

Riverside Fire Department



Office of Emergency Management

Inside this issue:

How to Have a Safe Kitchen	2
Heating Your Home	2
Trees + Power Lines = Disaster	3
Basic Disaster Supplies	3
CERT Highlights and Updates	4
Save the Date	5
CERT Class 38	6
CERT Class 39	7
Public Safety Appreciation Night at MLK High	8
Ready Riverside Emergency Prep Fair	9
Annual Emp Disaster Kit	10
Triage and First Aid	10
Great California ShakeOut	10
La Sierra Safety Conf	10
Fire Prevention Week	11
CERT 2011 Year End Meeting/Celebration	12
Festival of Lights	13
Riverside Readiness Website	14
Contact Information	14

CITY OF RIVERSIDE Community Preparedness Newsletter

Winter 2011 Volume I, Issue II

LESSONS FROM THE GREAT EAST JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

In December I had the opportunity to spend 12 days in Northern Japan as part of the LA-Inland Empire Regional Catastrophic Planning Team. We saw the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake, also known as the Tōhoku earthquake of March 11, 2011. The fourth largest earthquake in the world, it measured 9.0 in magnitude. The epicenter

was approximately 80 miles east of our sister city - Sendai, Japan. The main shock occurred at 2:46 pm when most of the population was at work or attending school. In some areas of Japan, the ground shook for over 13 minutes. This disaster quickly turned catastrophic, as the eastern seaboard of Japan was struck by a series of tsunamis within

30 minutes of the earthquake. Some seaports of Northern Japan saw tsunami waves over 50 feet tall that swept inland up to 3 miles. Matters worsened when much of the Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Station in Fukushima was damaged or destroyed by the tsunami, causing an unprecedented radiological emergency. As of this writing 15,839 are reported dead and 3,647 remain missing or unaccounted for.

The Team went to some of the hardest hit areas of Japan. We met countless heroes along the way. There were firefighters, police officers, military, doctors, volunteers, and citizens who rescued untold numbers of people from debris that littered coastal communities. Tokyo firefighters averted a nuclear meltdown and put their lives on the

line by cooling the number 3 reactor of the Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Station.

We could not meet Ms. Miki Endo, a 24-year-old member of the Minami-Sanriku Crisis Management Office. On March 11, her responsibility was to issue tsunami warnings over the town's public address system. She

did this from the second story of the three-story emergency operations center. Miki stayed at her post issuing warnings until she died when the building was overrun by a 45-foot tsunami. She is credited with savings thousands who sought high ground because of her warnings. Miki is a hero's hero.



Minami-Sanriku Crisis Management Center, where 30 of 40 people, including Ms. Miki Endo, perished.

While the Team is still

compiling notes, data, reports, and photographs, there have already been many lessons learned from Japan. Japan's building codes, public education, and emergency preparedness saved lives. The resiliency of the Japanese people is demonstrated by the way they take care of each other, contribute to the recovery process, and give to others when they have little.

From the tragic events of March 11, 2011, Japan has adopted the motto "We Can Do It." They have already proved this motto true, which is the most important lesson of all.

> Anthony Coletta Emergency Operations Manager Riverside Fire Department

HOW TO HAVE A SAFE KITCHEN

Careless cooking is the number one cause of residential fires, and scalds and burn injuries are on the increase. Here are some tips for you:

- Never leave anything cooking unattended.
- Keep children a safe distance from hot liquids.
- Always use potholders.
- Avoid using deep fat fryers around children; hot grease causes severe burns.
- Clean the exhaust hood and duct over the stove regularly, and wipe up spilled grease as soon as the surface of the stove is cool.
- It's wise to have a fire extinguisher near the kitchen; keep it 10 feet away from the stove on the exit side of the kitchen.
- Never pour water on a grease fire; turn off the stove and cover the pan with a lid, or close the oven door.
- Keep pot handles near the stove.
- · Always watch young children in the kitchen.
- Don't store items on the stovetop; they could catch fire.
- Keep kitchen appliances clean and in good condition.
- Follow instructions carefully when using microwave ovens.

