

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

SEPTEMBER 17, 2013

PROCLAIM SEPTEMBER 2013 AS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Since 2004, National Preparedness Month is observed each September across the United States. September was chosen because of the tragedies of September 11, 2001, which highlighted the importance of being prepared and that emergencies happen unexpectedly in every community. From natural disasters such as earthquakes, wildfires, mud or landslides, severe weather and flooding, tornados, hurricanes and tsunamis to shootings, cyber-attacks, acts of terrorism, even water main breaks and power outages, one must become aware of the perils to which they might be subject to in their area and be prepared to handle it and to take action in the midst of it.

Particularly here in Southern California, natural disasters such as wildfires, mud or landslides and earthquakes are not uncommon. According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Southern California experiences about 10,000 earthquakes each year, although most are so small they are imperceptible. The Southern California Earthquake Data Center sites 233 earthquake faults that run through Southern California, 60 of

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MOLINA _____

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which are in the Los Angeles area. Southern California experiences an average of 30 earthquakes per day.

In the event of an earthquake or other large scale emergency, local Emergency Response Teams may not always be able to reach residents quickly. Access to food, water or electricity may not be available. Therefore, it is imperative that residents in Los Angeles County take the time now to prepare by making a disaster plan and securing the essential items for an emergency kit for all family members, including pets. It is the responsibility of each and every resident to become informed about the different emergencies that may affect their respective communities, and take steps to receive training and become engaged in community preparedness and response efforts.

The County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office, Office of Emergency Management, a member of the National Preparedness Coalition, has teamed up with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency, Citizens Corps, State of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Los Angeles County departments, Los Angeles County Operational Area cities, unincorporated area communities, school and special districts and non-government organizations in hosting and participating in disaster preparedness events being held throughout the County in recognition of National Preparedness Month.

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I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Proclaim September 2013 as National Preparedness Month in Los Angeles County, and encourage all individuals to take responsibility and action by becoming prepared, informed and actively involved in disaster preparedness, and to be a part of the community's response after a disaster. Residents are encouraged to visit the website of the Los Angeles County's Office of Emergency Management to obtain valuable information and tips on preparedness, at <http://www.lacoa.org/aboutoem.html>.

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