

T H E
T O R A N G O A

DISASTER

SURVIVAL

G U I D E

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First Edition Printed 2005



INTRODUCTION

I am honored to present the inaugural edition of the Topanga Disaster Survival Guide. Topanga is a unique community—in terms of both its community spirit and its natural beauty—but that natural beauty comes with a price. The same forces of ecology and geography that make Topanga one of the most spectacular places in Southern California have also made it particularly vulnerable to natural disasters such as brushfires and floods. In order to better prepare for this threat, an extraordinary collaboration among members of the Topanga Community, numerous County Departments, and other government agencies has come together over the past two years to strengthen disaster response plans and make sure that every Topangan knows what to do when a disaster strikes. The Guide is an important tool in this effort, and I urge everyone to read it and use the checklists to plan and prepare now, because you never know when you will need to act quickly to protect yourself and your loved ones.

Topanga’s effort will be a model of disaster preparedness for the rest of the County, and I congratulate all those who worked on this effort.

Sincerely,
Zev Yaroslavsky
 Supervisor, Third District

County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

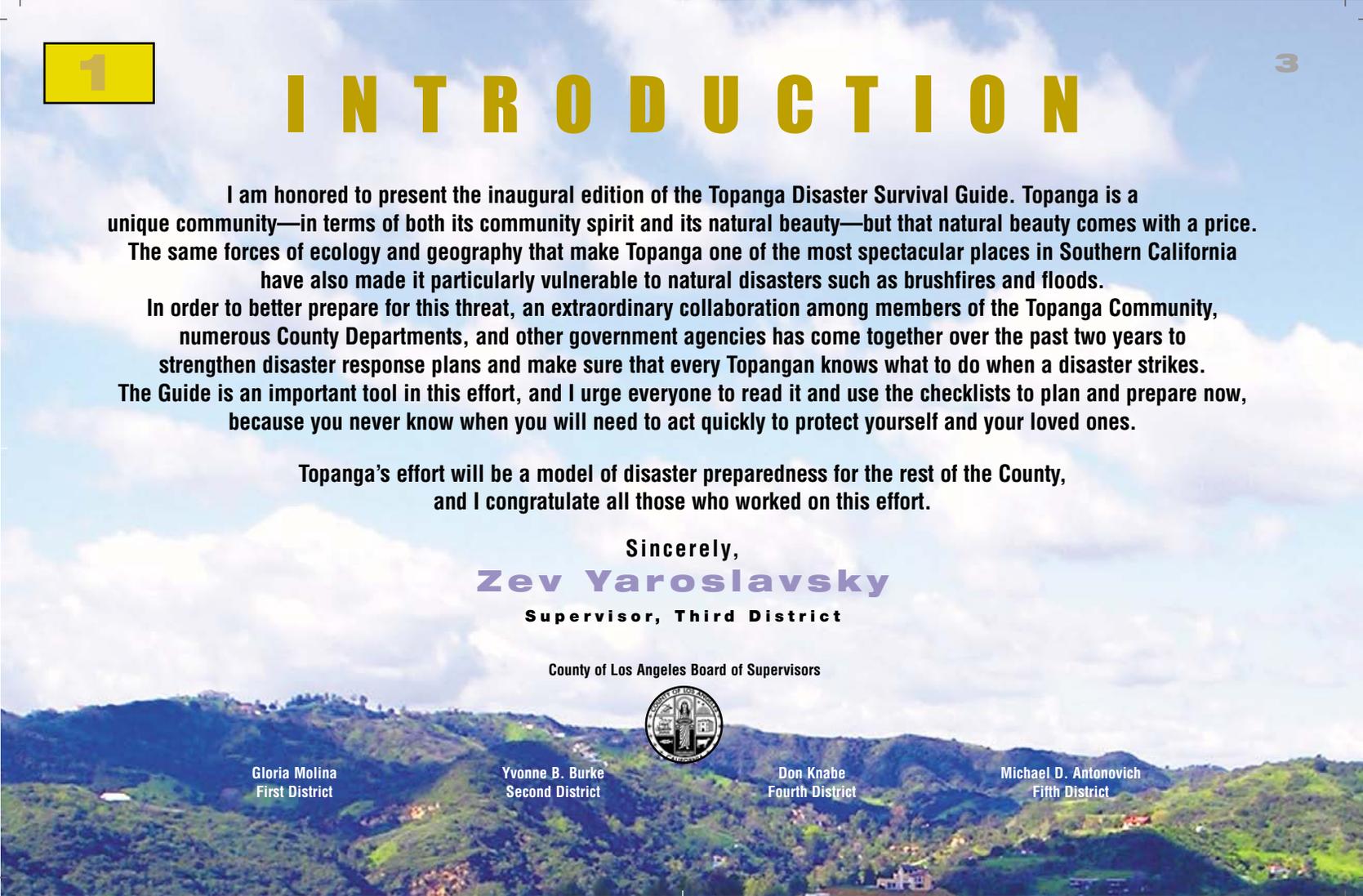


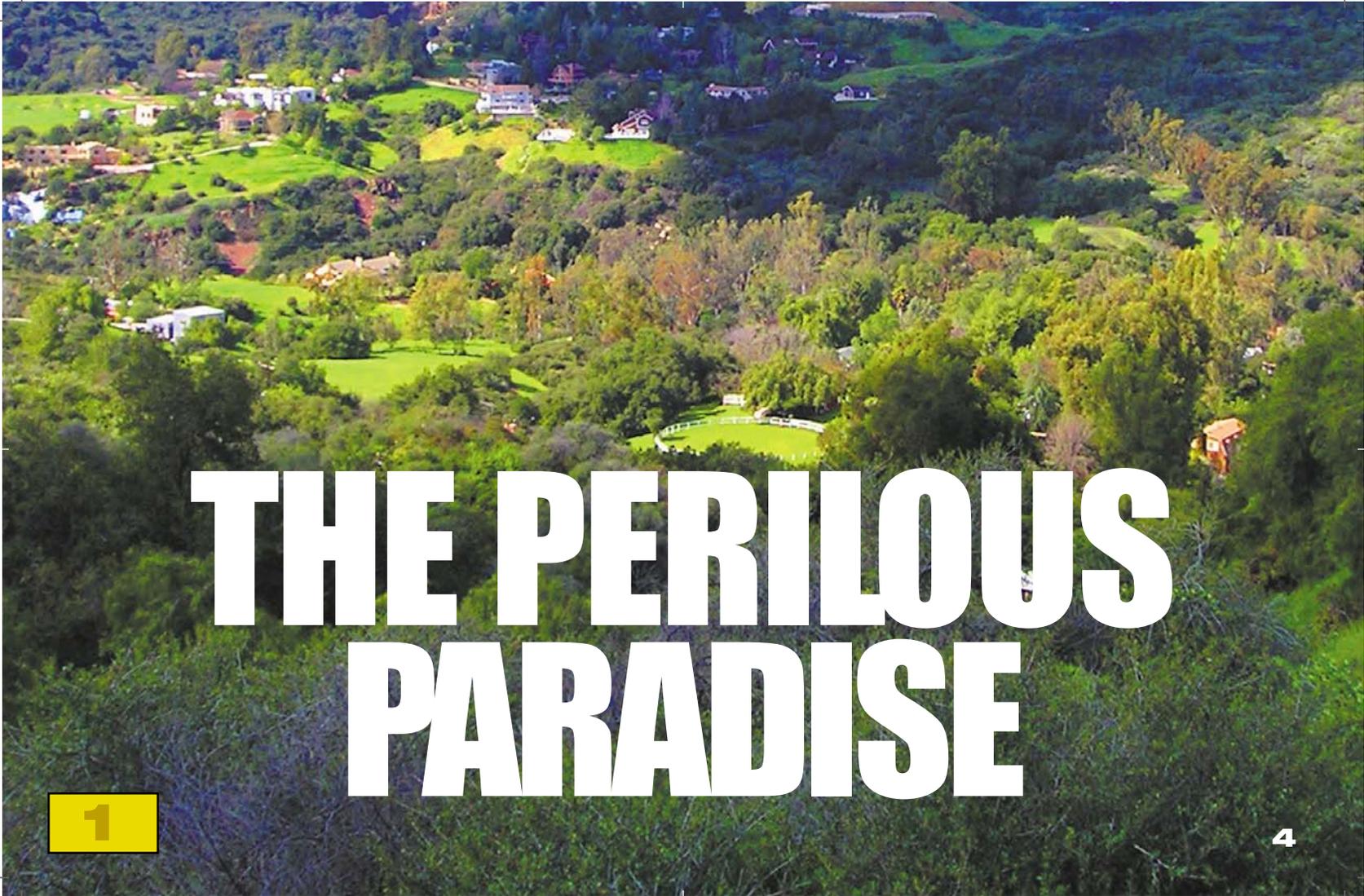
Gloria Molina
 First District

Yvonne B. Burke
 Second District

Don Knabe
 Fourth District

Michael D. Antonovich
 Fifth District





THE PERILOUS PARADISE

1

4

PREPAREDNESS

Topanga's Best Answer to Coping with a Disaster-Prone Paradise

Topanga's beguiling beauty belies the fact that it is all too often visited by disaster. It is only a matter of time before Topanga once again floods, shakes, or explodes into flame. It's part of the price one pays for paradise. These stunning surroundings can lull one into a false sense of security, apathy, or even a deep denial of disaster. There's no panacea.

But there may be a silver lining. Topanga is setting a new nationwide standard in disaster preparedness. There is an unprecedented degree of cooperation with government, emergency services, spirited volunteerism, infrastructure, and planning. This Guide was designed for Topanga by Topangans and their local government to encourage residents to be realistic and proactive . . . and to act now! Read it with your family and loved ones, with special attention given to the Zone maps and Evacuation Instructions. Use this information to create a family plan. Keep a copy of the Guide in your car and in your house.

Stay safe, and above all, prepare!

TOPANGA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING STEERING COMMITTEE

**A MESSAGE FROM BATTALION CHIEF MIKE SANDEMAN,
Los Angeles County Fire Department**

Topanga Canyon has a serious fire interface problem because of its dense tree cover and numerous homes on steep hillsides with winding, narrow roads. Rain only serves to exacerbate the danger. The rains do nothing to significantly reduce drought conditions; instead, the result is more grass. That grass outweighs the benefit from the rains, producing a potentially worse fire season.

Additionally, historical data show us that every year we've had a heavy rain (over 20 inches), we've experienced a major Santa Ana-fueled fire.

Because of all this, Topanga Canyon can be viewed as a disaster waiting to happen. The Los Angeles County Fire Department is preparing for the worst, and hoping for the best. Topanga residents should do the same. Reading and following the important instructions given in this guide is how you can do so.

A Look at Topanga's Fire Season

1

7

**Do Not
Panic!**



**PREPARE
PREPARE!**

PREPAREDNESS IS EMPOWERING!

2

9

TOPANGA RESOURCES

For more information on any particular topic covered in this guide,
or to download additional copies and any available supplemental information, please see...

www.topangasurvival.org

T-CEP HOT LINE
310•455•3000

FILL IT IN

CHECK OUT EMERGENCY STATUS ANYTIME AT

www.t-cep.org

Your Neighborhood Network Coordinator:

310-455- _____

Your FRS Channel Number: _____

DON'T HESITATE...ERR ON THE SIDE OF SAFETY!

*Kedric Wolf—
veteran Topangan,
celebrated
performance artist,
and yogi—is shown
here making an
important
preparedness
point.*

*Kedric kindly
agreed to
act out some of the
key emergency
preparedness
concepts covered
in the
following
pages.*

CALL 911 FIRST IN AN EMERGENCY!

2

11

Landline?

Cell phone?



IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, DIAL 911 FROM A LANDLINE PHONE.

LANDLINE CALLS TO 911 ARE ROUTED TO LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AND IMMEDIATELY IDENTIFY YOUR LOCATION TO 911 OPERATORS.

Cell phone calls to 911 are routed through the California Highway Patrol and do not capture your location. Owing to the disproportionately large volume of 911 calls from cell phones, you may also experience significant delays in reaching a 911 operator. It is recommended that you program the following phone numbers into your cell phone, and use these numbers as an alternative to 911...but only when you must call from a cell phone and you are in the Santa Monica Mountains region.

FOR FIRE AND MEDICAL EMERGENCIES, CALL LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT DISPATCH AT 310-456-6603. FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT EMERGENCIES, CALL THE LOST HILLS SHERIFF'S STATION AT 818-878-1808.

WHEN REPORTING AN EMERGENCY USING A CELL PHONE:

- GIVE YOUR CELL PHONE NUMBER TO THE 911 OPERATOR IMMEDIATELY IN CASE THE CALL IS DROPPED OR OTHERWISE LOST.
- WHEN ASKED FOR YOUR LOCATION, REPORT THE LOCATION WHERE THE INCIDENT OCCURRED.

Survival Tip

Never assume that someone else has called 911 when you see an emergency. In fact, the more people who call 911 to report an emergency, the better. Each call received may provide more detailed information than the previous call.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY PARTICULAR TOPIC COVERED IN THIS GUIDE, OR TO DOWNLOAD ADDITIONAL COPIES AND ANY AVAILABLE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

www.topangasurvival.org

Important Numbers

AMERICAN RED CROSS	800-540-2000
AMERIGAS	310-455-2131
ARSON WATCH	818-883-5964
CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL	818-888-0980
CALTRANS	213-897-0383
FIRE DEPARTMENT DISPATCH	310-456-6603
LOST HILLS SHERIFF'S STATION	818-878-1808
POISON CONTROL CENTER	800-876-4766
ROAD & WATER EMERGENCY HELP LINE	800-675-HELP
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON	800-655-4555
T-CEP HOTLINE	310-455-3000

Los Angeles County

AGOURA HILLS ANIMAL SHELTER	818-991-0071
BUILDING AND SAFETY	818-880-4150
DISASTER HOT LINE	800-339-6993
FIRE STATION 69	310-455-1766
FORESTRY DIVISION	818-222-1108
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES	211
L.A. COUNTY ROAD MAINTENANCE	310-456-8014
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS	562-466-1310
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FIELD OFFICE	818-880-9416
WATER DISTRICT 29	310-456-6621
WEED ABATEMENT	818-833-6647



Schools

L.A. UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT HOT LINE	213-241-4500
LAS VIRGENES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT	818-880-4000
SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT	310-450-8338
CALMONT	310-455-3725
CHILDREN'S CORNER	310-455-2467
MONTESSORI	310-455-3373
TOPANGA CO-OP PRESCHOOL	310-455-3155
TOPANGA ELEMENTARY	310-455-3711
CALABASAS HIGH SCHOOL	818-222-7177
MALIBU HIGH SCHOOL	310-457-6801
PACIFIC PALISADES HIGH SCHOOL	310-454-0611
PARKMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL	818-348-8770
PAUL REVERE MIDDLE SCHOOL	310-451-5789
SANTA MONICA HIGH SCHOOL	310-395-3204
TAFT HIGH SCHOOL	818-348-7171
TOPANGA MOUNTAIN SCHOOL	818-346-8355
VIEWPOINT	818-889-1262

Web sites

California Office of Emergency Services
www.oes.ca.gov

L.A. County Emergency Operations Center
www.lacoa.org

American Red Cross
www.redcross.org

American Red Cross—Los Angeles Chapter
www.acrossla.org

FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency)
www.fema.gov

National Fire Protection Association
www.nfpa.org

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.bt.cdc.gov

Emergency Survival Program
www.espfocus.org

**FAMILY
PREPAREDNESS**
SECTION 3

**WILDFIRE
PREPAREDNESS**
SECTION 6

ANIMAL PREPAREDNESS
SECTION 4

**HOME,
SCHOOL, AND BUSINESS
PREPAREDNESS**
SECTION 5



Master juggler and Topanga resident Robin Spehar is shown here demonstrating the skillful coordination of the main preparedness areas covered in this Guide.

SURVIVAL TIP
KEEP LOTS OF FRESH BATTERIES IN STOCK. THEY ARE ONE OF THE MOST OVERLOOKED (AND MOST ESSENTIAL) ITEMS IN YOUR SURVIVAL KIT. SEE SECTION 5.