- Be sure your stove is not located under a window where curtains are hanging.
- Wear short sleeves or fleece clothing while cooking.
- If your clothing should catch fire, immediately stop, drop, and roll to smother flames.

Source: http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/downloads/fact_sheets/ Kitchensafety.pdf



HEATING YOUR HOME SAFELY THIS WINTER

Home fires often occur during the cold winter due to dangerous heating equipment or unsafe practices.

Here are some important safety tips to help keep your home safe and warm this winter:

- Never use flammable liquids or excessive amounts of paper to start or accelerate a fire.
- Charcoal gives off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide; do NOT burn it indoors.
- Keep flammables away from heat sources. Wood stoves require a

36-inch clearance from combustible surfaces.

- The use of kerosene heaters inside the home is prohibited in California (Sec. 19881, Health and Safety Code).
- Keep children away from heat sources.
- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Wood stoves should be Underwriter's Laboratories, Inc. (UL) approved.
- Never attempt to heat a structure with a device that was designed for outdoor use, such as

a camp stove.

- Have a professional inspect and clean your chimney, stovepipe, and/or furnace annually. Do not attempt repairs yourself.
- Keep a metal or glass screen in front of the fireplace opening; make sure the damper is open before lighting.
- Check furnace control and emergency shut-offs to be sure they are working properly.

Source: http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/downloads/fact_sheets/SafeHomeHeating.pdf

TREES + POWER LINES = DISASTER

Trees in contact with high voltage power lines can act

as an ignition source for fire, and trees represent one of the largest causes of power outages in California. Keeping trees away from power lines can prevent injury to people climbing or working in trees. The following explains the responsibilities of your utility company and ways you can decrease hazards.



Your Utility Company's Responsibility

- State law requires utility companies to maintain specific clearances (depending on the amount of voltage running through the line) between electric power lines and all vegetation.
- Failure to allow a utility company to comply with the law can result in liability to the homeowner for damages or injuries resulting from a vegetation hazard. Many insurance companies do not cover these types of damages if the policy owner has refused to allow the hazard to be eliminated.

You Can Help Prevent Electrical Outages, Fire, and Public Safety Hazards

- Clear all flammable vegetation within a minimum of 100 feet around your home and other structures.
 This provides the greatest chance for survival and is also required by law. Public Resources Code 4291.
- Do not plant trees under or near power lines. Before planting trees close to any power line, contact your local utility company to confirm the maximum tree height allowed for that location.
- Look into planting vegetation that is more fire resistant. However, vegetation is only fire resistant if it is cared for, watered, and trimmed. Talk with your local nursery for more information.

Never allow children to climb trees growing near power lines.

- Never prune trees near power lines. Call your local utility company first to inspect the trees. In many instances, the utility company may perform the tree work at no cost to the homeowner.
- Inspect the trees on your property annually for hazards.
- •For expert advice on tree health or hazards, consult an International

Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist.

Source: http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/downloads/fact_sheets/ Powerlines.pdf

BASIC DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT

A basic emergency supply kit could include the following recommended items:

- <u>Water</u>: one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days.
- <u>Food</u>: at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food.
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio.
- · Flashlight and extra batteries.
- First aid kit.
- · Whistle to signal for help.
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to sheetin-place.
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation.
- · Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities.
- Manual can opener for food.
- Local maps.
- · Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger.

Source: http://www.ready.gov/basic-disaster-supplies-kit.



HIGHLIGHTS AND UPDATES

HAPPY NEW YEAR, CERT MEMBERS

As the new year begins, it's a good time to check our disaster supplies, replace expired items, and turn on flashlights and radios to make sure that they work.

2011 was a very busy year for our CERT Program. We participated in many community events, special activities and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activations. CERT Members had a chance to practice skills and promote the importance of emergency preparedness in our Neighborhoods, Workplaces, Schools, and Faith

Based Organizations.

As a Riverside CERT Member, you are part of positive changes within your community, and volunteering is a vital part of our CERT Program.

