DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Culver City Speaker Series
May 7, 2019

AGERE PRO ALIIS
Panel Speakers:

Dave White, Fire Chief
Christine Parra, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Ken Powell, Assistant Fire Chief
Jeremy DeBie, Fire Marshal
Fire Department Mission

“to protect life, property, and the environment by providing prompt and professional fire protection and life safety services”
Our Values

1. Professionalism
2. Compassion
3. Respect
4. Trust
5. Humility
Our Motto

AGERE PRO ALIIS

(To Act for Others)
Follow us...

- Facebook  CulverCityFD
- Twitter   @CCFireDept
- Instagram culvercityfd

Website
http://www.culvercity.org/fire
Insurance Service Office (ISO)
Class 1

Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI)
Accredited
1922

CULVER CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT IS BORN...
Fire Department Operations

ASSISTANT CHIEF KEN POWELL
Operations
Fire Station #1

Location
9600 Culver Blvd., Culver City 90232

Personnel
1 Battalion Chief
1 Captain
1 Engineer
3 Firefighter PMs/Firefighters

Apparatus
1 Fire Engine
1 Paramedic Rescue
1 Command Vehicle
Fire Station #2

Location
11252 Washington Blvd, Culver City CA. 90230

Personnel
1 Captain
1 Engineer
1 Firefighter Paramedic
2 EMT Ambulance Operators

Apparatus
1 Fire Engine
1 EMT Ambulance
Fire Station #3

Location
6030 Bristol Parkway, Culver City, CA. 90230

Personnel
2 Captains
2 Engineers
5 Firefighter PM’s/Firefighters

Apparatus
1 Ladder Truck
1 Fire Engine
1 Paramedic Rescue
Culver City FD - Staffing

61 Firefighters. 54 are assigned to fire stations

18 on-duty per day/minimum

2 Non-firefighter EMT’s

11 support personnel
Apparatus

2017 Pierce Aero XT 100’ Aerial
Apparatus

2019 Pierce Arrow XT
Apparatus

2017 Ford F-250 Command Vehicle
Apparatus

2013 Dodge Paramedic Rescue
Apparatus

2014 Ford Ambulance
Culver City FD – Emergency Services

**Fire Suppression**

- Structure fires
- Wildland fires
- Vehicle fires
- Rubbish/other
Culver City FD – Emergency Services

Emergency Medical Services

• Provide basic life support (BLS) services.
• Provide advanced life support (ALS) services.
• All uniformed personnel are certified emergency medical technicians.
• 75% of our uniformed personnel are certified Paramedics.
Culver City FD – Emergency Services

Technical Rescue

• Vehicle extrication
• Swift water rescue
• Confined Space Rescue
• Low/High angle rescue
Culver City FD – Emergency Services

Hazardous Materials

• Haz mat dumping
• Carbon Monoxide Incidents
• Gas leaks
• Vehicle T/C’s with haz mat
Mutual Aid

The Culver City Fire Department is a participant in the state wide master mutual aid agreement. This means that Culver City resources could be requested to assist in incidents outside of Culver City, such as the massive wildfires which occur often in California.
Mutual Aid

As part of this mutual aid agreement, the Culver City Fire Department can also request resources from other agencies to help mitigate incidents within the city which require resources above and beyond what we have available.
Mutual Aid

The Culver City Fire Department responds to mutual aid requests as part of a strike team. This strike team is identified as XLA1075A and consists of resources from the Culver City F.D., Santa Monica F.D., and Beverly Hills F.D.
Culver City FD – Stats & Facts

• 6791 incidents in 2018
• 70% are medical incidents
• 3469 Patients were transported to area hospitals in 2018
• 117 Fires
• Provide and receive mutual aid
City Preparations

CHRISTINE PARRA, EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR
What happens when disaster strikes?

City Disaster Operations

Scenario: 7.4 Earthquake

On duty first responders will take cover, ensure that everyone is ok, will follow internal procedures in assessing condition of fire stations and apparatus, will communicate information to the on duty Battalion Chief, and begin canvassing the City to determine situational awareness.

Internal and external notifications will be made to begin support and recovery efforts.

Emergency Operations Plan and Emergency Operations Center will be activated.
City Disaster Operations

• **Emergency Operations Plan (EOP):** Guiding Document on how to conduct ourselves in a disaster. Outlines threats, actions to be taken, and includes job aides for staff to follow when assigned to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). A copy is available on our website, [www.culvercity.org/emergencyprep](http://www.culvercity.org/emergencyprep).