THE FOUR PREPAREDNESS PRIORITIES

2

3

FAMILY PREPAREDNESS

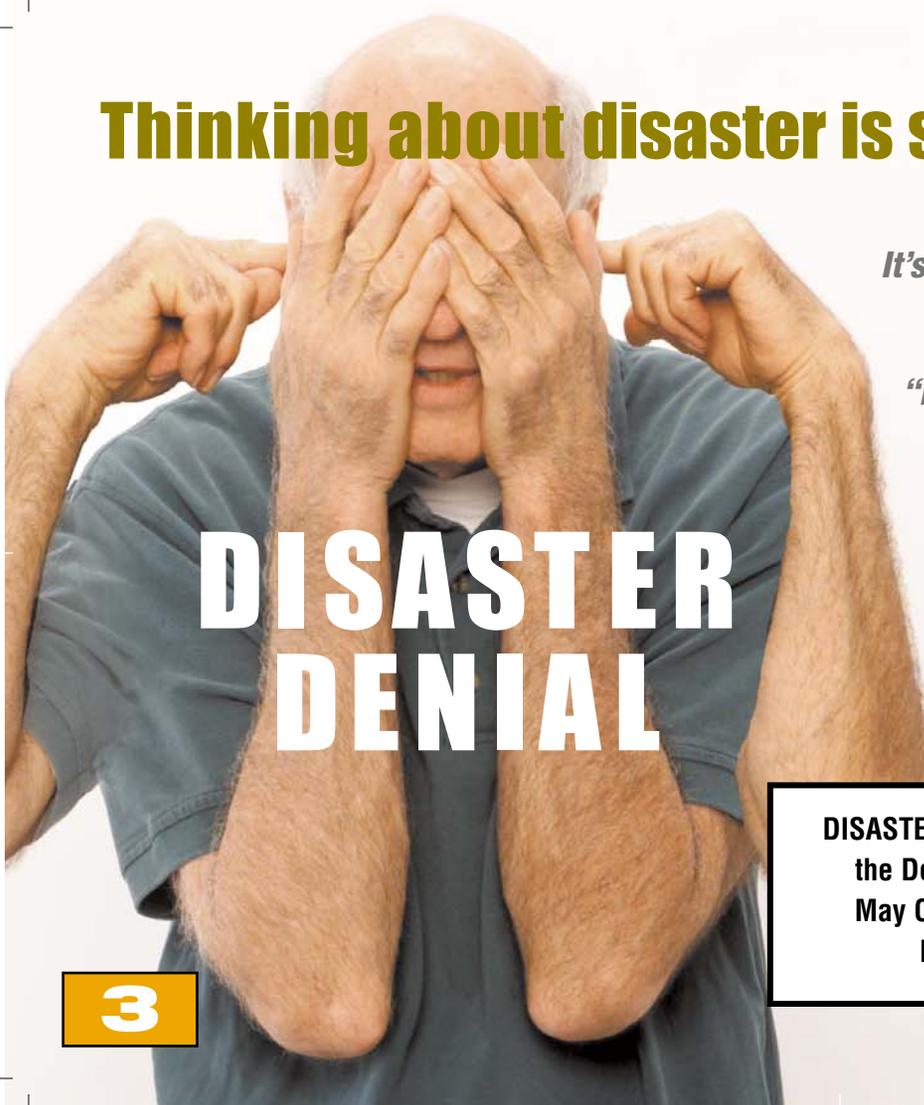
17

FILL IT IN

Personal Information

NAME	HOME ADDRESS	HOME PHONE

ADDITIONAL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS	RELATIONSHIP



Thinking about disaster is scary and unpleasant.

DISASTER DENIAL

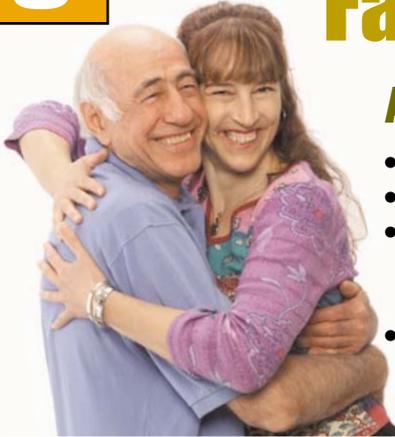
So we don't.

It's human nature (though shortsighted, unsafe, and dangerous) to avoid thinking about or planning for catastrophic events. "Disaster denial" is an unconscious defense mechanism in which we attempt to escape from real dangers by simply putting them out of our mind.

***PREPAREDNESS...
the Empowering
Alternative to Denial.***

DISASTER SURVIVAL GUIDE WARNING: Inaction, Apathy, the Denial of Disaster (and Not Reading This Guide) May Cause a Lack of Preparedness That Could Be Hazardous to Your Health and Safety.

Family Reunion Information



A Family Communication and Reunion Plan

- Meet with family members and decide where you will all reunite in the event of an emergency.
- Choose reunion locations both inside and outside of your home, as well as outside of the Canyon.
- Identify an out-of-state contact, and make sure everyone in your family carries this contact information at all times. In the event that family members are separated during a disaster, the out-of-state contact can provide information to each family member as he or she checks in.
- Make sure your children know what to do and where to go in the event of an emergency if no adult is present.

FILL IT IN

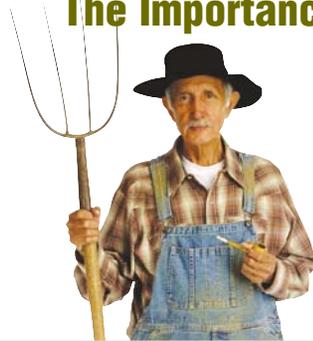
IF REUNITING...	REUNION LOCATION
INSIDE THE HOME	
OUTSIDE THE HOME	
OUTSIDE OF TOPANGA—SOUTH	
OUTSIDE OF TOPANGA—NORTH	
OTHER (Specify)	

Identify an Out-of-State Contact

FILL IT IN

The Importance of Out-of-State Contacts

In the event of a major disaster that would affect telephone service, make sure everyone in your family carries this contact information at all times. If family members are separated during a disaster, the out-of-state contact can provide information to each family member as they check in.



Telephone service is usually interrupted during a major disaster. Telephone service is restored as quickly as possible, and is restored in the following order:

- 1. Emergency services*
- 2. Long-distance service*
- 3. Pay phones*
- 4. Business and residential service*

It is conceivable that as service is restored and you hear a dial tone, you would be able to call out-of-state, but not your next door neighbor.

	PRIMARY CONTACT	SECONDARY CONTACT
NAME		
ADDRESS		
HOME PHONE		
BUSINESS PHONE		
CELL PHONE		
PAGER		
E-MAIL		

Special Household Needs

FILL IT IN

List Important Medical Information Here

HEALTH CARE PROVIDER	ADDRESS	PHONE	INSTRUCTIONS

MEDICATION	DOSAGE	Rx NUMBER	DOCTOR	NOTES

3

NOTES

23

4

ANIMAL PREPAREDNESS

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Henze Louise Marvin with "Henny Penny."

Brandi Augello with her horse, "Izzy," and a tattoo with a Celtic design of horse-headed, fish-tailed river spirits called Kelpies.

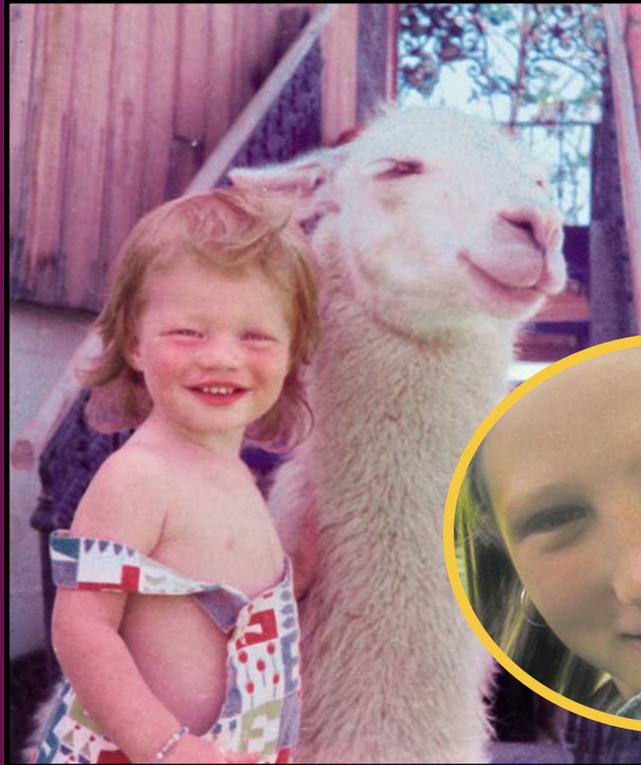


Cassie Fitzgerald on 14-year-old mule "Kentucky Darla."



Bill Buerge with eight-week-old bottle-fed Black Belly Barbados Sheep.

Topangans Are Passionate about Pets!



*Lewis Beach Marvin the Fourth
with "Salvador Dali Llama."*



Annie Bateman with chick.



Lifelong Fernwood resident Joanna Gunst with her beloved kitty, "Mini."

4

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On February 10, 2005, Knotty, shown at right, and his owner-trainer, Topangan Lyn Sherman, won Best of Breed at the Super Bowl of dog shows, the Westminster Dog Show in New York City.

KNOTTY

DOGS & CATS

and Other Small Animals

Assemble a Portable Pet Disaster Supplies Kit

Whether you are away from home for a day or a week, you'll need essential supplies. Keep items in an accessible place and store them in sturdy containers that can be carried easily (duffel bags, covered trash containers, etc.). Your pet disaster supply kit should include:

- *Medications and medical records (stored in a waterproof container) and a First Aid Kit.*
- *Leashes, harnesses, and/or carriers to transport pets safely and ensure that your animals can't escape.*
- *Current photos of your pets in case they get lost.*
- *Food, potable water, bowls, cat litter and pan, and can opener.*
- *Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems, and the name and number of your veterinarian in case you have to foster or board your pets.*
- *Pet beds and toys, if easily transportable.*

4

Have a Safe Place to Take Your Pets

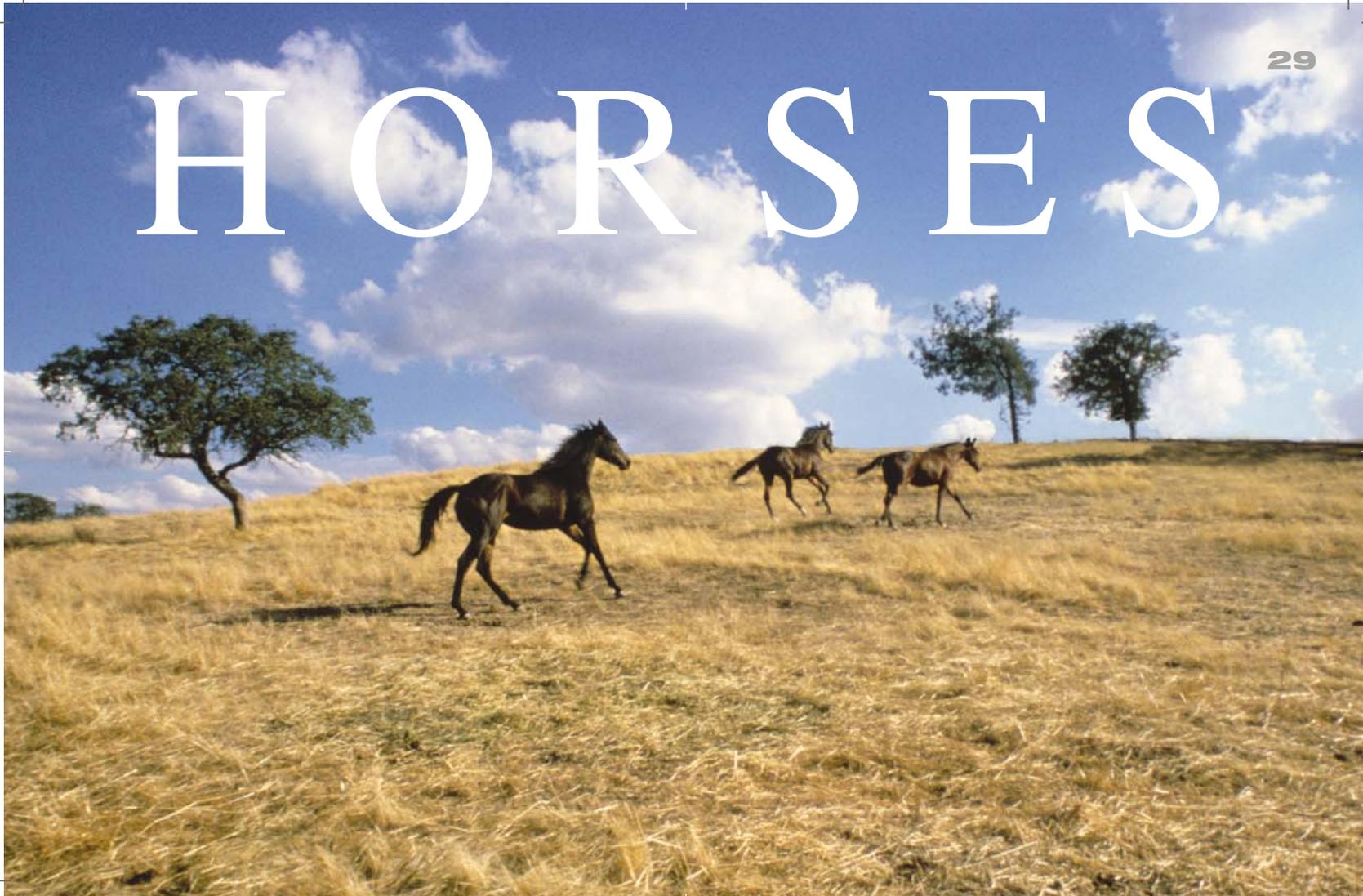
- *Contact hotels and motels outside your immediate area to check policies on accepting pets and restrictions on number, size, and species.*
- *Ask friends, relatives, or others outside the affected area whether they could shelter your animals.*
- *If you have more than one pet, they may be more comfortable if kept together, but be prepared to house them separately.*
- *Prepare a list of boarding facilities and veterinarians who could shelter animals in an emergency (include 24-hour phone numbers).*

Make Sure Your Pet Is Clearly Identified

- *Make sure all dogs and cats are wearing collars with securely fastened current identification.*
- *Attach the phone number and address of your temporary shelter, if you know it, or of a friend or relative outside the disaster area.*
- *You can buy temporary tags or put adhesive tape on the back of your pet's ID tag, adding information with an indelible pen.*
- *Identification microchips are highly recommended.*

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HORSES



MAKE SURE YOU HAVE:

- *Halter with identification tag and lead rope for each horse.*
- *Food, feed bucket, and any medications.*
- *Vaccination and identification forms with current photos.*
- *First Aid Kit with wraps.*
- *Download “What Do I Do with My Horse during a Fire, Flood, and/or Earthquake” at www.etinational.com (click on “Doc and Forms” link).*

HAVE AN EVACUATION PLAN:

- *Train horses to lead and trailer.*
- *Keep your truck and trailer in safe, working condition.*
- *Make prior arrangements for sheltering.*
- *Work with your Neighborhood Network (described later in this section) to help ensure that everyone gets out early or can safely shelter in place, if necessary.*
- *Evacuate early! Go as soon as you hear an Evacuation Warning.
Do not wait for an Evacuation Order. (See section 7 for more information about evacuations.)*

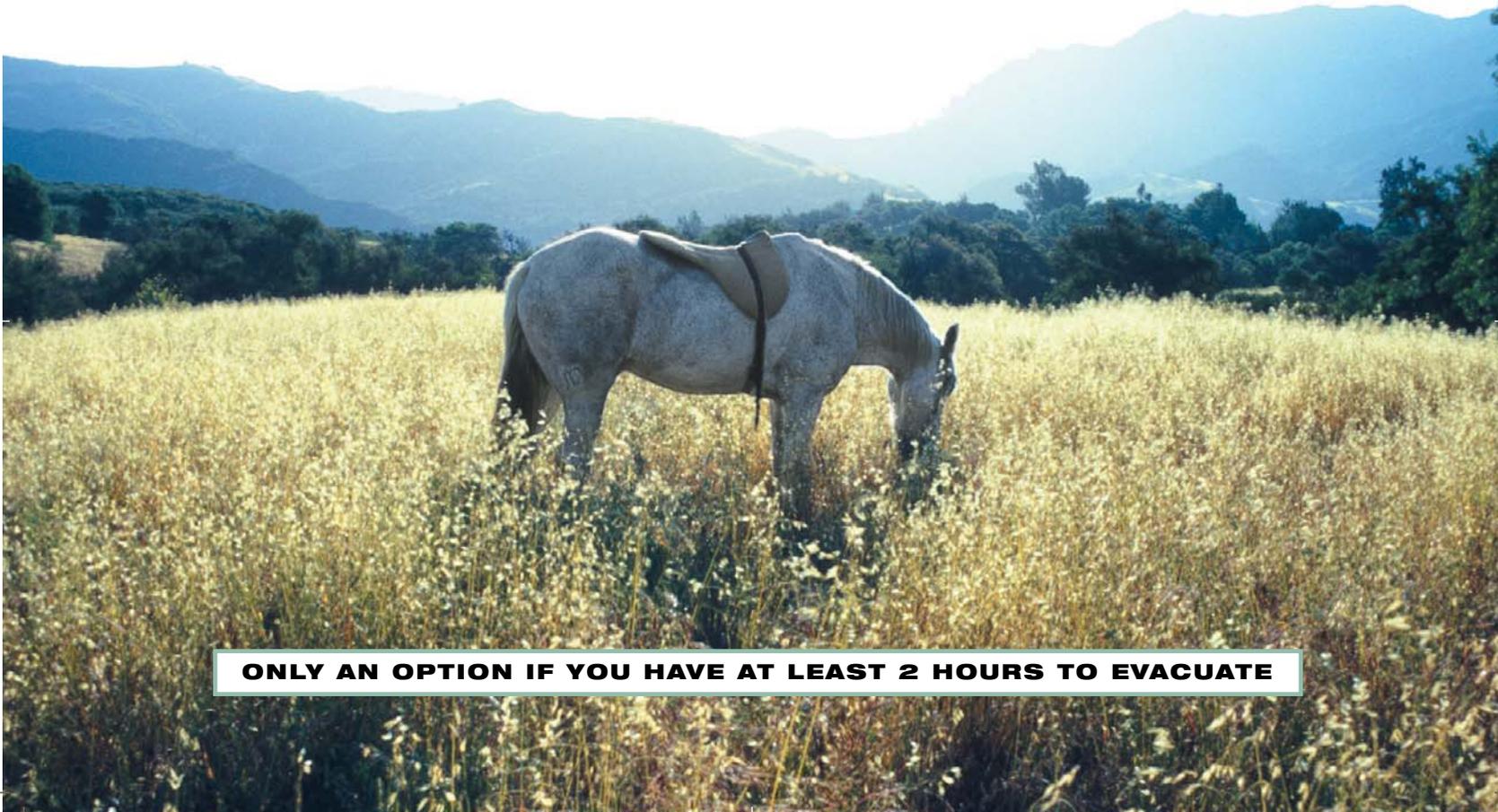
O T H E R L A R G E A N I M A L S

- *Prior to evacuating yourself, prepare animals to shelter in place for at least three days.*
- *Provide adequate clearance (remove hay or any brush from the corral or pen environment).*
- *Provide sufficient food and water.*
- *Suggested water supply is 20 to 30 gallons per day.*
- *Prior to evacuating, please do not let your large animals run loose.*
- *Although your instinct may be to let your animals loose in the event of a wildland fire, your animals are safer in their corrals. In fact, in the 1993 Old Topanga Fire, the one horse fatality was a horse that was let loose.*

4

EQUINE PICKUP POINTS

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ONLY AN OPTION IF YOU HAVE AT LEAST 2 HOURS TO EVACUATE

EQUINE PICKUP POINTS THROUGHOUT THE CANYON HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED by volunteers. These are intended as “PARK AND LOAD” areas for horses and for other large animals. Volunteers can park a horse trailer only long enough to load horses after they have been walked to the location.