Volunteering conveys

a sense of
achievement and
motivation, which
ultimately is
generated from your
desire and enthusiasm to
help. Through our



training activities you improve your disaster skills and through our outreach activities you encourage

for emergencies.
We recognize and appreciate all your efforts!

and help others be

better prepared

September
was National
Preparedness
Month and
the Riverside
Fire

Department - Office of Emergency Management, with help from our CERT Volunteers, participated in several disaster preparedness activities.

It was exciting for me to coordinate our first Ready Riverside

Emergency Preparedness Fair held on September 27 downtown in front of Riverside City Hall. Many community emergency resources had booths and displays that provided preparedness information and explained how they would respond in emergencies or disasters (see page 9).

Thank you to the following CERT Volunteers:

Regina Brown Adriana Curiel

Joseph Hamlin Larry Hernandez

Tony Hudson Cathy Jensen

Margo Miley, Mario Rivera, Jr.

Angelina Robles Angel Sanchez,

Sr.

And thanks also to the following City Employee CERT Members:

Donna Arrechea Nancy Castillo

Norma Pagan Anthony Zamora

These CERT Members helped to make our event a big success! We hope to make our Ready Riverside Emergency Preparedness Fair an annual event.

In closing, we look forward to your continued participation in our CERT Program and your partnership in helping others become better prepared to help their families and others following a major disaster.

Sincerely,

Gina Perez

Community Preparedness/CERT
Coordinator
Riverside Fire Department - Office
of Emergency Management
<u>aperez@riversideca.gov</u>
(951) 320-8112

SAVE THE DATE: CERT ACTIVITIES AND CLASSES

CERT 20-Hour
Basic Course Training
Prepare family, co-workers, and
neighbors for disasters with the
CERT Basic Course. The
registration form is here.

Location:

Riverside City Emergency Operations Center (EOC) 3085 St. Lawrence Street Riverside, CA 92504

Dates:

- Mar 9, 2012, Friday
 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
- Mar 10, 2012, Saturday
 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
- Mar 11, 2012, Sunday
 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

You must attend all dates to receive the FEMA certificate. Registration fee is \$15.00.

CERT Volunteers Needed
Help spread the word about CERT/
Disaster Preparedness by
volunteering to staff a display
booth at Community events. At
times we also need your help at
Community events to make them
run smoothly. Call (951) 320-8112
or e-mail Gina Perez at
gperez@riversideca.gov. Please
volunteer for at least two hours;
this still leaves time to enjoy the
event.

Feb 23, Thursday
 Community Event
 Meridian of Riverside Senior
 Living
 4609 Arlington Avenue
 Riverside, CA 92504
 Help staff a CERT/Emergency
 Preparedness booth
 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

- Mar 28, Wednesday
 Ninth Annual Senior Conference
 Janet Goeske Center
 5257 Sierra Street
 Riverside, CA 92504-2280
 Help staff a CERT/Emergency
 Preparedness booth
 8:00 am 1:30 pm
- Mar 31, Saturday
 Riverside Airport Air Show
 6951 Flight Road
 Riverside, CA 92504
 Help staff a CERT/Emergency
 Preparedness booth
 6:30 am 4:30 pm
 Great view of flying air demo.
 Two-hour shifts available; sign up
 for several.

Advanced CERT Training

CERT Members Only

Courses with fewer than 15 CERT

Members registered will be
cancelled. Get advanced training or
help out by being an "injured
victim" during the Basic Course
final exercise. Register here.

Feb 15, Wednesday
 CERT RESPONDER-Assisting
 Deaf and Hard of Hearing in
 Emergencies
 Instructor: Lisa K Price, Regional

Director, Center on Deafness Inland Empire
Riverside Fire Department-EOC
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

March 11, Sunday
 Final Drill Exercise
 Be an "Injured Victim"
 Riverside Fire Department-EOC
 3085 Saint Lawrence Street
 Riverside, CA 92504
 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

February 2012						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

March 2012						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April 2012						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Mar 14, Wednesday
 Triage and CERT Disaster
 Medical Refresher

Instructor: Fire Captain John Peurifoy, Lead Instructor Riverside Fire Department-EOC 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

CONGRATULATIONS CERT CLASS NUMBER 38!