• **Emergency Operations Center (EOC):** A confidential, centralized location where highly trained city staff work to coordinate incident information, manage resources and, support first responders.
EOC Staff in Action

All City Staff are Disaster Services Workers. When initially hired, they took an oath that in the event of a disaster, and when safe to do so, they would report to work to assist with response and recovery.
EOC FAQ

• The EOC is organized and modeled after the Incident Command System (ICS) which is used by both Fire & Police.

• This allows for standardization of processes and terminology within emergency management and response.

• In the event of a statewide emergency, our EOC will communicate with the Los Angeles County EOC for resources. If unavailable, the County will communicate with the State EOC.

• The EOC stays activated until the incident has resolved and often well into recovery while the City rebuilds.

• It also acts as the conduit to local/state officials to coordinate aid and support.
Volunteer Groups

DAVID WHITE, FIRE CHIEF
CERT

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)
CERT

Started in November of 1997

Provides training to promote individual, family, and neighborhood disaster resilience.

Learn skills related to fire suppression, search and rescue, team organization, and medical operations.

Included in the City’s emergency operations plan.

Also assists City in non-emergency situations.

http://culvercitycert.org/
CCARES

CULVER CITY AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE
CCARES

Area residents who have obtained an FCC amateur radio license

Provide communication in case of emergencies that disable telephone or cellular service

Works closely with CCFD and CERT.

http://ccares.net/
Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone

JEREMY DE BIE, FIRE MARSHAL
My Personal
Wildland Fire
ACTION PLAN

Residential Safety Checklist
Tips To Improve Family and Property Survival During A Wildland Fire

Get ready
- Dispose of or relocate combustible material from around your home.
- Trim trees & bushes allowing ample space between your home & landscape vegetation.

Be prepared
- Arrange your 'Go-Kit' with prescription medication, emergency supplies, important documents, and other essential items.
- Create your own action plan; involve your family & practice exit plans from the home & neighborhood frequently.
- Be sure you're familiar with local emergency notification systems & evacuation systems.

Act early
- Get your 'Go-Kit' and leave well before the threat approaches following a planned accessible route.
- Stay aware of the situation and follow your plan.
- Cooperate with local authorities during evacuation & re-entry processes.

Ready, Set, Go!
www.wildlandfireRSI.org
Now that you have done everything you can to prepare your home, it is time to prepare your family.

Your Wildland Fire Action Guide must be prepared with all members of your household well in advance of a fire. Use these checklists to help you prepare and gain situational awareness in the threat of wildland fire.

**Ready – Get Ready**

- Create a Family Disaster Plan that includes meeting locations and communication plans and rehearse it regularly. Include the evacuation of large animals such as horses in your plan.
- Have fire extinguishers on hand and teach your family how to use them.
- Ensure that your family knows where your gas, electric, and water main shut-off controls are and how to use them.
- Plan and practice several different evacuation routes.
- Designate an emergency meeting location outside the fire hazard area.
- Assemble an emergency supply kit as recommended by the American Red Cross. Keep an extra kit in your vehicle.
- Appoint an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact so you can communicate with family members.
- Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers in your emergency supply kit.
- Have a portable radio or scanner so you can stay updated on the fire and weather emergency announcements.
Set – Be Prepared

- Monitor fire weather conditions and fire status. See www.inciweb.nwcg.gov. Stay tuned to your TV or local radio stations for updates.
- Evacuate as soon as you are `set'!
- Alert family and neighbors.
- Dress in appropriate clothing (i.e., clothing made from natural fibers, such as cotton, and work boots). Have goggles and a dry bandana or particle mask handy.
- Ensure that you have your emergency supply kit on hand that includes all necessary items, such as a battery powered radio, spare batteries, emergency contact numbers, and a lot of drinking water.
- Remain close to your house, drink plenty of water, and ensure your family and pets are accounted for until you are ready to leave.

INSIDE CHECKLIST, IF TIME ALLOWS:
- Close all windows and doors, leaving them unlocked.
- Remove all shades and curtains from windows.
- Move furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors.
- Turn off pilot lights and air conditioning.
- Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions.

OUTSIDE CHECKLIST, IF TIME ALLOWS:
- Bring combustible items from the exterior of the house inside (e.g., patio furniture, children's toys, door mats, etc.) if you have a pool, place combustible items in the water.
- Turn off propane tanks and other gas at the meter.
- Don't leave sprinklers on or water running. They can affect critical water pressure.
- Leave exterior lights on.