- **Equine pickup points are not a safe place to tie and leave horses!**
- **NEVER LEAVE YOUR HORSE UNATTENDED!**
- **Equine pickup point locations vary, depending on the severity and location of the disaster.**

IF ONE OR MORE OF THESE SITES IS ACTIVATED DURING A GIVEN DISASTER, the information will be made available on the T-CEP Web site (www.t-cep.org), or can be obtained by calling 310-455-3000.

BEFORE attempting to walk your horse to an EQUINE PICKUP POINT, you must:

- **make sure your horse is trailer-trained.**
- **know that the pickup point has been activated and there is someone there to receive your horse.**

NEVER LEAVE YOUR HORSE UNATTENDED AT AN EQUINE PICKUP POINT.

NOTES

4

www.topangasurvival.org

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HOME, SCHOOL, AND BUSINESS PREPAREDNESS

Disaster Supply Kits



Pat and John MacNeil pack kit items in plastic cases in their car.



A Disaster Supply Kit is any pre-assembled group of critical items that will greatly improve the health and safety of individuals during a disaster. Kits can be purchased or homemade in an endless variety of styles and sizes. They can be as small as a shaving kit for your glove compartment or as big a 50-gallon drum filled with supplies for your business. You could have many kits, each suited to a different purpose. One of the smartest places to keep your kit is in your vehicle, as shown here.

**Keep your kit in your car.
Wherever you are,
usually your car's not far!**



Bryce Anderson packs some of his things in a knapsack in his trunk.



DISASTER SUPPLY KIT CONTENTS

AT A MINIMUM, YOUR DISASTER SUPPLY KIT SHOULD CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- WATER for at least three days but preferably ten days (one gallon per person per day, minimally)
- FOOD for at least three days but preferably ten days (food bars, canned goods, meals ready to eat [MREs], etc.)
- FLASHLIGHT
- PORTABLE RADIO
- EXTRA BATTERIES
- FIRST AID KIT, including surgical or other PROTECTIVE GLOVES
- EMERGENCY BLANKET(S)
- MULTI-PURPOSE UTILITY SHUT-OFF TOOL
- FRS (Family Radio Service) RADIO

IN ADDITION TO THESE ITEMS, DISASTER SUPPLY KITS SHOULD BE PERSONALIZED TO INCLUDE SPECIFIC ITEMS NEEDED FOR EACH PERSON AND HOUSEHOLD. SOME OF THESE ITEMS MAY INCLUDE:

- PRESCRIPTION GLASSES
- PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS
- PET FOOD AND SUPPLIES
- COLORING BOOKS or other activities for children
- OTHER: _____
- OTHER: _____
- OTHER: _____
- OTHER: _____

OTHER ITEMS YOU MAY WANT TO CONSIDER ADDING TO YOUR DISASTER SUPPLY KIT INCLUDE:

- LEATHER GLOVES
- COTTON CLOTHING (jeans, T-shirts, sturdy shoes, socks, scarves, etc.)
- CROWBAR
- SMALL TOOLS (screwdriver, pliers, wrench, etc.)
- CASH
- GOGGLES and RESPIRATOR
- TOILET PAPER and PORTABLE TOILET, or PLASTIC BAGS for human waste
- COMPASS

DRESSED FOR PREPAREDNESS

...and Accessorized for Disaster!

Disaster Supply Kits Should Be Kept at Home, in the Workplace, and in the Car.



Alli Acker, left, is a born-and-raised Topangan who's very passionate about preparedness. Alli has been through many fires, but the Old Topanga Canyon Fire in 1993 was the big wake-up call. Since then, she has been outfitting her Fernwood home, herself, and her family with state-of-the-art emergency preparations. Shown here are some items from Alli's many Disaster Supply Kits. Alli is the Vice Chair, Equine Coordinator, and legal advisor for T-CEP, and a founding member of LACDACCERT.

www.topangasurvival.org

ROPE

COTTON CLOTHING

BAG, BOX, OR OTHER CONTAINER TO HOLD ALL THIS STUFF

FIRST AID KIT

UTILITY SHUT-OFF TOOL

BOOTS

EMERGENCY BLANKET

PHONE

BATTERIES

PORTABLE RADIO

MEDS

TOILET PAPER

WATER

TAPE
MORE BATTERIES

FLASHLIGHTS

FILTER REFILL FOR RESPIRATOR

FRS RADIO

PRESCRIPTION GLASSES

You Can't Have Enough Batteries!

FOOD

5

Draw Your Home Floor Plan!

Use the area below to draw a floor plan of your home indicating the location(s) of the following...

-  - ESCAPE ROUTES
- F** - FLASHLIGHTS
- +** - FIRST AID KIT
- FE** - FIRE EXTINGUISHERS
- D** - DISASTER SUPPLY KIT
- E** - EMERGENCY SUPPLIES
- G** - GAS SHUT-OFF
- W** - WATER SHUT-OFF
- C** - CIRCUIT BREAKERS
- S** - SMOKE DETECTORS
- L** - LADDERS



**Most accidents can be prevented.
Check your home in each of these areas listed below to begin
reducing any potential for accidents.**

Home Safety Checklist – INSIDE

Living Areas and Bedrooms:

- Matches and lighters out of children's reach
- Smoke detectors outside of every room, batteries checked periodically and changed at least annually
- Two exits available from every room (windows count), exit drills conducted regularly
- No "octopus" outlets or overloaded circuits
- No extension cords under rugs or tacked to walls
- Fireplace screen in place, chimney cleaned periodically
- Operating space heaters never left unattended

Bathrooms:

- Medications and cleaners out of children's reach
- Infants supervised at all times

Laundry and Utility Rooms:

- Hot water heater set at 125 degrees (between low and medium)
- No flammable material within three feet of water heater or furnace
- Dryer vented outside and free from lint accumulation
- Dangerous cleaning agents out of children's reach

Kitchen:

- All stove and oven pilots lit
- Hood fan and broiler pan free from grease buildup
- Pan handles turned in on stoves
- ABC-rated fire extinguisher readily accessible

**CHECK
IT
OUT!**

Extension cords are temporary solutions.

Power strips with surge protectors are recommended for your more permanent needs. You might also consider consulting an electrician to install additional outlets and breakers, if necessary.

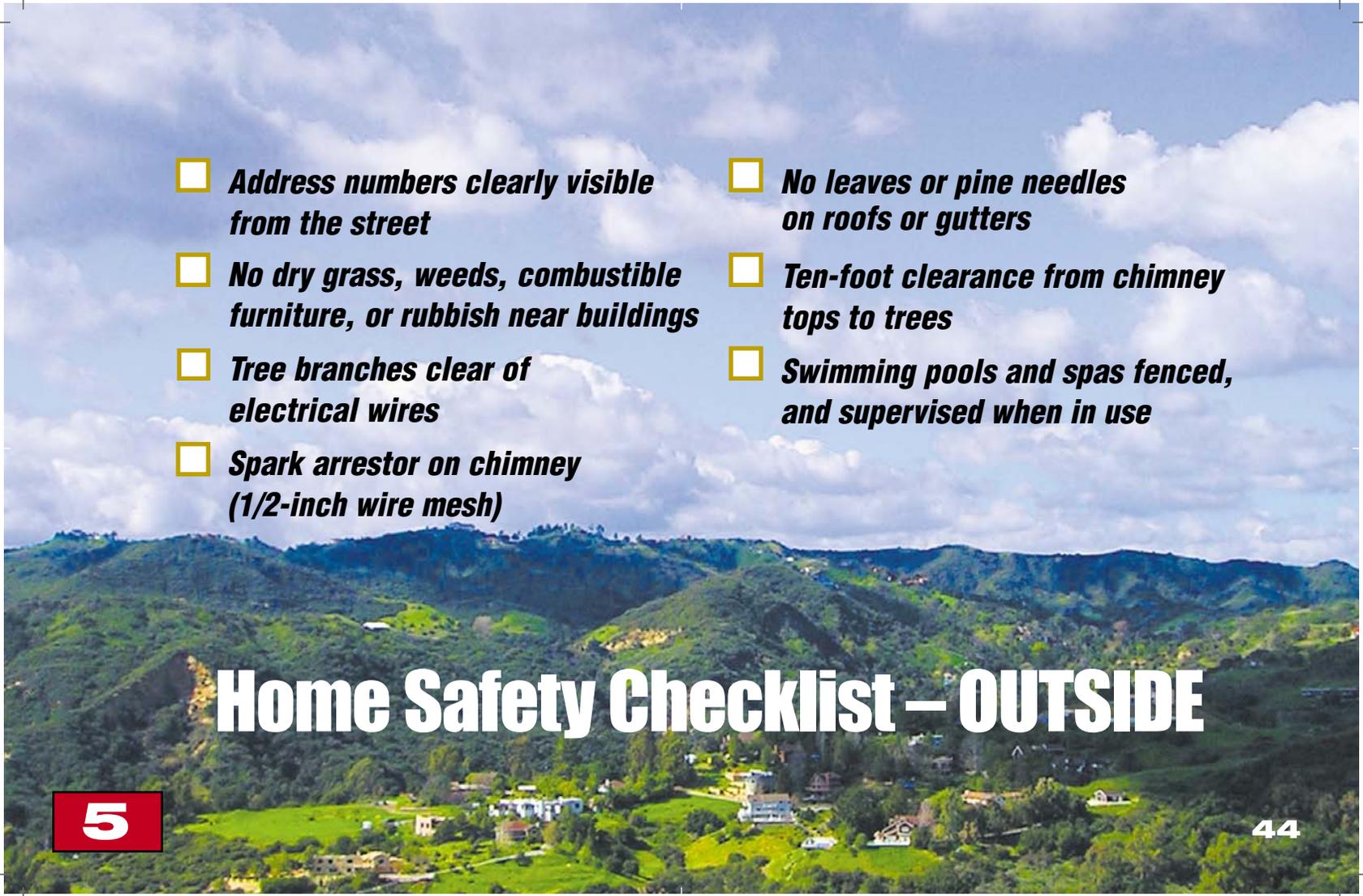
5**Home Safety
Checklist — INSIDE****Garage:**

- No open containers of paints or solvents
- All gasoline in safety cans
- Oily rags in metal cans with lids
- ABC-rated fire extinguisher readily accessible
- Pesticides, poisons, and cleaners out of children's reach
- Safety equipment, goggles and gloves, present and in use
- Extension cords unplugged after each use

**CHECK
IT
OUT!****SURVIVAL TIP**

If you live in a two-story home,
you might consider purchasing a
home escape ladder.

www.topangasurvival.org

- 
- Address numbers clearly visible from the street**
 - No dry grass, weeds, combustible furniture, or rubbish near buildings**
 - Tree branches clear of electrical wires**
 - Spark arrestor on chimney (1/2-inch wire mesh)**
 - No leaves or pine needles on roofs or gutters**
 - Ten-foot clearance from chimney tops to trees**
 - Swimming pools and spas fenced, and supervised when in use**

Home Safety Checklist – OUTSIDE

School Safety Preparedness

If you have children attending school in Topanga, it is very important for you to obtain a copy of the school's disaster plan and staple or tape the information onto the blank pages following this section. The school's disaster plan information page should answer the following important questions:

- | | YES | NO |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| ● <i>Will my child be sheltered in place during a wildland fire or other emergency?.....</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ● <i>If so, do I know what precautions my school has taken to ensure my child's safety?.....</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ● <i>Does the school maintain a parent-provided disaster supply kit for my child?....</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ● <i>If so, have I recently updated it so it is current?.....</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ● <i>Does the school have adequate emergency supplies on hand to care for my child?.....</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ● <i>Will I be able to pick up my child, or send someone else to pick up my child?.....</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- *Will my child be evacuated?.....*
- *If so, do I know to what location my child might be evacuated? (In most cases, when children are evacuated to a safer location, that new location is where parents will pick them up.).....*
- *If my child requires special medications, can a short-term supply of these medications be kept at the nurse's office for use during an emergency?.....*

YES NO

Whom can I call to keep updated on the status of my child?
Name: _____
Phone: _____

Please note that these questions do not apply to schools exclusively. You should also review these questions with anyone who is charged with caring for your child or any other member of your household (e.g., babysitter, in-home health care provider, camp counselors, etc.).

SCHOOL SHELTER:

A school that students will be transferred to or remain in that will shelter them during a large wildland fire or other disaster. School staff will supervise the students until an appointed time when they can safely reunite with their parents or guardians.

ATTACH YOUR CHILD'S

SCHOOL
PLAN
HERE

Business Preparedness

ANY BUSINESSES LOCATED IN TOPANGA CANYON should develop their own Business Emergency and Continuity Plans, which will include the following:

- Outline logical actions to take to prepare for an emergency, using the instructions for family preparedness in section 3 of the guide.***
- Share information with employees and casual workers (such as nannies).***
- Give employees (including casual workers) Zone maps and information regarding the Regional/Red Cross Shelters, Community Safety Areas, and Neighborhood Survival Areas.***
- List employees' contact numbers and form phone trees.***
- Provide your clients, staff, and service providers (such as delivery services) with a phone number to call in case of an emergency.***
- Identify neighbors who can help with your children, pets, or home if you are at work—either in Topanga Canyon or outside.***
- Have extra Zone maps available at your business location(s) to hand out to customers in Topanga Canyon in case of an emergency.***

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See Section 14 For Zone Maps, Pages 125 - 142

Individuals in Need of Special Assistance

Individuals in need of special assistance include (but may not be limited to):

- Elderly
- Casual workers
- Pregnant women or parents with newborns
- Homebound individuals
- Non-English-speaking individuals
- Post-surgery patients
- People with physical or emotional handicaps
- The physically impaired
- Individuals with no access to transportation

In the event of an emergency, all of these individuals should interpret an Evacuation Warning as an Evacuation Order and leave the Canyon immediately. (See section 7 for more information on Evacuation Warnings and Evacuation Orders.)

Make sure your family plan takes these individuals into consideration and plan for what assistance is to be provided for them.

You are encouraged to get involved with (or start) a Neighborhood Network to further aid those in need of special assistance during an emergency. (See section 12 for more information on Neighborhood Networks.)

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS⁵¹

Fire represents a greater risk to life in Topanga than in most other communities because of seasonal winds; rugged terrain; heavy growth; many older, combustible homes, often very close together; and narrow roads in and out.

HERE ARE **FOUR** KEYS TO PREPARATION AND PLANNING THAT ARE CRUCIAL FOR SURVIVAL:

Assemble Your Disaster Supply Kit

**WILDFIRE
PREPAREDNESS
KEY NUMBER ONE**

With respect to wildfires, your kit should contain, at a minimum, the following items for each person in the household:

1. Goggles
2. Bottled water
3. Respiratory protection (filter mask)
4. Flashlight and batteries
5. FRS radio
6. Protective clothing including long-sleeved cotton T-shirts, jeans, cotton/wool blankets, scarves/bandannas, gloves, etc.

Educate Yourself and Your Family, and Create a Family Plan Before a Disaster Occurs

Remember, you may not be in the Canyon when your loved ones need this information.

- **Have a plan and discuss the plan with your family. Practice the plan.**
- **First and foremost, refer to the back of this guide and locate the map that corresponds to the Zone(s) in which you live and/or work.**
- **Learn the evacuation routes that will be used for your Zone, and study the locations of your nearest Community Safety Areas and Neighborhood Survival Areas. (These terms are further explained in the glossary and in section 7.)**

**WILDFIRE
PREPAREDNESS
KEY NUMBER TWO**

6

Be Prepared to Leave Immediately When an Evacuation is Ordered

The longer you wait, the greater the chance you will not reach safety. You may interfere with firefighters trying to do their job. In a fire, evacuation routes can quickly be blocked by traffic congestion, downed trees and poles, rocks, etc.

- **Make an inventory list of all your belongings (including serial numbers) and keep this list in a safe place outside of your home (with friends or relatives or in a safe-deposit box).**
- **Check your insurance policy to ensure that you have adequate coverage.**
- **Place all important documents and photo albums, along with any other valuables or keepsakes, in a box or bin, and keep it wherever it will be readily accessible to grab if you need to leave your home in a hurry.**

**WILDFIRE
PREPAREDNESS
KEY NUMBER THREE**

Clear Your Brush for a Defensible Space

Although wildfires (brushfires) can begin at any time of the year, there are certain times when Topanga is more susceptible to fires burning more quickly and out of control. These “fire season” conditions generally exist between September and December, owing to the combination of:

- **dry brush**
- **prominent Santa Ana winds**
- **relatively low humidity**

**WILDFIRE
PREPAREDNESS
KEY NUMBER FOUR**

6

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Brush Clearance Requirements for Topanga Canyon Property Owners

*Chuck and Laura Bateman use
Black Belly Barbados Sheep to clear
brush from this meadow
on Paradise Lane.*

FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT YOUR PROPERTIES COMPLY WITH BRUSH CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS:

- 1. All flammable vegetation identified as a fire hazard shall be mowed or cut to a stubble height of 3 inches, for 50 feet around any structure.*
- 2. Create a firebreak for the next 150 feet, for a total of 200 feet, around any structure by clearing, trimming, thinning, cutting back, and removing flammable vegetation.*
- 3. Single specimens of trees, ornamental shrubbery, or ground covers are permissible, provided that they do not provide a means of transmitting fire to any structure. Such specimens shall be spaced a minimum of 15 feet or three times their diameter from other specimens, structures, or surrounding native brush.*

All plants will burn under extreme fire weather conditions.

