



*San Marcos Fire Department*

# Emergency Preparedness

## Together We're Better

The City of San Marcos is committed to keeping the community safe, especially during a disaster.

As a resident, you are an important part of emergency planning and preparedness. This guide will help you better prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters or other emergencies that face our community.

By working together and following some simple guidelines, you can help your family, neighborhood, business or school prepare before the next disaster.



## Simple Guidelines

- **Make a Plan**
- **Have a Kit**
- **Be Informed**
- **Get Involved**

For more information, please contact the San Marcos Fire Department at (760) 744-1050, ext. 3410.



## What's Inside

To get started, please review this basic emergency preparedness information:

1. Get ready
2. Make a plan
3. Have a kit
4. Make a list
5. Be informed
6. Stay Connected
7. Get involved with CERT
8. Create defensible space



## 1) Get Ready

The best time to prepare is before a disaster threatens your home or safety. Use these steps as a guide for getting ready.



## 2) Make a Plan

- Designate an out-of-town relative or friend as a contact for separated family members as it may be easier to place a long distance call or send a text message than use local communication systems.
- Become familiar with alternate routes out of your neighborhood in case your “usual way” is blocked.
- Plan transportation for your pets and livestock and ensure you have adequate pet carriers for each pet.
- Know emergency plans for your work and children’s school.



## 3) Have a Kit



Your kit should include items that will help your family be comfortable and self-sufficient after a disaster for three days or more. Consider these items:

- Water for three to five days  
*(one gallon per person per day)*
- Food for three to five days  
*(including pet food)*
- First Aid Kit



- Radio *(and extra batteries)*
- Prescription medications
- Cash and important documents
- Clothing and sturdy shoes
- Work gloves
- Sanitation and hygiene supplies
- Flashlights *(and extra batteries)*



## 4) Make a list

Make a list now of the things important to you and your family in an emergency.

- Eyeglasses
- Jewelry
- Child’s favorite toy or book
- External hard drive
- Cell phone, tablet, chargers

## 5) Be Informed

It is important to know how the City of San Marcos will notify the community before, during, and after an emergency. Here are some of the ways you can expect to find important emergency information:

### SANDIEGOCOUNTY EMERGENCY APP

The County of San Diego has a free app with emergency preparedness tips and a San Marcos specific section. Download the app by visiting [www.readysandiego.org](http://www.readysandiego.org).



### CITY OF SANMARCOS

During an emergency, the City of San Marcos will post critical incident information to the city's website, social media platforms and local radio station:

- [www.san-marcos.net](http://www.san-marcos.net)
- [www.facebook.com/sanmarcoscity](http://www.facebook.com/sanmarcoscity)
- [www.twitter.com/sanmarcoscity](http://www.twitter.com/sanmarcoscity)
- 1610 AM



### OTHER EMERGENCY WEBSITES

- San Diego County's Emergency Site: [www.sdcountyemergency.com](http://www.sdcountyemergency.com)
- Ready San Diego: [www.readysandiego.org](http://www.readysandiego.org)
- 2-1-1 San Diego: [www.211sandiego.org](http://www.211sandiego.org)
- American Red Cross: [www.sdarc.org](http://www.sdarc.org)
- San Diego Gas & Electric: [www.sdge.com](http://www.sdge.com)



## 6) Stay Connected by Registering for AlertSanDiego

Register your cell phone, Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) phone, and email address with AlertSanDiego, the county's reverse 9-1-1 notification system. Listed and unlisted landline phone numbers are already included in the Reverse 9-1-1 database and do not need to be registered.

For residents of San Diego County who are deaf, blind, and hard of hearing you may sign up for Accessible AlertSanDiego. Accessible AlertSanDiego sends emergency alerts and information to internet and video capable devices such as computers, cell phones, smart phones, tablet computers, and wireless Braille readers. These alerts are offered in American Sign Language (ASL) with English voice and text.

Visit [www.readysandiego.org](http://www.readysandiego.org) to sign up for these free services.



### Water Usage Tips

Store a minimum of three gallons of emergency water per person, and plan on using one gallon per person each day. If purified water is not available during an emergency, boil water for one full minute and let the water completely cool before use. Periodically rotate water and food supplies per manufacturers' instructions.



## 7) Create Defensible Space

Defensible space is the area around your home where you manage vegetation to reduce the risks to life and property. Dead, weak or diseased trees and other vegetation outside your home provide fuel for a wildfire, which increase the fire's intensity.



Have a minimum of 150 feet of defensible space around your home to help reduce the impact of wildfire and provide firefighters adequate space to defend your home.

### THREE ZONES OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE:

**Zone 1 – 30 to 50 feet:** The area nearest your home should contain low growing plants with low fuel volume. Ideally, there should be no tall growing plants close to your home.

**Zone 2 – 30 to 100 feet:** Low growing ground covers that are resistant to fire and low in fuel volume are recommended in this zone. When properly maintained, a fire may be stopped before it reaches your home.

**Zone 3 – Beyond 100 feet:** While 100 feet of zoned fire resistant landscaping may not be adequate to protect your home under all circumstances, it should protect well in most situations.

### THREE R's OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE:

**Removal:** Cut down dead trees and remove flammable shrubs.

**Reduction:** Prune dead wood and reduce dried grass fuels by mowing.

**Replacement:** Replace dense vegetation with a well-maintained flowerbed.



## 8) Get involved with CERT

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is the San Marcos Fire Department's neighbor helping neighbor program that trains residents to respond to an emergency.

You will learn basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations.

Culminating in a disaster response scenario, successful CERT graduates will receive a certificate of completion in the non-credit Palomar College course and an invitation to join the San Marcos CERT team.

CERT team members are issued equipment kits, attend periodic Saturday morning training refreshers sessions and participate in rescue drills with the San Marcos Fire Department.

To learn how you can join CERT, visit [www.san-marcos.net/CERT](http://www.san-marcos.net/CERT).

## DEFENSIBLE SPACE SAVED THIS HOME IN 2014!



*The San Marcos Fire Department's mission is to provide the highest level of customer service by protecting life, property and the environment, through the delivery of innovative, fiscally responsible and ethical emergency services in our community.*