City Employee 2011 CERT Class # 38 Graduates:

In alphabetical order: Marva Anselm, Tricia Audoma, Mark Connor, Jesse Fierro, Bryan Galbreath, Gustavo Gonzalez, Joel Hart, Julian McLaughlin, Katie Mendonca, Maureen Mitchell, Jared Nerio, Carlos Ortiz, Mark Otjen, Chris Pullin, Regina Quillen, Mark Reddick, Michael Roberts, Larry Rogers, Paul Shouse, Steve Verdick, David Webb, and Anthony Zamora.





Fire Capt. Peurifoy observes as Regina Quillen, Katie Mendonca, Joel Hart, and Steve Verdick rescue a victim during the Final Drill Exercise.

supplement its response capability after a disaster, civilians can be recruited and trained as neighborhood, business, and government teams that, in essence, will be auxiliary responders. These groups can provide immediate assistance to victims in their area, organize spontaneous volunteers who have not had the training, and collect disaster intelligence that will assist professional responders.

A Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a self-activating group of citizens who care enough about their families, friends, and neighbors to prepare themselves to be self-sufficient during crisis situations. The CERT course will benefit any citizen who takes it. This individual will be better prepared to respond to and cope with the aftermath of a disaster. Additionally, if a community wants to

Carlos Ortiz, Marva Anselm, Julian McLaughlin, and Maureen Mitchell practice a safe lift and carry during the final drill exercise.



CONGRATULATIONS CERT CLASS NUMBER 39!

In alphabetical order is presented the November 2011 CERT Class: Lena Barraza, William Barnard, David Bell, Herb Chavers, Nathanael Chavers, Suzette Chavers, Angela Curiel, Camarena Domingo, Kimberly Ervin, Edith Engelauf, Tina Felix, Misty Finney, Melanie Gilson, Natalie Haynes, Lorretta Johnson, Claudia Kwiecien, Kristii MacEwen, Jack Mazza, Carla Miano, Christine Phillips, Erik Redmond, Ron Restivo, Rosa Rocha, Brandon Rogers, Jason Rossi, Nancy Stimmel, Virginia Werly, and Carla Yawney.

Past CERT Members refreshed their learning or assisted in Final Drill by being "victims:" Mario Rivera, Sheila McMahon, Cathy Jensen, Adriana Curiel, and Dale Adams.





Leverage is demonstrated the CERT way.



CERT students learn triage and treatment of "victims."



The PASS (Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep) method for fire extinguishers is learned by CERT Class 39.



PUBLIC SAFETY APPRECIATION NIGHT AT MARTIN LUTHER KING HIGH SCHOOL



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2011



CERT Members, Cathy Jensen and Margo Miley, hand out CERT info at Martin Luther King High School.

Friday, October 14, 2011, from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm, Martin Luther King High School at 9301 Wood Road in Riverside celebrated Public Safety Appreciation Night before kickoff of the football game. The CERT booth was near the ticket booth to give information about the CERT program.

The agenda for Public Safety Appreciation Night:

- 6:45 pm Police Chief Diaz and Fire Chief Earley said a few words
- 6:50 pm Riverside Police
 Department Color Guard and
 Martin Luther King High School
 Navy Junior Reserve Officers
 Training Corps presented the
 Colors
- 6:51 pm Flyover completed by Air-1, Star-80, Customs Blackhawk Helicopter
- 7:00 pm Kick-off



Police Chief Sergio G. Diaz, left, and Fire Chief Steven H. Earley speak about Public Safety



READY RIVERSIDE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FAIR



As part of National Preparedness Month and in recognition of the 10th anniversary of the attacks of September 11th, the theme this year was "A Time to Remember. A Time to Prepare."

The Riverside Fire Department-Office of Emergency Management participated by coordinating several special events and activities that included a "Ready Riverside Emergency Preparedness Fair" held on September 27, 2011, in front of Riverside City Hall at 3900 Main Street from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Booths and displays were from:

- Riverside Fire and Police Departments;
- American Medical Response;
- Riverside City Public Utilities;
- · CERT;
- 311 Call Center;
- Riverside County RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service)
 Communications;
- · Fuel Relief Fund;
- American Red Cross;
- · The Gas Company;
- Riverside Community Health Foundation; and
- Simpler Life Emergency Provisions, Inc.