Fire-resistant plants burn at a relatively low intensity, with slow rates of spread and short flame lengths. To best protect your home from fire, it is recommended that fire-resistant plants be used when landscaping. A list of these plants can be obtained through the Los Angeles County Fire Department, Malibu Forestry Unit, at 818-222-1108.

4. All trees and shrubs shall be maintained free of dead wood and litter. Trees and shrubs shall be trimmed up from the ground to 1/3 of their height.

5. Access roads shall be maintained with a minimum of 10 feet brush clearance on each side. Trees and shrubs overhanging roadways shall be trimmed to a minimum of 16 feet vertical clearance.

6. Provide a minimum 3 feet clearance around all fire hydrants.

Thousands of homes are in serious danger of destruction by fire because of their proximity to brush-covered areas. Homes with wood shake roofs, wood siding, decks, patio covers, or exposed eaves are particularly vulnerable to the spread of fire. Despite efforts by firefighters, wildland fires fanned by strong winds can destroy homes. It is your legal responsibility to take the necessary actions to clear vegetation around any existing structures. A fire-safe landscape creates a defensible space to help protect against approaching wildfires.

RED FLAG WEATHER

**Just what is “Red Flag Weather”,
...and how should I react?**

Red Flag Weather refers to certain weather conditions that lead to a greater possibility for a wildland fire to start and to spread rapidly.

These conditions generally exist when the winds exceed 25 mph and relative humidity is below 15%.

On days such as these, listen to the news on radio or TV to see if a Red Flag Warning or Alert has been issued.

If so, here are additional protective measures you can take:

- 1. Park your car heading out (windows closed), and know where your car keys are.***
- 2. Disconnect automatic garage door openers and use the manual function (in case of power failure before you are able to exit).***
- 3. Place your box of important documents, photos, and keepsakes inside your car.***
- 4. Keep pet carriers readily accessible.***
- 5. When you leave your home,***
 - keep drapes or other combustible window coverings OPEN (or remove them completely).***
 - close all interior doors of the house (this slows the spread of fire).***
 - close all windows.***
 - lights on (as long as power remains, your home will be more visible to firefighters through the smoke or darkness).***

Survival Tip

**On average,
Southern California
experiences 15
Red Flag Weather
days per year.**

SURVIVOR'S STORY

**THE 1993 OLD CANYON
WILDFIRE**



RON MASS

Ron Mass today, right, with his good friend Kiera Schlihs (formerly Alexander). Ron was living on Kiera's ranch, known as Deer Creek, at the time of the 1993 Old Canyon Fire, above.

"If it wasn't for Kiera and Peter at the hospital, I wouldn't have my hands today."

**Emerging from
the Flames**



The inferno Ron Mass ran through on that fateful day twelve years ago this November was just the beginning. What followed was an unimaginable firestorm of physical pain and mental anguish.

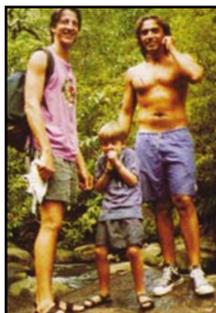
BY BILL BUERGE AND GAIL McDONALD-TUNE

Around midday on November 2, 1993, as the Santa Ana winds were raging, Ron Mass got into his Jeep at The Inn of the Seventh Ray to drive back home to get a forgotten saw. He lived at Deer Creek Ranch, a 15-acre spread owned by art dealer Peter Alexander and his wife, Kiera, located ten minutes north in Old Canyon. Ron was thirty-eight years old, had lived mostly in Topanga for the past twenty years, and had just started a new job at the restaurant six weeks earlier. Working with his hands as a carpenter was his passion and part of his new job description. Never sick a day in his life, he says that he had no reason to have health insurance, except that it was a perk that came with his new job. The insurance would become a gift beyond telling in the harrowing decade ahead.

Topanga's and the greater Santa Monica Mountains' extraordinary fire hazard is due in large part to the unique alignment of its canyons and hills to the hot areas inland,

and a "brush load" measured in tons per acre that is many times the state average. The notorious "Santa Anas" blow primarily between Labor Day and Thanksgiving and are created from high-pressure areas over the Great Basin. They become hot and dry as they are whipped to high velocity by the San Fernando Valley, which functions as a giant bellows. The winds roar seaward through the narrow canyons that act like chimney flues. Add a spark to the thick vegetation and a major wild-fire can erupt.

As Ron neared his home at the summit of Old Canyon Road, he could see and smell smoke. He intuited that there was a fire, but the exact proximity and magnitude could not be determined as it was out of sight over the crest of the hill. Three homes at Deer Creek were scattered two or three minutes apart by vehicle. Ron raced down the long driveway and on to the Alexanders' home to warn them. Peter, who was alone, began gathering up his dogs. Then Ron drove back out to the street and hooked up one of the new hoses; he asked two men who happened to be standing there to water down the trees and watch for the fire. In a state of



Ron (right) with Peter Alexander and Peter's stepson before the fire, in 1992.

resourceful panic, he raced back again, this time to warn the other resident, to get his things and get out as soon as possible. A red pickup from the fire station drove up out at the street, and a chopper was now circling overhead ordering everyone to evacuate. When Ron came back to warn his neighbor a second time, he was still writing on his computer. Ron hurried back to his place and gathered up some important papers, cash, and a few clothes and came back yet a third time, urging him to get the hell out of there. The neighbor, delayed by a fruitless search for his cat, finally got into his car.

Ron drove toward the driveway with the neighbor following. But it was too late. Flames had engulfed the entire drive ahead as well as the gullies on each side. The fire had outflanked them and was moving southward, as if by some ancient thermal instinct, on its relentless march to the sea. They were surrounded by the blaze. Ron thought of jumping into the pool but was concerned about the power lines that stretched overhead. In the hunch of a lifetime, he decided to blast through the wall of flames in his vehicle. "Cars can't drive through fire like they do in the movies," he says in hindsight. "The flames were just too intense. There were three walls of fire: we made it through the first, but I couldn't see him in my rearview mirror after the second. My ignition wires melted and my tires exploded in the middle of the third. When the ignition wires went, it came to a complete halt." The neighbor had already abandoned his car, ran back, and jumped into the pool.

Blazing oleander bushes bordered both sides of the driveway, creating a fiery tunnel. Within the vortex of the firestorm, Ron struggled out of his vehicle into the full ferocity of the fire and ran four hundred to five hundred feet down the driveway through the

inferno. Memory was the first casualty of the catastrophe. He can't recall if he held his breath or not, but neither he nor his doctors can understand why his lungs weren't destroyed—like his neighbor, who inhaled a lot of fire and was burned over 95 percent of his body. Firemen later pushed Ron's smoldering Jeep down the hillside to get

***Ron struggled out of vehicle into
the full ferocity of the fire
and ran four hundred to five hundred feet
down the driveway.***

to the neighbor, where they found him barely conscious in the swimming pool, his eyelids burned off. He repeatedly uttered that he didn't want to die...he didn't want to die, but his voice was hauntingly weak because his lungs were fatally scorched by the firestorm that had engulfed him and Ron. He made it to the hospital, where more than forty soccer teammates were at his bedside when he died of his wounds. Members of the team visited the scene of the fire; there they found his cat alive, hiding under a toolshed, and pledged to take care of it.

When Ron reached to the street he thought he had made it out with merely superficial burns, so did the firemen who helped water him down with the same hose he had hooked up a little earlier. Ron sat down on the tailgate of the pickup and fell into an



6

unconscious state that lasted six weeks.

With Peter Alexander at his side, Ron was flown by helicopter to the Sherman Oaks Burn Center. More than 75 percent of his body's surface had been literally cooked by the intense heat. The lighter-weight cotton T-shirt and shorts he was wearing stayed intact and offered enough protection to stave off more serious burning. Had his clothing been of a synthetic material, like nylon, it would have melted and his injuries could have been fatal.

A special room was set up to handle all the press that besieged the hospital. All the mirrors were removed from his room, and visitors were instructed not to comment on or speak to him about his appearance. Between excruciating dressing changes, he was bandaged like a mummy in the intensive care burn unit for the next eight months, suspended on a special bed made of hundreds of computerized pillows needing constant adjustments by factory technicians and costing three thousand dollars a day to rent. Ron made history at the burn unit for the longest hospital stay of any patient on record.

Upon leaving the burn unit, Ron spent another three and a half months in transitional rehabilitation where his stiff, grafted legs were brought back to life and he was taught all over again how to walk, feed himself, and use his hands. Finally, nearly twelve months after the fire, he was able to move

Left: Topanga Messenger captures Ron at the Sherman Oaks Burn Center

back into the house he had built at Deer Creek, where he lived for the next three years. Astonishingly, his simple plywood dwelling had survived while the other, more substantial structures burned.

For the greater part of the next decade, Ron's entire existence would revolve around an endless succession of surgeries. He estimates he had some fifty operations while at the burn unit, and

Ron attributes his miraculous recovery to the outpouring of support he received from his hometown, which he calls his "extended Topanga family."

another twenty-five after he got out. The tab from the burn unit alone came to \$2.1 million. Another half a million or so has been spent since, with a series of hospital stays lasting two days to three weeks.

In 1993, even given the advanced state of burn medicine, Ron had a dismal prognosis. His doctor admitted to him years later that given the extent of his wounds, he should not have lived. Fortunately, the insurance was there. But even more important, Ron says, Topanga was there. His hometown rallied with a vengeance—Topangans did not want Ron Mass to die! Ron unequivocally attributes his miraculous recovery to the outpouring of support he received from his hometown, which he calls his "extended Topanga family." "They have always been there for me. Topanga people came and sat vigil by my bedside. They prayed for me. At times, complete

strangers. The phone never stopped ringing. My walls were covered with get-well cards and drawings from the elementary school. There was a benefit concert at the Community House. When the word went out that I needed fifty to a hundred pints of blood, Topangans donated eighteen hundred."

What makes his story so compelling (and unsettling) to Topangans is that it brings the fact of our vulnerability to natural disasters home to us, breaks the door down and slaps us in the face. For a moment anyway, hearing his story shakes us out of our complacency and denial and we get that people just like us can, and do, lose their lives here from catastrophic events. Ron Mass was actually one of the lucky ones. In addition to Ron's Neighbor, two others died in the 1993 blaze when their car became a funeral pyre in a Malibu canyon. We are rudely reminded that just under the surface of all this rural splendor lives a volcano of deadly potential.

Ron has since grown weary of the operations. His last surgery was a relatively small ordeal involving a tiny leg graft. Still, it required the usual costly consultations with specialists and an anesthesiologist and several days in the hospital. Even though it was covered by insurance, his copayments came to \$8,000. The graft didn't take, but he still had to pay. He has decided to stop the operations for the time being and see if he can live with his present state of restoration and get on with his life.

The inferno Ron Mass ran through on that fateful day, twelve years ago this November, was just the beginning. What followed was an unimaginable firestorm of physical pain and mental anguish. It took the combined effort of his huge willpower and the power of collective community to ultimately extinguish the flames.

Reducing Your Stress during a Disaster

- 1. *Instead of moving too fast, running, or yelling...***
*Slow down, take a deep breath, and think!
You will get things done more efficiently.*
- 2. *Instead of getting angry, becoming aggressive, and blaming others...***
*Stop before you hurt yourself or someone else.
Only try to control what is possible for you to control.*
- 3. *Instead of denying yourself basic needs...***
*Make sure you and your family eat and drink (especially water)
as often as possible. Do not take stimulants, such as coffee,
without eating food first. Limit alcohol use.*
- 4. *Instead of feeling anxious about not knowing what is happening...***
*Call the T-CEP hot line at 310-455-3000 for information
about what is happening in Topanga Canyon that might affect you.*

FIRE!

EMERGENCY PROTECTION MEASURES TO BE TAKEN WHEN AN EVACUATION WARNING HAS BEEN ISSUED:

EVACUATION WARNING

- Contact family members and make sure they are ready to leave the Canyon.
- Put personal belongings and documents in your vehicle.
- Cover windows, attic openings, eaves, and vents with fire-resistive material such as 1/2-inch or thicker plywood. Close window shutters and blinds only if they are fire-resistive.
- Attach garden hoses with nozzles to spigots and place them so that they can reach all areas of your home. (These can be used by firefighters engaged in structure protection to put out spot fires once the fire has passed. Please note that garden hoses are ineffective in terms of fighting a wildland fire.)

EVACUATION WARNING

Evacuation Warnings will be issued for a particular Zone or Zones of the Canyon in the event of a wildfire. When you hear the warning, that is the time to leave the Canyon. The majority of Evacuation Warnings become Evacuation Orders. This is also the time to evacuate those in need of special assistance and your horses.

- Fill sinks, bathtubs, trash cans, and buckets with water. Place portable containers around your house for easy access.
- Close all windows and doors around your home to keep sparks from blowing inside.
- Shut off liquefied petroleum gas or natural gas valves.
- Move furniture away from windows and sliding glass doors to avoid their igniting from the fire's radiant heat.
- If you have children in school, follow their school's Disaster Plan.
- NOTE: Pre-wetting your home and surrounding areas will not improve the safety of your home, and it wastes valuable water.

EVACUATION ORDER

WHEN AN **EVACUATION ORDER** HAS BEEN ISSUED FOR YOUR AREA:

- Gather your family, pets, and disaster supply kit into your car and immediately leave your home or business.
- Follow the evacuation plan instructions and the directions from Sheriff and Fire Department personnel.
- Drive carefully at a normal speed with your headlights on.

7

EVACUATION ORDER

An Evacuation Order is a directive from the Sheriff or Fire Department to leave your home or business immediately for your own safety. Failure to follow an Evacuation Order may result in endangerment to the lives of others, personal injury, or death.



SURVIVAL TIP

Don't forget to bring this Survival Guide with your Family Plan and Zone maps!

EVACUATION PLAN INSTRUCTIONS

IMPORTANT: When an Evacuation Order has been issued, follow the directions of the Sheriff or other Emergency personnel. Under Santa Ana wind conditions, these are the instructions you will most likely receive.

IF YOU ARE IN THE NORTHERN END—ZONES 1 THROUGH 6—OF OLD OR NEW TOPANGA, WITH NO SMOKE IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA:

- Evacuate in a northbound direction. This will be the quickest route out of the Canyon and will reduce traffic congestion.
- Proceed to a predetermined location outside the Canyon or a Regional Shelter.

IF YOU ARE IN ZONES 7, 8, OR 9, UNDER ANY CONDITIONS:

- Evacuate in a southbound direction on Topanga Canyon Blvd. to Pacific Coast Hwy.

IF YOU ARE IN ANY LOCATION WITH SMOKE AND/OR ASH IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA:

- Evacuate in a southbound direction on Topanga Canyon Blvd. to Pacific Coast Hwy.
- You will be directed to a Regional Shelter/Red Cross Shelter off of Sunset Blvd.
- Animals will not be permitted inside Regional Shelters. Please plan ahead to make other arrangements for your animals.

IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO SAFELY EVACUATE TOPANGA CANYON BEFORE THE FIRE ARRIVES:

- Proceed directly to your closest Community Safety Area (Safety Area). Refer to your Zone map for Safety Area locations.

REGIONAL SHELTER/ RED CROSS SHELTER

A safe location outside of Topanga Canyon to which you will be directed upon evacuating the Canyon (seeking refuge at a Regional Shelter is your safest alternative).

SCHOOL SHELTER

A school that students will be transferred to or remain in that will shelter them during a large wildland fire or other disaster. School staff will supervise the students until an appointed time when they may be reunited with their parents or guardians.

IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO REACH A SAFETY AREA BEFORE THE FIRE ARRIVES:

- Proceed directly to your nearest Neighborhood Survival Area (Survival Area). Refer to your Zone map for Survival Area locations.

IF YOU MUST TAKE SHELTER IN EITHER A SAFETY OR A SURVIVAL AREA:

- Park your vehicle off the road near the area and walk the remainder of the way to safety.
- If vehicles catch fire near Safety or Survival Areas, the smoke is toxic.
- NEVER park your vehicle in a traffic lane or in a Safety or Survival Area! This can hinder firefighters and can block evacuation routes, resulting in deaths and/or severe burn injuries to others. NOTE: Unattended vehicles blocking the road can be forcibly removed during an emergency.
- If you bring pets with you to Safety or Survival Areas, they must be contained (dogs on leashes, cats in carriers, birds in cages, etc.). Horses, livestock, or other large animals are not permitted in either Safety or Survival Areas.
- Once you arrive at a Safety or Survival Area . . . **STAY THERE!** The most severe heat wave will pass and there will be Sheriff and Fire personnel on patrol in the area. You may need to move around to stay in the cooler areas. Assist other people who may need your help.

7

COMMUNITY SAFETY AREA (Safety Area)

Location within the Canyon that has been deemed a safer alternative to remaining in your home. If you are unable to make it to a safe location outside the Canyon or a designated Regional Shelter, seek shelter in the nearest Safety Area.

NEIGHBORHOOD SURVIVAL AREA (Survival Area)

A smaller, usually open area that has also been deemed a safer alternative to remaining in your home, and that is to be used only if you are unable to make it to a Safety Area.