- Back your car into the driveway to facilitate a quick departure. Shut doors and roll up windows.
- Have a ladder available.
- Patrol your property and extinguish all small fires until you leave.
- Cover attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals if time permits.

IF YOU ARE TRAPPED: SURVIVAL TIPS
- Stay in your home until the fire passes. Shelter away from outside walls.
- Bring garden hoses inside house so embers and flames do not destroy them.
- Look for spot fires and extinguish if found inside house.
- Wear long sleeves and long pants made of natural fibers such as cotton.
- Stay hydrated.
- Ensure you can exit the home if it catches fire (remember if it's hot inside the house, it is four to five times hotter outside).
- Fill sinks and tubs for an emergency water supply.
- Place wet towels under doors to keep smoke and embers out.
- After the fire has passed, check your roof and extinguish any fires, sparks or embers.
- If there are fires that you cannot extinguish, call 9-1-1.
Go! – Act Early

By leaving early, you give your family the best chance of surviving a wildland fire. You also help firefighters by keeping roads clear of congestion, enabling them to move more freely and do their job in a safer environment.

WHEN TO LEAVE
Do not wait to be advised to leave if there is a possible threat to your home or evacuation route. Leave early enough to avoid being caught in fire, smoke, or road congestion. If you are advised to leave by local authorities, do not hesitate!

WHERE TO GO
Leave to a predetermined location (it should be a low-risk area, such as a well-prepared neighbor or relative’s house, a Red Cross shelter or evacuation center, motel, etc.)

HOW TO GET THERE
Have several travel routes in case one route is blocked by the fire or by emergency vehicles. Choose the safest route away from the fire.

WHAT TO TAKE
Take your emergency supply kit containing your family and pet’s necessary items.

---

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES LIST
The American Red Cross recommends every family have an emergency supply kit assembled long before a wildland fire or other emergency occurs. Use the checklist below to help assemble yours. For more information on emergency supplies visit www.redcross.org/get-help.

- Three-day supply of water (one gallon per person, per day) and non-perishable food for family (3 day supply).
- First aid kit and sanitation supplies.
- Flashlight, battery-powered radio, and extra batteries.
- An extra set of car keys, credit cards, cash, or traveler’s checks.
- Extra eyeglasses, contact lenses, prescriptions, and medications.
- Important family documents and contact numbers, including insurance documents.
- Map marked with evacuation routes.
- Easily carried valuables and irreplaceable items.
- Personal electronic devices and chargers.
- Note: Keep a pair of old shoes and a flashlight handy in case of a sudden evacuation at night.
Create Defensible Space

Defensible space is the space between a structure and the wildland area that creates a sufficient buffer to slow or halt the spread of fire to a structure. It protects the home from igniting due to direct flame or radiant heat. Defensible space is essential to help protect a structure during a wildland fire. You can create defensible space by removing weeds, brush, and other vegetation from around your property. Defensible space is made up of three zones around your home: Zone 1: 0-5ft, Zone 2: 5-30ft, and Zone 3: 30-200ft. Follow the advice under each zone to help protect your home.

**ZONE 1**
0-5 feet around your home or to property line
- Use hard surfaces such as concrete or noncombustible rock mulch around home.
- Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles.
- Store firewood and other combustible materials away from your home, garage, or attached deck.
- Trim back touching or overhanging branches from the roof to a distance of at least 10 feet.
- Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration.

**ZONE 2**
5-30 feet around your home or to property line
- Use non-wood, low-growing herbaceous vegetation. Succulent plants and ground covers are good choices.
- Create vegetation groups, “islands,” to break up continuous fuels around your home.
- Remove ladder fuels to create a separation between low-level vegetation and tree branches to keep fire from climbing trees.
- Remove leaf and needle debris from the yard.
- Keep grass and wildflowers under 4 inches in height.
- Move trails/recreational vehicles, storage sheds and other combustible structures out of the zone and into Zone 3. If unable to move, create defensible space around them.

**ZONE 3**
30-200 feet around your home or to property line
- Create and maintain a minimum of 10 feet between the tops of trees.
- Remove ladder fuels to create a separation between low-level vegetation and tree branches to keep fire from climbing trees.
- Remove dead trees and shrubs.

Ladder Fuels
Ladder fuels allow the fire to climb from the surface fuels into the upper portion of the tree. They can be eliminated by increasing horizontal and vertical separation between vegetation.
Messaging & Communication

DAVID WHITE, FIRE CHIEF
Messaging & Communication

Everbridge (City’s notification system)
Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA)
Integrated Public Alert Wireless System (IPAWS)
Emergency Alert System (EAS)
Radio AM 1690
Fire department social media
Disaster Preparedness

CHRISTINE PARRA, EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR
Why be prepared?