These community resources provided valuable preparedness information and explained how they would respond in emergencies.



Richelle Tague and American Red Cross Staff



Ron Braley, Bob Trujillo, and Riverside County RACES Members



Kris Salas, Executive Director, Fuel Relief Fund



Jeremiah Meadows, Jeremy Roberts, Squad 1

SEPT 22, ANNUAL EMPLOYEE DISASTER KIT FAIR



On September 22, the Annual Employee Disaster Kit Fair was held at the Fire Training Center Patio for the City of Riverside employees.

Disaster supplies and CERT items were for sale to City employees.

CERT ADVANCED TRAINING: TRIAGE AND FIRST AID

Fire Captain John Peurifoy, Lead Instructor, taught triage and first aid to CERT members on August 17, 2011.



Fire Explorers help with CERT Triage and First Aid Training; they are always good sports!



CERT Members Jo Ann Snodgrass and Steve Boyd conduct triage.

Great California ShakeOut on October 20, 2011



CERT Member and City Employee, Carol Crouch, follows the procedure of DROP, COVER, HOLD ON during the Great California ShakeOut.

LA SIERRA SENIOR CENTER SAFETY CONFERENCE

CERT was there! Norma Pagan and CERT Members provided information and distributed FREE smoke detectors to Riverside Senior Citizens at the La Sierra Senior Center Safety Conference September 22, 2011.



RIVERSIDE FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OPEN HOUSES



Station #1: Joy Wells, Regina Brown, Angelina Robles, Steve Wells, and Larry Hernandez (not pictured)

National Fire Prevention Week was October 9 to 15, 2011. The theme was "It's Fire Prevention Week, Protect your Family from Fire!"

THANK YOU to the CERT Members who volunteered for the National Fire Prevention Week Open Houses on October 15 at Fire Stations #1, #2, #3:

Regina Brown, Steve and Joy Wells, Angelina Robles, Larry Hernandez, Richard Egan, Carla Zehrt, BJ Ratliff, Margo Miley, Diane Contreras, and Fran Ferard.

They helped provide information to the Community on the importance of Emergency Preparedness and Fire Safety.



Station #2: Richard Egan, BJ Ratliff, and Carla Zehrt.

Station #3: Fran Ferard, Diane Contreras, and Margo Miley.



CERT 2011 YEAR END MEETING/CELEBRATION



Fire Chief Steve Earley presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Mario Rivera, Jr., for volunteering almost 100 hours with CERT programs!

The Riverside Fire Department - Office of Emergency Management would like to thank everyone who attended the 2011 CERT Year End Meeting/ Celebration on Wednesday, December 14 at the Orangecrest Club. We had a great turnout! It was nice to see so many CERT Members and their families and friends. CERT Members who attended received a folding shovel to add to their CERT kit. We enjoyed great conversation, delicious food, and tasty desserts.

During the meeting, we highlighted some 2011 CERT activities and discussed future events for 2012. Check your emails (and page 5) for information on upcoming training and other opportunities to participate in our CERT Program.

We also recognized CERT Members who volunteered

throughout the year. Fire Chief Steve Earley presented two Certificates of Appreciation to Felicia Bradfield and Mario Rivera, Jr., for volunteer-

ing so much of their time to our CERT Program. Felicia (165

hours) helps us with our Community Preparedness Newsletter, and Mario (95.5 hours) assisted with various events, trainings, and work details. Congratulations and thank you!

We also thank the River-

side City
Firefighters' Association and
Phyllis DeLapp, who
is a CERT
Member
and Manager of the
Orangecrest Club

age 5) for donating the use of forma- their clubhouse for our meeting.

And thank you to the Planning and Decorating Committee for a great job:
Gina Perez, Norma Pagan,
Anna Hauldren, Carol
Blake, Carol Crouch, and

Greg Crouch. Also, thanks go to Cathy Jensen and Sandy Garcia for acquiring and running the popcorn machine.