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EVACUATION PLAN INSTRUCTIONS

IF YOU ARE TRAPPED BY FIRE WHILE EVACUATING...

- Do not stay in your car.
- Select an area clear of traffic and vegetation.
- Lie facedown and cover your head.
- You will find the most protection by lying in a ditch or other low area where the air is coolest.
- Seek shelter behind a block wall, rock, or other noncombustible feature (not a vehicle).
- Shield yourself from the oncoming wind and searing heat of the fire.
- Cover up and stay low!

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Sheltering in Place

Although there are areas in the Santa Monica Mountains referred to in the wildland fire brochures published by the County of Los Angeles Fire Department about sheltering in place, Topanga is not one of the communities where this practice is recommended.

There are several factors that make sheltering in place a very dangerous option in Topanga, including steep terrain, a dense canopy, the direction wildfires come from, and extreme fluctuations in water availability and water pressure during a massive wildfire. Neither a garden hose nor a fire hose can put enough water on this type of fire to extinguish it. Therefore, a resident should not shelter in place unless told to do so by a Sheriff's deputy, other law enforcement, or the Fire Department.

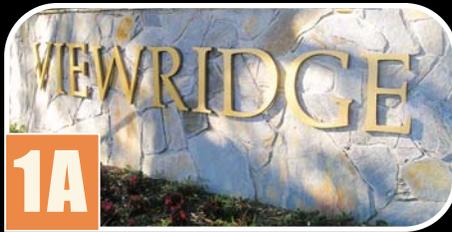
If the Fire Department knows there are citizens who have stayed, the Fire Department must attempt to rescue these citizens. This pulls critical resources away from fighting the fire and saving homes and jeopardizes the lives of firefighters as well as other citizens who are trying to evacuate.

Community Safety Areas

Safety Areas and Survival Areas are identified on the maps in the back of this book.

Please take the time to learn these locations.

Refer to the Zone maps to find locations in your area.



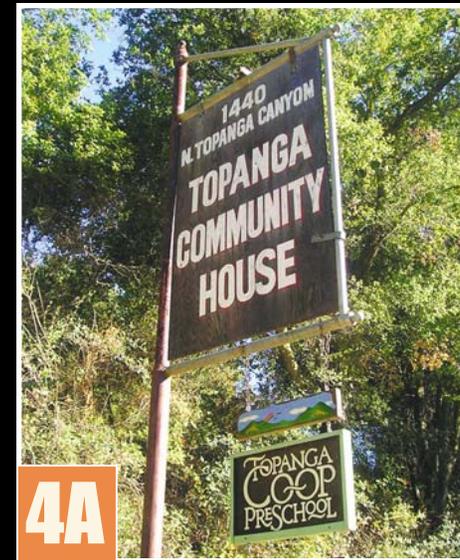
1A

VIEWRIDGE
entire street



2B

CALMONT SCHOOL
1717 Old Topanga Canyon Rd.



4A

COMMUNITY HOUSE
1440 Topanga Canyon Rd.



2A

MILL CREEK RANCH
1881 Old Topanga Canyon Rd.



6A

OLD ELYSIUM
814 Robinson Rd.



7A

STATE PARK
Upper end of Entrada Rd.



7B

PINE TREE CIRCLE
120 Topanga Canyon Rd.



9A

WATER TANK SITE
2300 Tuna Canyon Rd.



7C

TOPANGA CENTER
101, 137, 139 Topanga Canyon Rd.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AREA (Safety Area)

A designated location within the Canyon that has been deemed a safer alternative to remaining in your home. If you are unable to make it to the designated Regional Shelter, seek shelter in a Safety Area.

NEIGHBORHOOD SURVIVAL AREA (Survival Area)

A smaller, usually open area that has also been deemed a safer alternative to remaining in your home, and that is to be used only if you are unable to make it to a Safety Area.

THE WILDFIRE SURVIVAL CHAIN

When fire threatens, your absolute safest alternative is to leave the Canyon.

Follow the Evacuation Plan Instructions and the directions from Sheriff and Fire Department personnel.

If you are in the northern end (Zones 1 through 6), with no smoke in the immediate area, evacuate in a northbound direction.

If you are in the southern end (Zones 7 through 9), evacuate in a southbound direction on Topanga Canyon Blvd.

MOST SAFE 	PLAN A	REGIONAL/ RED CROSS SHELTER	<i>Proceed to a safe location outside the Canyon or a Regional Shelter. Please note: during school hours, children will be located at a School Shelter.</i>
	PLAN B	SAFETY AREA	<i>If you are unable to evacuate the Canyon completely, proceed directly to your closest Community Safety Area (Safety Area). Safety Area locations are identified on Zone maps located in this guide.</i>

**LEAST
SAFE**

PLAN C

**SURVIVAL
AREA**

If you are unable to reach a Safety Area, proceed directly to your nearest Neighborhood Survival Area (Survival Area). Survival Areas are to be used only if you are unable to make it to a Safety Area. Survival Area locations are identified on the Zone maps located in this guide.

PLAN D

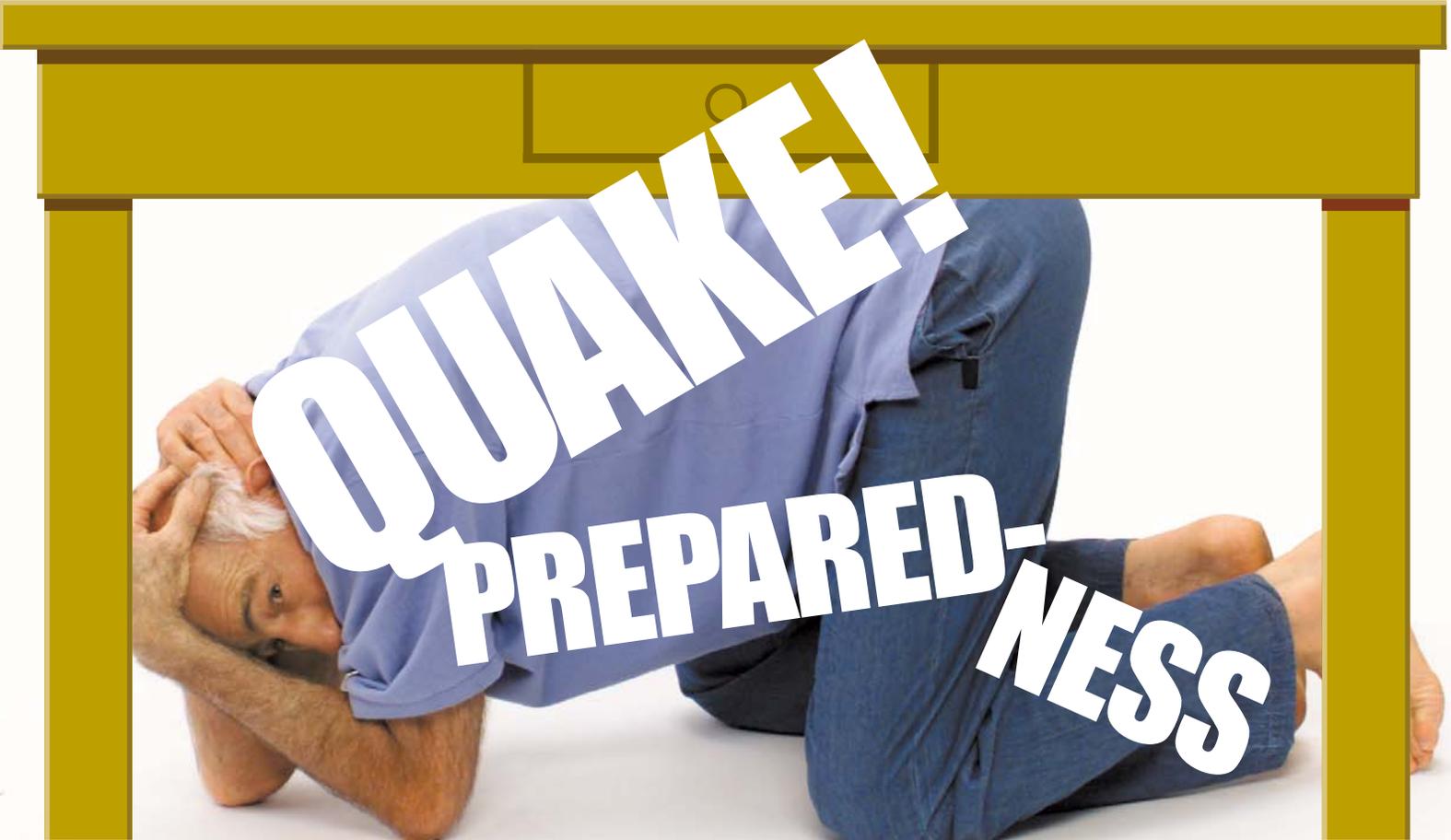
DITCH

If you are trapped by fire while evacuating, find an area clear of traffic and vegetation (but not on a road), lie facedown, and cover your head. You will find the most protection by lying in a ditch or other low area where the air is coolest.

PLAN E

**SHELTER
IN PLACE**

You should not consider sheltering in place unless you have been specifically instructed to do so by Sheriff or Fire personnel. In most areas of Topanga Canyon, this alternative provides the least amount of individual safety. In a few select areas, however, this may become a viable option.



QUAKE!
PREPARED-
NESS

B E F O R E

- Food.** Store enough food for 72 hours, preferably 10 days.
- Water.** Store enough so each person has a gallon a day for 72 hours, preferably one week.
Keep in airtight containers and replace it every six months. Have disinfectants such as iodine tablets or chlorine bleach, eight drops per gallon, to purify water if necessary.
- First aid kit.** Make sure it's well stocked, especially with bandages and disinfectants.
- Fire extinguisher.** Your fire extinguisher should be suitable for all types of fires.
- Flashlights with extra batteries.** Keep flashlights beside your bed and in several other locations.
- Do not use matches or candles** after an earthquake until you are certain there are no gas leaks.
- Portable radio with extra batteries.** Most telephones will be out of order or limited to emergency use. The radio will be your best source of information.
- Tools.** Have an adjustable or pipe wrench for turning off gas and water.
- Also, before an earthquake, identify some safe spots in each room...** under sturdy tables or desks, or against interior walls. Know the danger spots: near windows, mirrors, hanging objects, fireplaces, and tall, unsecured furniture.

- Conduct practice drills** so you and your family know the safe locations in your home.
- Decide how and where your family will reunite** if separated during an earthquake.
- Choose an out-of-state friend or relative** whom family members can call after the earthquake to report their whereabouts and condition.
- Learn first aid and CPR** (cardiopulmonary resuscitation).
- Learn how to shut off gas, water, and electricity** in case the lines are damaged.
- Check chimneys, roofs, walls, and foundations for stability.**
Make sure your house is bolted to its foundation.
- Secure your water heater and major appliances** as well as tall, heavy furniture, hanging plants, mirrors, and picture frames (especially those over beds).
- Keep breakables, heavy objects, and flammable or hazardous liquids** such as paints, pest sprays, and cleaning products in secured cabinets or on lower shelves.
- Organize your neighborhood** to be self-sufficient after an earthquake.

DURING

- If indoors, stay there.** Get under a desk or table or stand in a corner.
- If outdoors, get into an open area** away from trees, buildings, walls, and power lines.
- If driving, pull over to the side of the road and stop.** Avoid areas around power lines.
Stay inside your car until the shaking is over.
- If in a crowded public place, do not rush for the doors.**
Crouch and cover your head and neck with your hands and arms.



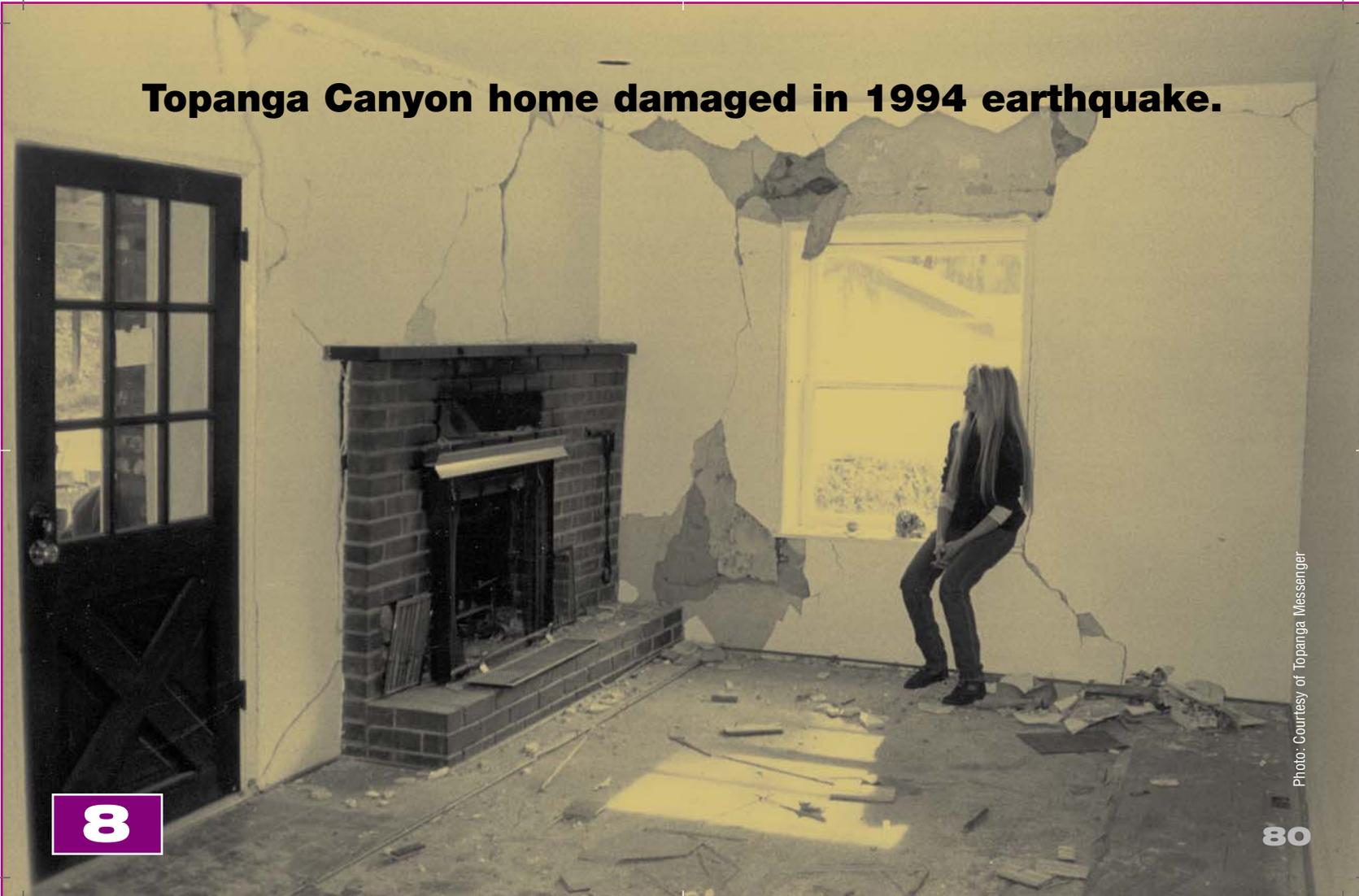
During an earthquake, if you are in a crowded public place, do not rush for the doors. Crouch and cover your head and neck with your hands and arms.

A F T E R

- Do not attempt to use the telephone** unless there is an immediate, life-threatening emergency.
- Check for gas and water leaks, and broken electrical wiring or sewage lines.** If there is damage, turn the utility off at the source and immediately report gas leaks to your utility company. Check for downed power lines; warn others to stay away.
- Do not attempt to relight the gas pilot** unless a thorough inspection of your gas lines has taken place. Call the utility company for assistance.
- Check your building for cracks and damage, including the roof, chimneys, and foundation.**
- Turn on your portable radio** for instructions and news reports. For your own safety, cooperate fully with public safety officials and follow instructions.
- Do not use your vehicle** unless there is an emergency. Keep the streets clear for emergency vehicles.
- Be prepared for aftershocks.** Stay calm and lend a hand to others.
- If you evacuate, leave a message** at your home telling family members and others where you can be found.

www.topangasurvival.org

Topanga Canyon home damaged in 1994 earthquake.