• Disasters can strike quickly & without warning.
• They can force you to evacuate or confine you to your home.
• They can cut off basic services like water, gas, and power.
• They can cause a delay in emergency relief workers getting to you.
• Bottom line ... the more prepared you are, the more resilient you will be when disaster strikes!
Being prepared for disaster will help ensure the safety of family members and will help family members make more informed, rational decisions in times of high stress which require rapid decision-making and action.

There are 4 steps to preparedness:

1. Making a Plan
2. Getting a Kit
3. Staying Informed
4. Getting Involved
Step 1, Making a Plan ...
Put together a plan by discussing these 5 questions with your family, friends, or household.

1. How will I receive emergency alerts and warnings?

2. What is my shelter plan?

3. What is my evacuation route?

4. What is my family/household communication plan?

5. Does anyone in my household have specific and/or special needs?
Step 1, Making a Plan...

Under question 5, “Does anyone have specific/special needs?”, you would document:
- School information and emergency planning (this includes preschools and home daycares) for those with children
- List of pets and their needs or special arrangements made with neighbors in the event you can’t return home
- Special care and attention for family members or neighbors with mobility or other specific needs.

Once you have answered all 5 questions, you document your responses and this becomes your “Plan”.

A Family Disaster Plan template is available at www.culvercity.org/emergencyprep
Consider having the following kits:

**Shelter-In-Place Home Emergency Kit**
***This kit should have enough supplies to support you and your family for 3-7 days. It should include all of the essential items for every family member and your pets!***

**Personal Emergency Kit / Grab & Go Kit**
***Should include all essential supplies in a backpack for easy mobility. Be sure to have one emergency backpack at home and another at work.***

**Car Emergency Kit**
***Have the essential items in a backpack along with other car needs such as jumper cables and other tools you think would be handy.***

**Under-the-bed Kit**
***Keep prescription glasses, a flashlight, a sturdy pair of shoes, and a hard hat in a bag. Tie the bag to the foot of your bed so that it will stay in place when an earthquake occurs.***
Step 3, Stay Informed!

Culver City

• Everbridge, Emergency Messaging System we use to get information to our Culver City community via telephone, text, cell & email. Sign up by visiting our website or by texting your zip code to 888-777
• City website, www.culvercity.org
• AM 1690 City of Culver City Radio Station
• Channel 35, local Culver City Cable Channel
• NextDoor.com, Culver City Fire Department
• Facebook, CulverCityFD
• Twitter, @culvercityfd
• Instagram, culvercityfd
Step 3, Stay Informed!

New Ways to Stay Informed

- Smart Phone Apps:
  - [http://m.fema.gov/](http://m.fema.gov/) - Emergency Preparedness App
  - Be Ready App - Red Cross
  - I Earthquake - Lite
  - Quake Warn
  - Quake SOS
  - Disaster Alert
  - Buddy Guard - Sends a message GPS location to all your contacts
  - Flash-Light
  - WebMD Mobile
  - First Aid - Lite
  - ICE CARE - stores contact and medical information
Step 3, **Stay Informed!**

**Preparedness in Your Pocket**

Red Cross mobile apps offer the vital information you need to prepare and respond to emergencies – big and small.

To download, visit redcross.org/apps, text ‘APPS’ to 90999 or search ‘American Red Cross’ in your mobile app store.

The Red Cross Emergency App has more than 35 different severe weather and emergency alerts.
Step 4, Get Involved!

In Culver City there are many ways to get involved!

▪ Culver City Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) where you will learn how to protect yourself, your family and your neighborhood in an emergency.

▪ Culver City Amateur Radio Team (CCARES) is comprised of volunteers that will be able to assist the department with radio communication during a citywide emergency or disaster when telephone and cell services have been disrupted.

▪ Neighborhood Networks are a great way to get to know your neighbors and learn how to communicate with one another in the event of an emergency. Find out if your neighborhood has an established neighborhood watch group and if not, consider starting one. Another great neighborhood network is NextDoor.com.
Closing Comments

DAVID WHITE, FIRE CHIEF
Closing Comments

Emergency Preparedness begins and ends with YOU!

Your wellbeing, your family’s wellbeing, and your neighborhood’s wellbeing require your effort NOW. Make plans and prepare. Get involved. Stay aware of what is happening in your City.
Thank You

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/REQUESTS