We know that your time is valuable and we greatly appreciate all that you do!



CERT Members and their families and friends enjoy the conversation, delicious food, and tasty desserts at the Year End Meeting/ Celebration.



Thank you from all of us:

City of Riverside Fire Department Office of Emergency Management

Steven Earley Fire Chief

Anthony Coletta Emergency Services Manager

Phil McCormick Emergency Operations Coordinator

Gina Perez Community Preparedness Coordinator

Norma Pagan Senior Office Specialist
Misty Finney Senior Office Specialist

CERT Instructors and Staff

John Peurifoy Fire Captain, Lead Instructor

Lisa Holloway Fire Captain
Wayne Hess Firefighter

Walt Bieszczad Retired Firefighter

Peter Sellas CERT Staff



Fire Chief Steve Earley, Battalion Chiefs Mike Koury, LaWayne Hearn and Fire Training Captain Jennifer McDowell attend the Year End Meeting/Celebration.

RIVERSIDE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

The Riverside Festival of Lights kicked off with festive activities on November 25th, 2011, at 3 p.m.



Nick from the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce and CERT Members Stephania Crowder and Tony Crowder secure the Command Post area...

followed by the 19th Annual Festival of Lights
Switch-On Ceremony at 5:15 pm presented by owners
of The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa. Riverside's downtown
was instantly illuminated with more than three and a
half million lights and fireworks.

CERT Members volunteered their time and had spectacular views of the show. Tasks included traffic and crowd safety and safeguarding blocked off areas. Even through the cold weather and thousands of people our CERT Volunteers maintained a positive attitude!

We received lots of positive comments from the organizers and the community about how courteous and helpful our CERT Members were.

The Riverside Fire Department - Office of Emergency Management says THANK YOU to the following CERT Members:

- Lena Barraza
- Travis Bradshaw
- Carol Crouch
- Stephania Crowder
- Robert Dandurand
- Lauren Grecian
- Thea Humphries
- Lorretta Johnson
- Daryl Poulson
- Art Santore

- David Bell
- Regina Brown
 - Greg Crouch
- Tony Crowder
- Edith Engelauf
- Daniel Gregorio
- Sylvia Job
- Marvin Portillo
- Kent Poulson
- · Carla Zehrt

Thanks so much for helping!



CERT Members Carol and Greg Crouch perform barricade safety at the Festival of Lights.

Festival of Lights

CERT Highlights and Updates

CITY OF RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS NEWSLETTER

City of Riverside Fire Department Office of Emergency Management

Phone: 951-320-8100
Fax: 951-320-8102
e-mail: rivcitycert@
riversideca.gov

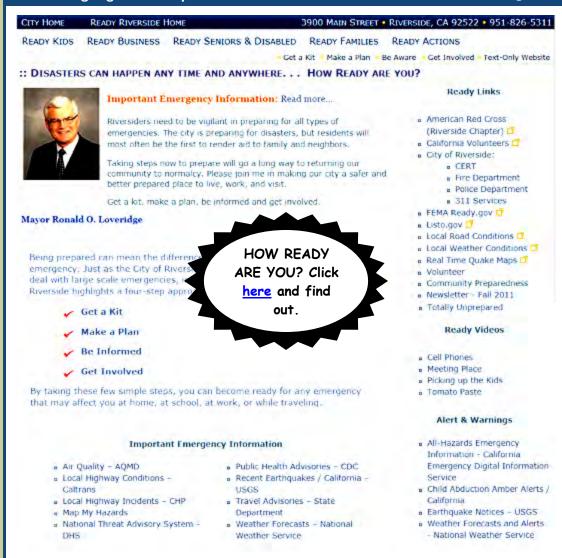
Local website:
www.readyriverside.com
National website:
www.citizencorps.gov

Executive Editor: Anthony Coletta, Emergency Services Manager

Editor: Felicia A. Bradfield, CERT Volunteer

Contributing Editor:
Gina Perez
Community Preparedness
and CERT Coordinator





IMPORTANT



Give us a call (951.320.8100)

or send an email
(rivcitycert@riversideca.gov)

and update your contact
information.