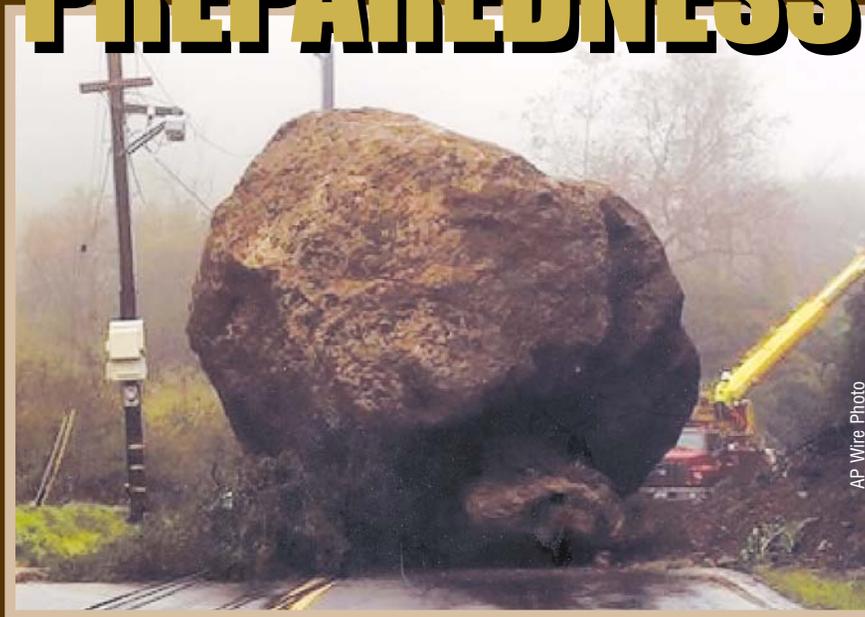
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Photo: Courtesy of Topanga Messenger

80

FLOOD, SLIDE, AND STORM PREPAREDNESS

During the record rains of 2005, an immense round rock rolled smack-dab into the middle of Highway 27 and achieved a kind of instant celebrity status. Thankfully, no one was injured. The now-famous AP wire photo shown here made headlines from New York to China. Postcards and T-shirts featuring

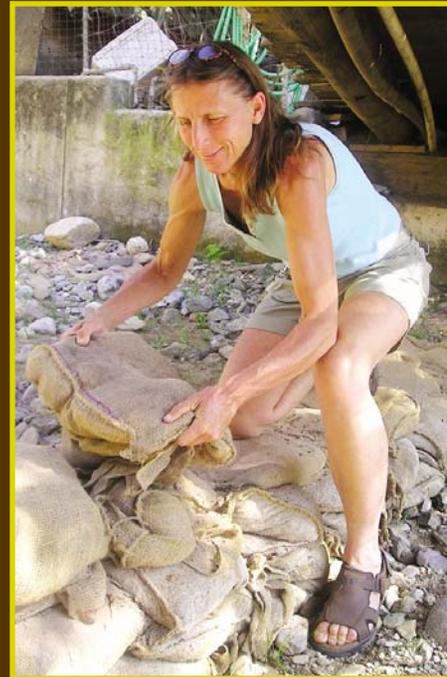


the monolith's mug shot flooded local markets (at least, the two here in Topanga). But its celebrity was short-lived as Caltrans needed to open the road, so the rock was soon dynamited to pebbledom. Topangans will forever feel "sedimental" about this genuine Topanga rock star that became a legend in its own time.

P R E P A R E D N E S S R O C K S

B E F O R E T H E F L O O D

- 1.** *Assess the safety of your house and belongings in case of a flood or mudslide. Are you near a creek? Do you live above or below a steep hillside? Do you have to drive over a creek or bridge to get to a main road?*
- 2.** *Maintain supplies for at least three days in case you are isolated.*
- 3.** *Clean drains around the house and house gutters in the fall before the winter rains come. Check drains on nearby streets. If blocked, clean them or notify road maintenance.*
- 4.** *If diversion of water or mud could be necessary, plan to fill sandbags ahead of time in order to be ready for their use. (Sandbags are available at your local fire station.)*
- 5.** *Maintain all slopes in a safe manner. Use appropriate plantings, slope coverage, and drainage channels. For information on drought- and fire-resistant plantings, contact the Resource Conservation District at 310-455-1030 and/or the Fire Department at 818-222-1108.*



Above: Cheney Canyon Renaissance woman Laura Bateman demonstrates the proper placement of sandbags at her home on Paradise Lane. In 1980 the Garapito Creek along Paradise Lane swelled and inundated the neighborhood (see the following two pages). Except for a negligible puddle inside Laura's front door, sandbags did the job and kept the water out.

9

DURING THE FLOOD

1. *Don't cross rapidly flowing streams. Stay on one side until the water recedes. Most streams in this area go down in a couple of hours once it stops raining.*

2. *During the storm, check drainage systems at your house and driveways to maintain a safe situation and limit damage.*

3. *Watch for mudslides and adjust drainage to reduce mudslides.*

4. *Keep family and animals inside and away from rapid water.*

5. *If you notice a major mud slippage either above or below your house, move your family to a safe location and notify your neighbors and County officials as appropriate.*

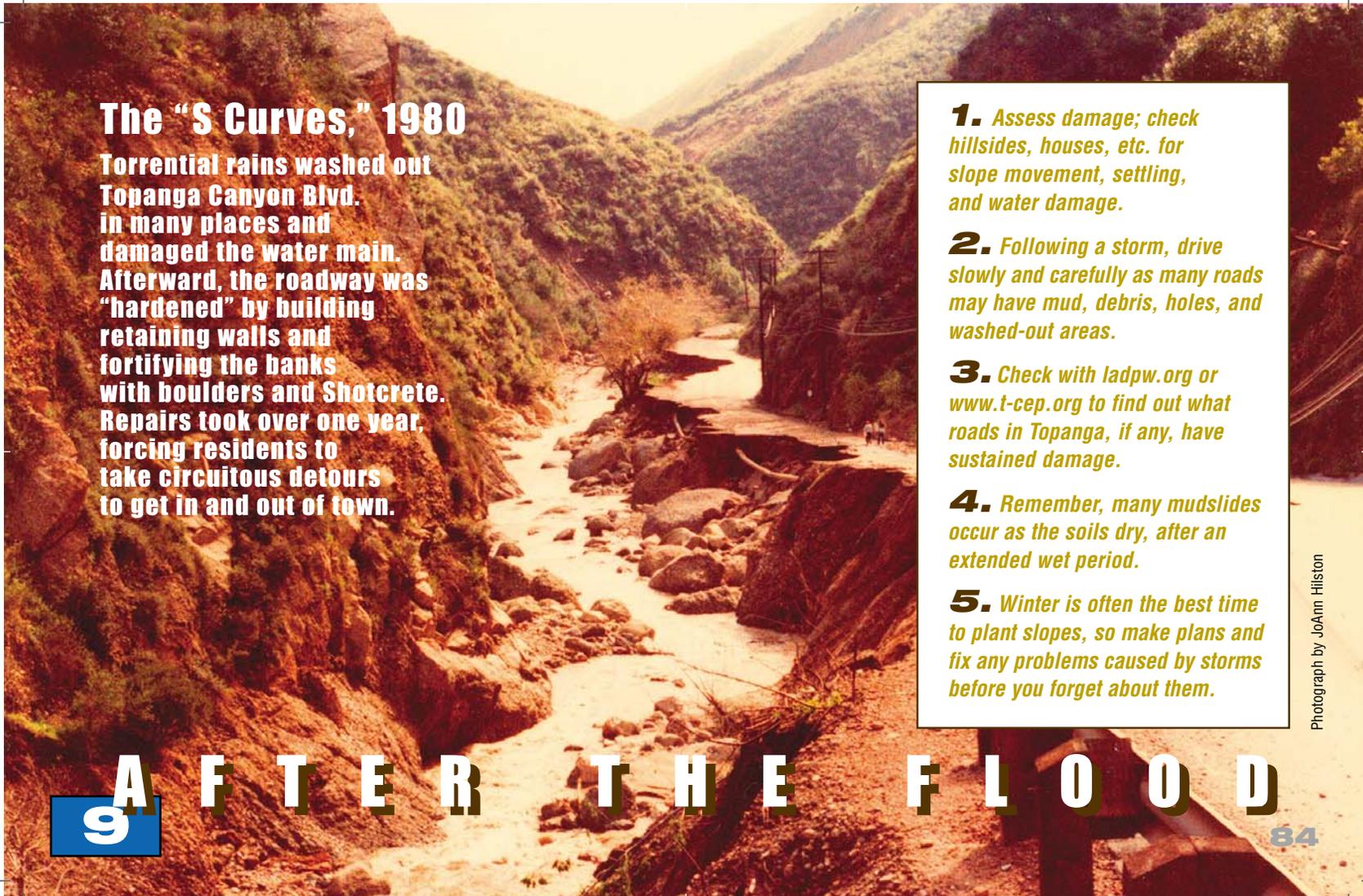


Paradise Lane, 1980

SURVIVAL FACTOID

Mother Nature dumped a record 64.82 inches of rain on the Robinson Road area of Topanga in 2004–2005. This topped 55 inches that fell in 1978 and 1998. Data kept by Lee Haines, founder of the Pierce College weather station in 1949, and augmented by Topanga residents in recent years, showed an average of 24.9 inches during the past 45 years.

Photo: Courtesy of Topanga Messenger



The “S Curves,” 1980

Torrential rains washed out Topanga Canyon Blvd. in many places and damaged the water main. Afterward, the roadway was “hardened” by building retaining walls and fortifying the banks with boulders and Shotcrete. Repairs took over one year, forcing residents to take circuitous detours to get in and out of town.

1. *Assess damage; check hillsides, houses, etc. for slope movement, settling, and water damage.*

2. *Following a storm, drive slowly and carefully as many roads may have mud, debris, holes, and washed-out areas.*

3. *Check with ladpw.org or www.t-cep.org to find out what roads in Topanga, if any, have sustained damage.*

4. *Remember, many mudslides occur as the soils dry, after an extended wet period.*

5. *Winter is often the best time to plant slopes, so make plans and fix any problems caused by storms before you forget about them.*

Photograph by JoAnn Hilston

9 A F T E R T H E F L O O D

9

SURVIVOR'S STORY

**CHENEY CANYON 2005
MUD SLIDE**



**CARL and JENNIFER
STROM**

The Cheney Drive couple is shown posing in front of the leading edge of "Strom's Folly," as Carl has nicknamed the creeping mass of mud. Thick-diameter rebar was pounded deep in the ground to hold the concrete barriers in place that kept the mud from oozing out into the busy street.

*There was no cataclysm,
no running down the hill with a
wall of mud at our heels.
Just a gradual opening up
of the earth.*

On the morning of January 10, 2005, I looked out the living room window through the downpour and saw a gap about a yard wide in the slope below. Oh, I thought, when the rain ends we'll have to do some shoveling to fill that in. But as the gap grew, its meaning hit me. This was the whole hillside on the move. It could take our driveway. And even our house.



At the start, the slide severed our water pipe and the next-door neighbor's. When we realized water was gushing right into the top of the slide, making it worse, we called the Waterworks District, and they got a crew out here right away. They crimped the two pipes, but that was only a temporary fix. Our meters and shut-off valves were buried by then, so the only way to stop the water was to dig down to the water main under the street and seal off our connections. The workers spent a night and a day in the downpour, digging five feet under the road at the foot of a moving mudslide, with occasional angry drivers demanding they stop work and let traffic through. Then one crew even stayed on into the second evening to set up temporary water service for our two houses with a set of garden hoses. Those Waterworks guys were our heroes.

The first couple of days, our place was swarming with people from the Waterworks District, curious neighbors with digital cameras, the road maintenance people trying to keep Cheney Drive

open at the foot of the slide, a roads engineer, and a County geologist whose role I didn't understand until she said, "Well, I guess we won't have to red-tag you...at least for now."

It hardly seemed like a disaster because it all happened in slow motion. There was no cataclysm, no running down the hill with a wall of mud at our heels. Just a gradual opening up of the earth. One clump of young oaks took three weeks to sail majestically down the hillside, standing on its raft of roots and grasses.

Our neighbors were great. The phone kept ringing with offers

of food, help, a place to sleep, a shoulder to cry on, many from people we hardly knew. Even if we didn't take people up on their offers, it was reassuring to feel the flow of friendship and sympathy that didn't stop even as the weeks went by with the road narrowed to one lane and a whole neighborhood of perpetually mud-splattered cars, not to mention the traffic waiting each time more mud had to be trucked out.

There was a continual flow of onlookers parking cars, walking by, and coming up the driveway to get a closer look. At first it was hard to get used to the cameras. Our family fortune was

Muddling Through

BY JENNIFER STROM

sliding down the hill, and people seemed to see it as entertainment. It took a while for me to get a grip and see it their way: the gaping hillside, the bowels of the earth spilled out, the trees hanging by their roots—it was a phenomenon that merits seeing and photographing and talking about. It was Nature showing us who's boss, a thing we all need to witness now and then.

The scarp had grown from a crack to a twenty-foot cliff. New cracks began to show in the driveway, which runs along the top of the slide. But the house, only fifteen feet above the driveway in some places, held firm. Coming only weeks after the tsunami in south Asia, our little disaster seemed inconsequential. We were lucky: we had a choice whether to be victims or not. At first, our options looked grim: default and leave the problem for the bank? File for bankruptcy? Would there be help from FEMA? A year ago, we'd bought a piece of land in another part of Topanga, hoping to build ourselves a smaller, greener house to live in. Maybe we'd have to sell that land. Then, the second night after the slide started, I woke up at 2:00 A.M. thinking, *We don't have to give up. We can handle this!* That morning, Carl and I made lists of ways to overcome our problem. Since then, it has been our fight first, to save our house, then to rebuild the hillside, and finally, to figure out a way to pay for it all.

As disaster victims, we needed to deal with the Federal

Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Small Business Administration (SBA) and six County agencies. The process has not been easy. Each agency has gone out of its way to expedite our application but the process is still lengthy. We have no choice but to

be patient. We're working with the system, and the system will require us to rebuild the hillside better than before. That's not a bad thing: when all is said and done, this house will be as secure as any in Topanga.

Now it's mid-June, and we're nearing the end of the permit process. We're still waiting for that SBA loan. The mudslide has become like a full-time job shared by the two of us. The uncertainty of it all has been wearing. Discouragement comes in waves, but one or the other of us is always ready to fight back, and so we've pulled each other through. We've looked around a little at places we could move to out of state and live inexpensively, if it comes to that. But now it's looking like we can marshal our assets to pay for the mudslide and stay in Topanga.

We're lucky. We had a choice. This could have been the year we lost our savings and had to sell out and leave Topanga. But now it's looking more like it might be the year we discovered some new talents, pulled together a quarter-of-a-million-dollar reconstruction project, and muddled through.

**I woke up at 2:00 A.M. thinking,
*We don't have to give up.
We can handle this!***



OTHER DISASTERS

**HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, TERRORISM, STRUCTURE FIRES,
POISON OAK, AND RATTLESNAKES**



Hazardous Materials

*If you suspect a hazardous materials incident, follow these important steps and remember **RAIN**.*

Recognize that an incident involving hazardous materials may exist.

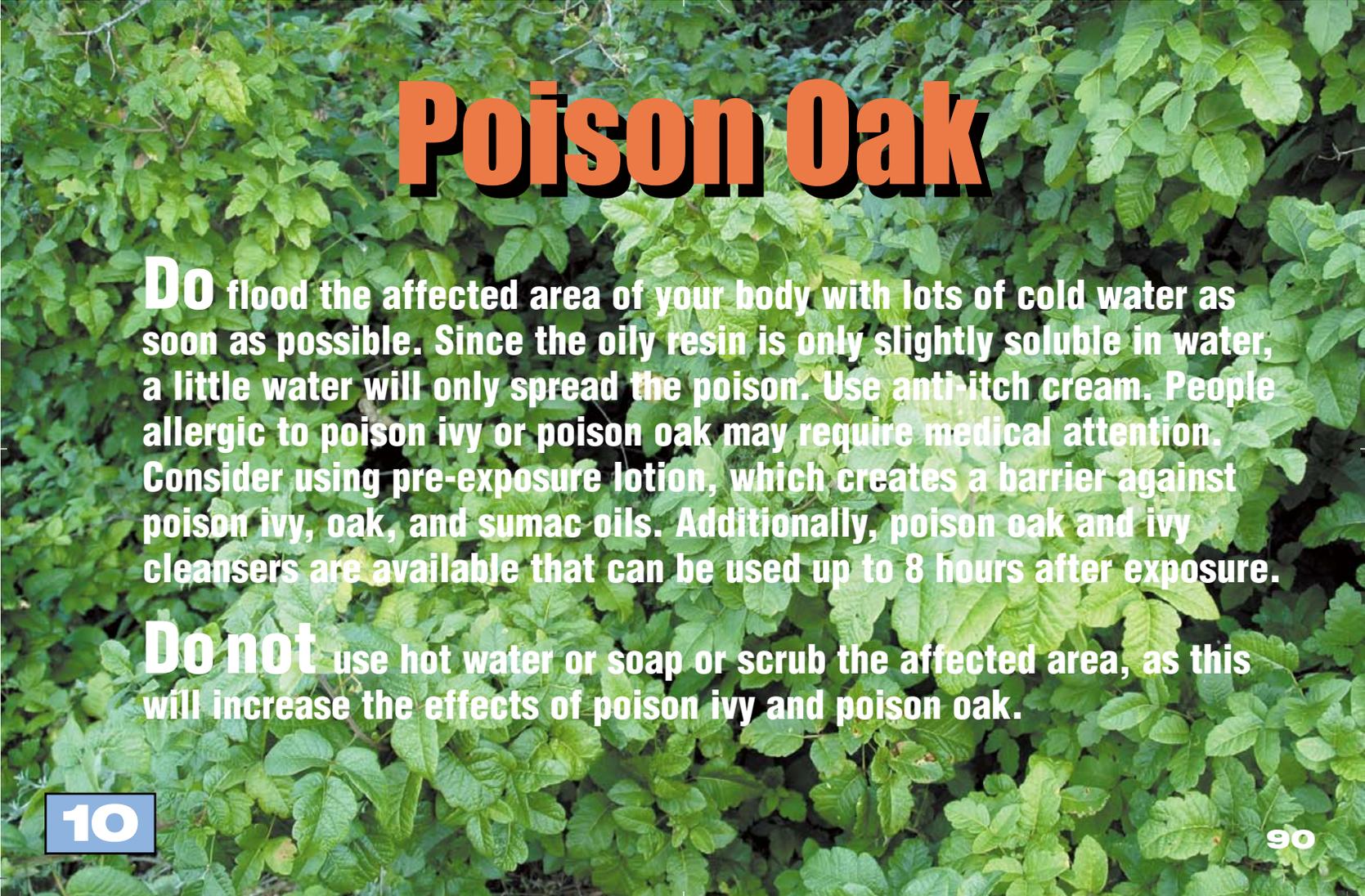
Avoid approaching the incident.

Isolate the area to keep others from entering a potentially dangerous area.

Notify authorities (call 911).

