3169
Tracy Robinson, Admin. Srv. Dir.	299-3227
Gonzalo Silva, Financial Srv. Mgr.	299-3213
Joanne Robbins, City Clerk	299-3210

Community Development

Tony Coe, Engineering Srv. Mgr.	284-1951
Niroop Srivatsa, Planning Srv. Mgr.	284-1976
Ron Lefler, Public Works Srv. Mgr.	299-3214
P.W. Hotline (to report problems)	299-3259

If you observe illegal dumping in creeks & storm drains or accidental spills on roads, call Contra Costa Hazardous Materials Division 646-2286.

Lamorinda School Bus Program

Juliet Hansen, Program Mgr.	299-3216
	Or 299-3215

Parks, Trails and Recreation 284-2232

Jennifer Russell, Director	
Senior Services	284-5050

Police Services

Emergency: 24 Hours	911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours	284-5010
Police Business Office:	283-3680

Anonymous Tipline, Traffic Enforcement, Suggestions & LEARN (Laf. Emergency Action Response Network), 299-3230

Fax	284-3169
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Address	3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
	Lafayette, CA 94549

Website	www.ci.lafayette.ca.us
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E-MAIL: Council/staff members can be reached via e-mail using this address format:

First Initial + Last Name @lovelafayette.org
Example: SFalk@lovelafayette.org

Want more City news? Subscribe to the City Manager's Weekly Summary and the Almost Daily Briefing at www.lovelafayette.org.