

October 2017

Birthstone: Opal or Tourmaline  
Flower: Calendula or Cosmos

# Pathfinder



CITY OF SANTA MARIA EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



## *A few words from your City Manager*

Rick Haydon



**October will be a chance for all City employees to shake, rattle and roll. On Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, all departments are encouraged to participate in the "Great California Shakeout," an annual statewide earthquake preparedness drill.**

This drill is an excellent opportunity to test readiness. The basic guidelines are several days before the drill, supervisory staff should designate employees responsible for assisting during the event. If the department's Safety Committee representative is not available for the drill, designate another employee to take their place.

Around 10:19 a.m., announce the drill is starting (via verbal direction) and that employees are to Drop and Cover and Hold On (they should have room under their desks).

You may adjust the start time of the drill to accommodate your department's needs. For example, the Library may want to do it before opening. Suggest that, while they are on the floor, employees look around at what would be falling on them in a real earthquake. Secure or move items after the drill to prevent injury and damage.

As an employee, do you know where your designated meeting area is in the event of a disaster? If not, find out.

Just last month, Mexico City was struck by two, powerful, deadly earthquakes within two weeks of each other. The first was a magnitude 8.1 quake that

struck southern Mexico and killed at least 90 people. The second hit central Mexico with a magnitude of 7.1, killing at least 230 people.

In the back of our minds we also know that, in fault-ridden California, it's not a matter of if such geologic force will jolt us - but a matter of when.

There is a greater than 99 percent chance that a magnitude 6.7 or greater earthquake capable of causing extensive life and property damage will strike in California, according to the most recent Uniform California Earthquake Rupture Forecast.

Santa Maria is located in a Seismic Zone 4, which is the highest potential for ground shaking. The San Andreas Fault, California's largest and most well-known active fault, is 40 miles to the northeast of Santa Maria.

When the "Big One" hits, remember all of us are emergency disaster service workers, for when you became a City employee, you signed an "Oath of Office" card acknowledging that during times of an emergency, that you would be a disaster service worker and must report for duty.

So now is the time for all of us to know how to pull together as a team in order to provide essential City services to the community in times of a disaster. Should you have any questions regarding your responsibilities as a disaster service worker, ask your supervisor and start the discussion.

*Rick*

Please join me in congratulating and supporting **Jason Stilwell** as the next City Manager. He was unanimously appointed by the City Council on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. He will succeed me following my retirement on December 5<sup>th</sup>.