Remember to stay uphill, upwind, and upstream from any potential hazardous materials incident.

What is a safe distance? There is no concrete answer to what constitutes a safe distance. It is recommended that you follow the “rule of thumb”: looking toward the incident, hold your thumb out in front of you at arm’s length. If you can still see the incident (e.g., overturned tanker truck) on either side of your thumb, then you are still too close. Continue to back away from the incident until your thumb covers the entire incident.



Poison Oak

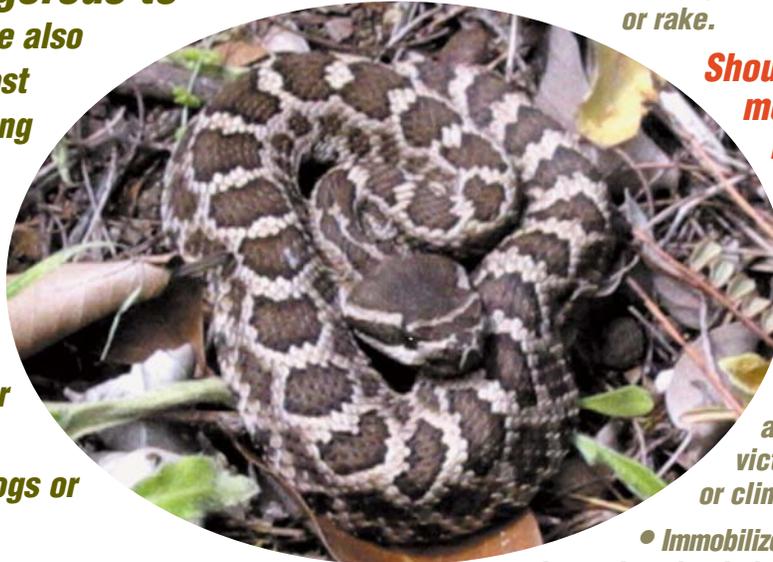
Do flood the affected area of your body with lots of cold water as soon as possible. Since the oily resin is only slightly soluble in water, a little water will only spread the poison. Use anti-itch cream. People allergic to poison ivy or poison oak may require medical attention. Consider using pre-exposure lotion, which creates a barrier against poison ivy, oak, and sumac oils. Additionally, poison oak and ivy cleansers are available that can be used up to 8 hours after exposure.

Do not use hot water or soap or scrub the affected area, as this will increase the effects of poison ivy and poison oak.

Rattlesnakes are the only reptiles in Southern California considered dangerous to humans, but they're also commonplace and most active during the spring and summer months. Many different species of snakes often sun themselves on ledges during the daytime, or hide in warm areas such as underneath logs or rocks, in trash piles, or inside animal burrows.

Should you encounter a snake, here are some ways to ensure your safety:

- If you see a snake, leave it alone. Even a dead snake's reflexes make it capable of biting. If the



snake is on your property, call the proper animal control agency to have it removed.

- Do not pick items from a wood or trash pile with your bare hands. Instead, remove items using a long stick or rake.

Should you or a member of your group be bitten by a snake, here's what you should do:

- Immediately pull the bite victim away from the snake.
- Call 911 as soon as possible. If you can't find or use a phone immediately, get the victim to the nearest hospital or clinic.
- Immobilize the bitten area and keep it lower than the victim's heart. If the bite is on a hand or arm, remove all jewelry or tight clothing. Keep the victim as still as possible.
- If a snake bites your cat or dog, keep the animal calm and immediately take it to a veterinarian who, you are certain, keeps antivenin in stock for treatment.

DO NOT DO THE FOLLOWING:

- Do not apply a tourniquet.
- Do not suck out the venom.
- Do not cut into the bite area.
- Do not apply heat or ice to the bite.
- Do not give the victim caffeine, alcohol, or any medication.

If you have a rattlesnake that is a problem...

1. CALL FIRE STATION 69 AT 310-455-1766.

They will come to help you, but official department policy dictates that they must kill the snake.

2. CALL THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL AT 818-991-0071.

They will come out to relocate the snake.

Rattlesnakes!

STATION 69



Fire Station 69 responds to approximately 450 calls annually, ranging from fires to emergency medical services, public assistance, and false alarms.



The station is staffed by four firefighters, three of whom are assigned to Engine 69; the fourth firefighter mans Patrol 69. Fire Station 69 is also home to Engine 269, which is staffed by call firefighters. These call firefighters (generally Topanga residents) are on call and are dispatched via a paging system. They respond with Engine 69 to any major incident in the jurisdiction. Fire Station 69 is one of only ten fire stations in the County to utilize the Call Firefighter Program. Station 69 firefighters also become brush inspectors before each fire season. Every property in Topanga is inspected and notices are left identifying further steps property owners must take to come into compliance with brush clearance rules. Your local inspector will meet with you individually at your request to discuss proper clearance. Call 310-455-1766 to set up an appointment.

IMPORTANT

**PLEASE
DO NOT CALL
STATION 69 TO
REPORT
AN EMERGENCY—
CALL 911!**

10

Remember, defensible space can save lives and property!

**TOPANGA FIRE STATISTICS FOR
2001 THROUGH 2004:**

**STRUCTURE FIRES.....31
VEHICLE FIRES.....18
BRUSHFIRES.....11
TOTAL ACRES BURNED.....7**

www.topangasurvival.org

SURVIVAL QUIZ

**DO YOU KNOW WHY
FIRE STATION NO. 69,
LOCATED IN THE
CENTER OF TOWN IN
PACIFIC PALISADES,
HAS THE
SAME NUMBER?**

ANSWER:

**ITS A FACT...THEY BOTH
HAVE THE SAME NUMBER—
BUT THE PALISADES STATION
IS A LOS ANGELES
CITY STATION, WHILE THE
TOPANGA STATION IS PART OF
LOS ANGELES COUNTY.**

Everyday Parking Issues

The population growth in Topanga Canyon and the multiple vehicle ownership of virtually all Canyon residents, the relative narrowness of most Canyon roads, and the popularity of SUVs and large pickup trucks have all contributed to serious parking and related safety issues throughout Topanga. Los Angeles County Fire Department regulations call for three vehicles to respond to all calls: a fire engine, a patrol truck, and an EMS vehicle. Even the smallest response truck from Topanga's Station 69 needs at least twelve feet of clearance to negotiate Canyon roadways. Seconds count and response time is critical in most emergency situations: clogged bottlenecks, with vehicles parked on both sides of a street, preventing ingress by fire trucks and emergency crews, may result in tragic consequences in a life-and-death situation. Topangans need to be cognizant of the ramifications when a guest or tenant poorly parks a car or truck in the middle of the street or directly across the street from another vehicle, or when a party creates a dense logjam of cars and trucks, effectively risking the lives of all those down the road. Canyon residents should be aware of the following:

- 1. Vehicles may park in one spot on a street for a period of only 72 consecutive hours, after which they can be ticketed and towed.**
- 2. There must be 15 feet of road clearance, in both directions, from fire hydrants and intersections.**
- 3. Cul-de-sacs need to be kept clear of vehicles and other hindrances to leave enough room for emergency vehicles to turn around.**
- 4. Vehicles must park within 18 inches of the side of the road—i.e., as close as possible on the passenger side. Vehicles should not park facing the wrong direction and may be ticketed and towed if they do so.**

5. You are encouraged to coordinate with your neighbors to voluntarily limit parking to one side of the road, especially on the narrowest streets, to allow for 15 feet of clearance and eliminate the need for emergency vehicles to “slalom” down a street. If access remains a problem, contact the L.A. County Department of Public Works to request appropriate parking restrictions. NOTE: The California Highway Patrol, Sheriff’s Department, or Fire Department will also request that Public Works place parking restrictions as appropriate.

6. There is a 27-hour window for trash cans to be left on a street, starting no earlier than 5:00 P.M. on the day before trash day and no later than 8:00 P.M. the day of trash pickup. The rest of the time trash cans have to be off the street. Residents should note that large trash cans create a hazard for emergency personnel because they have to maneuver around them in situations where seconds often count.

7. County zoning codes state that all residents must provide off-street parking for any vehicles connected to their homes, which includes tenant vehicles. Therefore, you need to provide off-street parking for everyone living on the property, and street parking should be reserved for visitors, not residents.

8. In L.A. County there are several differing enforcement codes that deal with parking and the unencumbered width of the roadway. Please keep in mind that the newest and most prevalent fire engines in the L.A. County fleet are at least 9 1/2 feet wide, and the largest fire engines are 10 1/2 feet wide. During an incident, firefighters typically work off the sides of the fire truck, so vehicles and crew generally need at least 15 feet of unencumbered roadway. That means no vegetation, cars, or trash cans in the way of the fire engines and firefighters. Ultimately, it would not be an exaggeration to say that mindful and considerate parking practices may save the lives of your family and your neighbor’s. In addition, cars parked in such a way as to block this critical access can be ticketed or towed by the CHP or Sheriff’s Department.

Terrorist Threat Levels



1. GREEN

Low risk of an attack occurring exists. Routine security measures should be employed.

INDIVIDUAL'S RESPONSE: *Develop a personal disaster plan and amass a disaster supply kit.*

2. BLUE

General risk of an attack exists. There are no credible, specific threats. Government agencies, local law enforcement, and impacted companies are asked to review emergency response plans and update if necessary.

Individual's Response: *Be alert to suspicious activity and report it to your local police or workplace security; review your disaster supply kit and replace any outdated items; develop an emergency communications plan; review your children's school emergency plan; establish an alternate meeting place away from home.*

3. YELLOW

Significant risk of an attack exists. Government agencies and local law enforcement are asked to increase surveillance at critical locations, coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions, and reassess preplanned measures in light of current threats.

INDIVIDUAL'S RESPONSE: *Be alert to suspicious activity and report it to your local police or workplace security; review your disaster supply kit and replace any outdated items; develop an emergency communications plan; review your children's school emergency plan; establish an alternate meeting place away from home.*

4. ORANGE

High risk of an attack occurring exists. There are credible threats but no specific target identified. Increase security at critical facilities and locations. A security force of combined federal, state, and local law enforcement coordinates with the military.

INDIVIDUAL'S RESPONSE: *See "Elevated" section, plus exercise caution when traveling; practice your family's communication plan; discuss children's fears concerning possible terrorist attacks; stay calm and be prepared to donate blood if the need is announced.*

5. RED

Severe risk of attack occurring or an attack has already occurred. A credible, specific threat to a facility or location may be declared. This level may require deployment of specialized teams, closing of government and public facilities, and monitoring of transportation systems.

INDIVIDUAL'S RESPONSE: *See "High" section, plus listen to the radio or TV for current information and/or instructions; contact your business or school to determine the status of work or school for that day; adhere to any travel restrictions announced by local authorities; be prepared to shelter in place or evacuate if instructed to do so by authorities.*

Structure Fires

Structure fires can happen at any time. Homes have been known to burn down in the winter. Response time is critical, so Topangans need to make sure emergency vehicles can get through on narrow streets every day of the year.

SURVIVOR'S STORY

**POST OFFICE TRACT
STRUCTURE FIRE**



**JANE MARLA
ROBBINS**

It's been over five years since the fire that burned down the house I was renting in Topanga, five years since I was asleep in bed and heard the seven a.m.. knock on my door when my neighbor, also my landlord, yelled, "Get out of the house, it's on fire! Go out the back door!"

But it was Topanga. I never knew which door was the front door and which was the back. I jumped out of bed and I ran up the three stairs to the landing. Luckily I'd gone to sleep in my terry cloth robe.

I looked to the right, towards the sliding glass doors to the deck. Surely that was the "back door." But I stopped at a wall of smoke. So I turned left, to what I'd always thought of as the front door. I opened it and stepped into the daylight.

My landlord was there and advised me to get in my car. Luckily the keys were in it. I lived in Topanga: people leave their doors open in Topanga; we feel safe here. Except maybe from fires.

I had my car and a bathrobe. That was it. And from the top of the driveway above the house, along with twenty-five of my closest neighbors, I watched the house burn. We all knew it was nothing short of a miracle that there wasn't even the breath of a breeze out that morning, or else much of Topanga State Park, and a lot of the neighboring houses, would surely have burned to the ground.

When Your House Burns Down

The firemen got there too late to save the house; but they could tell from what was left that the fire had started inside a wall. Mainly, I was alive, if in some sort of a trance. And I would be lying if I told you I got over it quickly. Would you believe a couple of years.

After the fire, a lot of people came up to me joking that it had been a great way for me to clean house. That was probably easier for them to say than to feel "O my God, it could have been me."

A lot of people reassured me that I'd rise phoenix-like from the ashes. But I didn't feel like any bird out of some Greek myth. I also understood that talking about a phoenix was probably easier for them than feeling "O my God, it could have been me."

Did I have reruns? Yes. Was it fun being terrified by a microwave buzzer, thinking it was a smoke alarm? No. Was my ancient optimism shattered by the new and obvious realization that I could never know if or when a catastrophe would strike? Yes. Pollyanna was dead.

But five years later, have I built a new life? YES.

"I look back at the clothing and dishes I was given, at the houses were I stayed, and I think that it probably takes a village to make a phoenix."

You're reading these words; I'm obviously still a writer, even though my computer and some old scripts burned in the fire. And I'm living in a new house not made of quick-burning wood, like the last one, but one covered in aluminum siding, a fire retardant, if an uncommon sight in Topanga. And I feel safer knowing it isn't quick tinder.

Of course I would have preferred a leisurely throwing out of the books and photos I didn't want. But what's gone is gone. I've mourned, and sure enough, I've got new files, new photos, new scripts and papers, many of which I'm surprised and embarrassed to admit I do now need to throw out.

My closet has much of my "Fire Wardrobe"-- the skirts, blouses, pants and sweaters that so many people in the community collected to give me. A lot of them actually fit, and I've kept a lot of them because I'm still touched that people cared enough to think of me, and to help.

I've also kept the four dinner plates which a family of total strangers delivered to wherever it was I was living. Ten people had offered me their homes and I actually stayed in five different places in Topanga before I found an apartment

to rent: owned, perfectly enough, by a fireman. Never mind that almost as soon as I moved in he confided he recently forgot to turn off his stove, and actually started a small fire.

I look back at the clothing and dishes I was given, at the houses where I stayed, and I think that it probably takes a village to make a phoenix. So of course I haven't left Topanga, even though I realize that fire comes with the territory.

I remember the big black dog that visited me in the apartment I rented after the fire. It was mainly with this dog that I mourned the burning of my house and the destruction of my "things." I learned that Escalapius, the Greek god of healing, was known to travel to earth in the shape of a dog. My medicine was to dance with the dog, the dance of denial, anger, grief and acceptance, against his strong, tough body.



Five years later I have a new house; its aluminum shines in the sunlight; and I have my own dog, a little white one whose coat is actually iridescent. So I did come through the darkness and into the light, and out of the ashes into some sort of flight, like a phoenix. But in all conscience I cannot wish this dance for anyone in Topanga or anywhere else.

By Jane Marla Robbins

Jane Marla Robbins, actress, writer, coach, is the author of *Acting Techniques for Everyday Life: Look and Feel Self-Confident In Difficult Real Life Situations*, based on her teaching. The Kennedy Center commissioned her to write and perform the one-woman play, "REMINISCENCES OF MOZART BY HIS SISTER", which she also performed at Lincoln Center; and you can see her in the movies *Rocky I, II and V*, and *Arachnophobia*.

Three years after Jane's rental house burned, she bought one of her own, also in Topanga. Its exterior is aluminum.

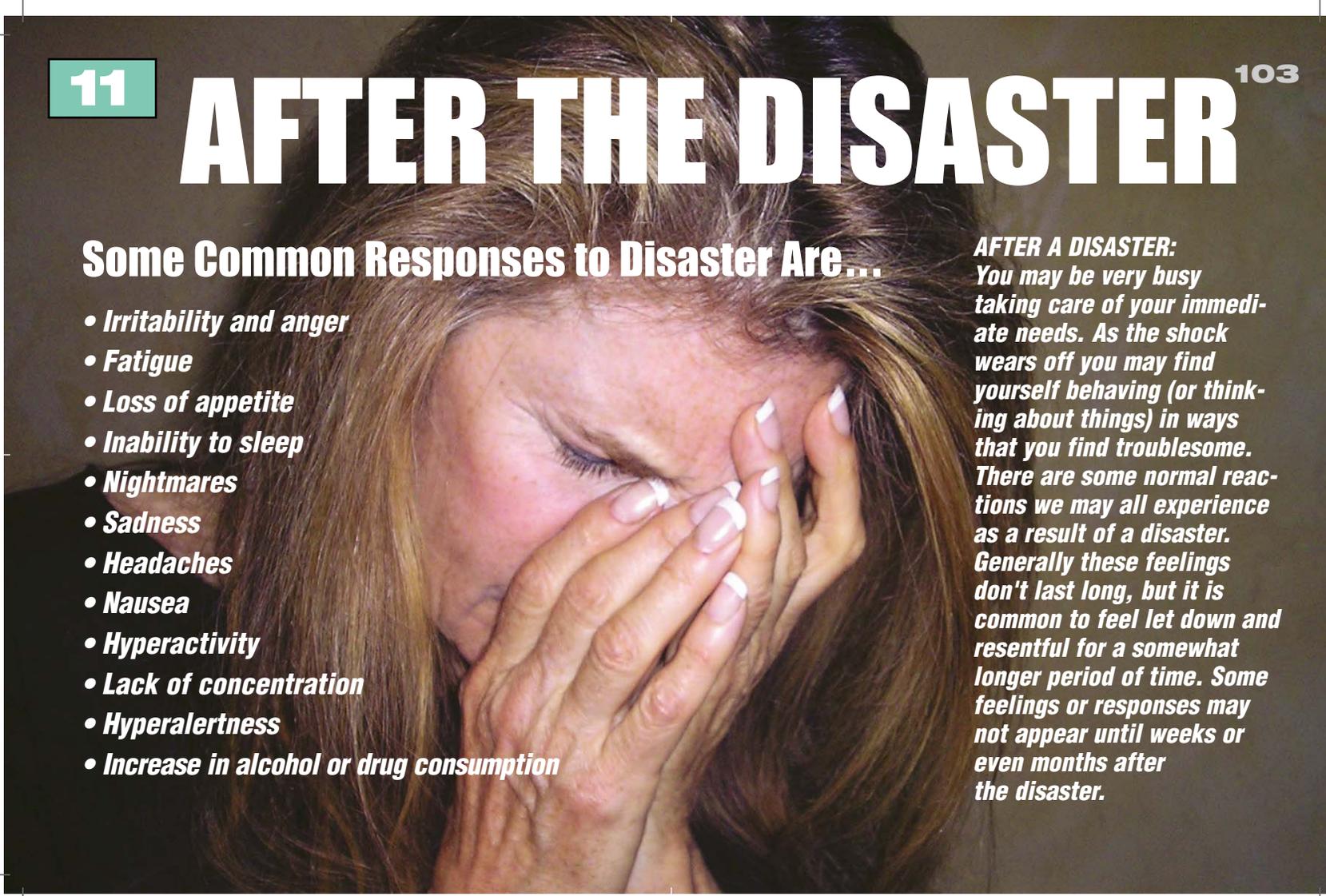
AFTER THE DISASTER

Some Common Responses to Disaster Are...

- Irritability and anger
- Fatigue
- Loss of appetite
- Inability to sleep
- Nightmares
- Sadness
- Headaches
- Nausea
- Hyperactivity
- Lack of concentration
- Hyperalertness
- Increase in alcohol or drug consumption

AFTER A DISASTER:

You may be very busy taking care of your immediate needs. As the shock wears off you may find yourself behaving (or thinking about things) in ways that you find troublesome. There are some normal reactions we may all experience as a result of a disaster. Generally these feelings don't last long, but it is common to feel let down and resentful for a somewhat longer period of time. Some feelings or responses may not appear until weeks or even months after the disaster.



Many survivors of a disaster will have at least one of these responses. Acknowledging your feelings and stress is the first step in improvement.

HELPFUL THINGS TO DO:

- 1. Talk about your disaster experiences. Sharing your feelings rather than holding them in will help you feel better about what happened.*
- 2. Listen to the experiences described by your family. Each person experiences things differently, and it helps to understand what each person feels is important.*
- 3. Take time off from cares, worries, and home repairs. Take time for some relaxation and find a place where you can get away from your worries for a little while.*
- 4. Pay attention to your health: be sure to eat a good diet, and get adequate sleep. Relaxation exercises may help if you have difficulty sleeping.*
- 5. Prepare for possible future emergencies to lessen feelings of helplessness and bring peace of mind.*
- 6. Rebuild personal relationships in addition to repairing other aspects of your life. A couple should make time to be alone together, to talk and have fun.*

SMALL CHILDREN may often become clingy, won't sleep alone, are upset by small things, hit siblings, defy adults, or act out in other ways. To help, take extra time with your child and give him or her extra support. Reestablish routines such as meals, bedtime, and playing with familiar toys as soon as possible.

OLDER CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS more easily understand what has happened—but do not expect them to be adults. They are often very helpful during a disaster but display more difficult behavior after the immediate crisis has passed. Common behavior includes neglecting things that they usually do or becoming forgetful. They may also have physical complaints or be sad, restless, defiant, or withdrawn. They may stay away from home or become involved with drugs and alcohol. To help them, make time to talk. Determine what they want to do to make their world organized again and, importantly, help them to do these things—even if you have to delay other things that need to be done.

***IF STRESS, ANXIETY, DEPRESSION, OR PHYSICAL PROBLEMS CONTINUE,
YOU MAY WISH TO CONTACT THE POST-DISASTER SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE
AMERICAN RED CROSS, A COUNSELOR, OR A MENTAL HEALTH CENTER.***



FREQUENTLY ASKED DISASTER ASSISTANCE QUESTIONS

Q: How do I apply for disaster assistance?

ANSWER: There are various different services and special programs made available when the President signs a disaster declaration. The process to apply begins with a single telephone call to your local Assistance Center.

Q: How can I get in touch with my family?

ANSWER: The American Red Cross maintains a database to help you find family members. Numbers will be publicized during a disaster. Having an out-of-area contact whom family members know to call will help as well.

Q: What if my home is destroyed?

ANSWER: Contact the American Red Cross for immediate shelter. To apply for assistance, call FEMA's toll-free telephone number, 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) (TTY: 1-800-462-7585).

Q: Where can I get food and water following a disaster?

ANSWER: The American Red Cross and other volunteer agencies will provide food, water, and clothing. Listen to your radio or watch local media for the location of the nearest volunteer agency facility. There are also sources of water in your home. For example, your hot water heater is an excellent source of water. Turn off the power that heats your tank and let it cool. When you want water, place a container underneath and open the drain valve on the bottom of the tank.

Q: What if I lost my job or can't work because of a disaster?

ANSWER: People who lose their jobs because of a disaster may apply for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), which provides weekly benefits to individuals who are unemployed and not eligible for regular unemployment insurance compensation. You can call 1-800-621-FEMA (TTY: 1-800-462-7585) or the local unemployment office for information.

Q: What if I think I need legal help?

ANSWER: Local members of the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division offer free legal counseling to low-income individuals. You can get information at a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) that may be set up after the President declares a major disaster. You can call 1-800-621-FEMA (TTY: 1-800-462-7585) for more information.

www.topangasurvival.org

NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORKS

Neighborhood Networks have already been organized in some areas of the Canyon, and new networks are continuously forming. These networks provide a way for neighbors to communicate with one another in the event of a disaster. Volunteer Neighborhood Coordinators will receive accurate and timely information directly from T-CEP about road closures, direction of a fire, areas that are most threatened, locations of Safety and Survival Areas, etc. The Neighborhood Coordinators can then pass that information along to each of their neighbors. Groups of residents, organized by street, have held neighborhood meetings and devised plans of action that include:

- 1. Caring for children or assisting people with mobility problems or disabilities.**
- 2. Rescuing pets.**
- 3. Creating a neighborhood phone directory and phone tree.**
- 4. Organizing tours of neighbors' homes to show utility locations.**
- 5. Making arrangements to turn off an absent neighbor's utilities in an emergency.**
- 6. Acquiring permission to enter a neighbor's home to retrieve items of value.**
- 7. Organizing First Aid and CPR classes.**
- 8. Taking CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training.**

***To find out whether your neighborhood is currently organized,
call T-CEP at 310-455-3000.***

If your neighborhood is not currently organized, NOW is the time to get started.

***If your neighborhood is currently organized, be sure to meet annually
(at a minimum) to update neighborhood information and planning preparations.***

Developing an Equine Emergency Plan

Brandi Augello and Georgeann Erskine have taken the lead in creating a plan to evacuate the forty-plus horses in the Cheney area. The dilemma was how to get such a large number of animals out in a very short amount of time when the roads could be clogged with hordes of other evacuees. So it was decided that they would first gather the animals into a pre-built holding pen in a big open field—and then see if there was enough time to take them out safely.

Planning began at a T-CEP neighborhood gathering at The Mermaid in 2001, featuring T-CEP chair Pat MacNeil and Alli Acker, the team leader of the Equine Emergency Response Team. Alli told of her experience in Cheney Canyon during the 1978 fire when she gathered up a herd of horses and led them to safety through the “S curves.” Following the T-CEP presentation, neighbors broke up into groups, largely defined by streets and geography. The horse owners formed their own group. The Mermaid Great Room was abuzz with strategizing residents.

Georgeann and Brandi have been evolving an evacuation plan ever since. Both speak Horse fluently and are members of the State Park’s Mounted Assistance Unit (MAU). A neighbor has generously donated an enormous field where the temporary corral will be erected during fire season. Pipes will be driven into the ground for fence posts and then strung with wire; temporary hitching posts will be added. Horse owners in Cheney meet periodically for dry runs to practice evacuation procedures, such as calmly leading horses to the holding pen area, as demonstrated below left.



During the chaos of an emergency, horses can easily be separated from their owners. Two methods of identification are shown above: ID tags on the halter and writing one’s phone number directly onto the animal’s body with special crayon markers.

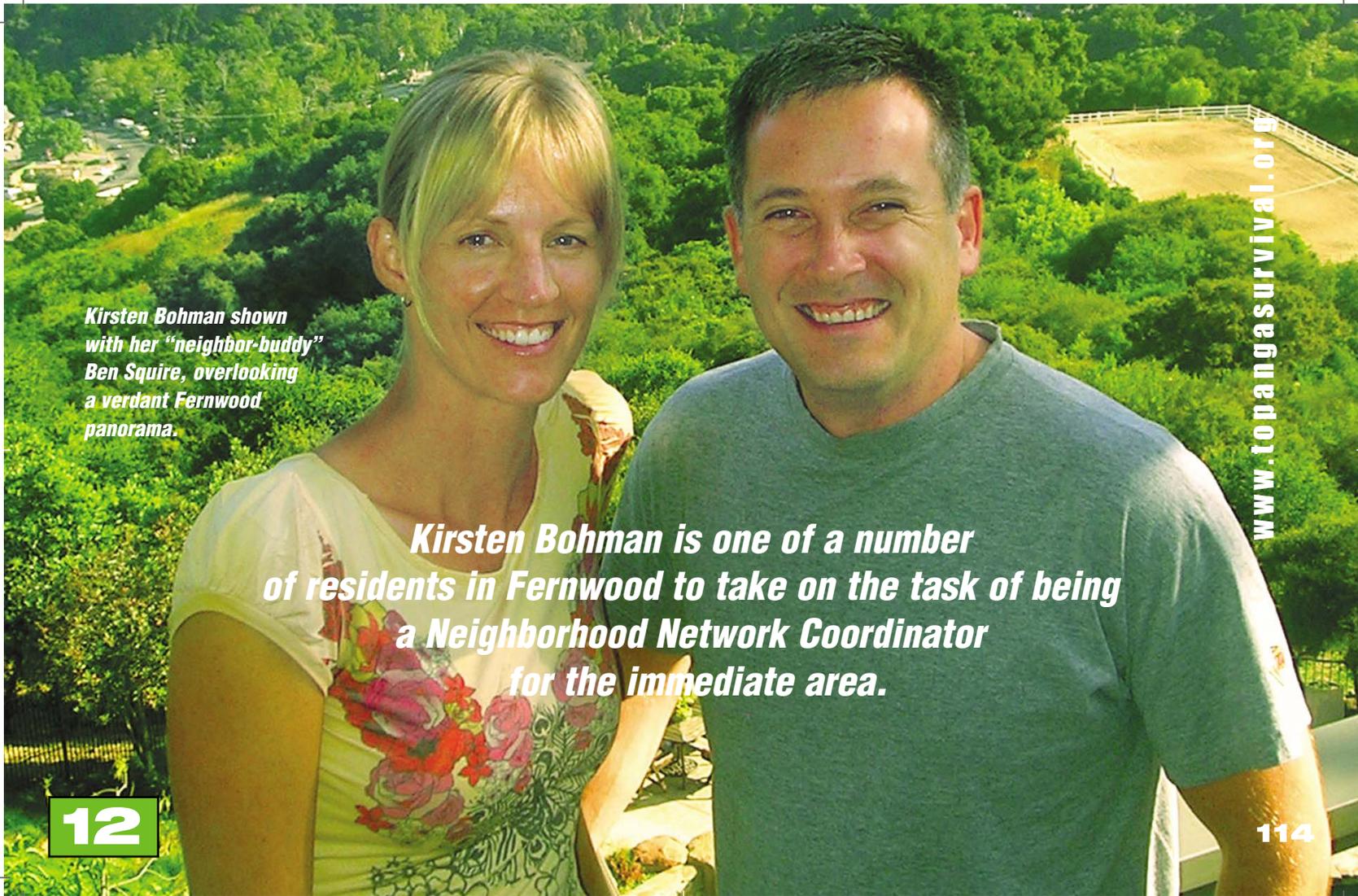
During trial runs, the marker numbers have dissolved. Duct tape with written contact info stuck into the horse’s mane is now being tested.

Neighborhood Network Success Story—LOWER FERNWOOD

Kirsten Bohman began organizing her neighborhood in 2002 by putting together a meeting at Abuelita's with about forty residents from the "Valley View Loop," a part of lower Fernwood. She invited T-CEP Neighborhood Network Coordinator Randy Neece, Allen Emerson of Arson Watch, and a representative from the County Fire Department to speak. Since Fernwood is such a large area, the importance of a "divide-and-conquer" approach was urged by the advisors. So the "Loop" was broken down into twelve more manageable areas, with one lead individual for each section. Kirsten is head of the Summit Drive area and encourages residents to find a neighbor-buddy to exchange keys with, turn off utilities in an emergency, and coordinate other preparedness planning.



**Dividing up the Neighborhood
to Bring it Together**



Kirsten Bohman shown with her “neighbor-buddy” Ben Squire, overlooking a verdant Fernwood panorama.

Kirsten Bohman is one of a number of residents in Fernwood to take on the task of being a Neighborhood Network Coordinator for the immediate area.

www.topangasurvival.org



Family Radio Service

During a major disaster, it is highly probable that phones will be out in many parts if not all of the Canyon.

CELL PHONES MIGHT ALSO BE USELESS since they rely on transformers, which will no doubt be affected by power outages. That's why it's important to know how to use a HAM radio or an FRS (Family Radio Service) radio in order to stay informed and to communicate with neighbors. FRS radios are inexpensive (average \$30 per pair) and are similar to the walkie-talkies we used as kids. Ham radios are even better but cost a little more and require a license.

During and immediately after a major disaster, information will be transmitted by T-CEP's Disaster Radio Team (DRT) on FRS channel 7. These announcements will contain information about road closures, details about the disaster, evacuation routes, and other important information, and will be updated at the top of each hour or as often as possible.

DO NOT TALK ON THIS CHANNEL—IT IS FOR RECEIVING INFORMATION ONLY.

Your neighborhood has been assigned a specific FRS channel, which will allow neighbors to communicate with one another without hearing cross-talk from surrounding areas. It is important for everyone to have an FRS radio and to learn how to use it. After the updates are broadcast on channel 7, each neighbor should tune their FRS radios to their neighborhood channel and talk with one another.

• *Encourage your neighbors to purchase an FRS radio (you too, if you haven't already done so).*

• *Have extra batteries on hand. Those little radios eat them like candy. Remember, rechargeable ones won't help if the power is out.*

• *Conduct FRS radio drills with your neighbors from time to time and make sure they know how to use them and the neighborhood frequency.*

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FRS Neighborhood Channels

- 8** — TOP O' TOPANGA
- 12** — VIEWRIDGE ESTATES
- 10** — CORRAL NEIGHBORHOOD & SANTA MARIA RD.
- 10** — ENTRADO
- 10** — ARTEIQUE
- 9** — CHENEY, CALLON, PARADISE
- 11** — WEST HILLSIDE, SUMMIT, MESA
- 12** — EAST HILLSIDE
- 9** — GREENLEAF
- 10** — UPPER SKYLINE DR., MARQUETTE
- 9** — LOWER PART OF SKYLINE AND OLD TOPANGA CYN.
- 9** — ROBINSON RD.
- 12** — LOWER OLD TOPANGA AND TOWN CENTER
- 13** — ENTRADA, ENCINA, COLINA
- 10** — LOWER FERNWOOD, VALLEY VIEW DR.
- 14** — UPPER FERNWOOD
- 11** — TUNA CANYON RD. AND SADDLE PEAK RD.



Having HAMS in Your 'Hood Is Good!

• Disaster communications with ham radio is a small part of the much larger worldwide hobby of amateur radio. Being a ham operator, or having one close by, is very good insurance. It will still be there when all the other means of communications have failed. Your life could depend on receiving or disseminating information in a disaster. In the Valley or on the West Side, there is more redundancy built into the roadways and lines of communication. In Topanga, we are more vulnerable. The recent floods are an example, when main roads were washed out, dramatically impacting ingress and egress.

• For information on getting your ham license or just to learn more, call T-CEP at 310-455-3000.

• Affordable and efficient classes are becoming more available in Topanga. Call T-CEP at 310-455-3000.

• Look for Web sites on the Internet that offer instruction.

• See "Now You're Talking," published by ARRL, the National Association for Amateur Radio, Web site www.arrl.org.

Some General HAM Info:

Ham radio is also referred to as amateur radio. A range of frequencies, from just above the AM broadcast band (1.6 MHz) to the microwave region, at several hundred gigahertz, have been designated for amateur use by the FCC.

Anyone with a radio receiver or a radio scanner can listen in on ham radio communications, but only an operator licensed by the FCC can transmit the signals. Typically, ham radio operators, or hams, do not use ham radio to broadcast in the way radio stations broadcast to large audiences. Ham transmission is usually two-way or among groups of people using a transceiver, meaning that two or more hams talk to each other instead of everyone listening to a single ham radio broadcast.

There are hundreds of thousands of amateur radio operators in the United States and millions around the world. Ham radio can be useful in spreading information during emergencies when other services such as telephones, television, or the Internet fail.

During a big disaster, you can probably kiss your telephone, cell phone, and TV good-bye. Chances are, radio will be the only reliable way to communicate with the outside world. One of the safest moves you can make is to be sure you to have one or more licensed ham operators, or "HAMS" in your neighborhood...



HAM
Andrea Makshanoff,
Project Manager
and Journalist

HAM
Bryce Anderson,
Sales Director

HAM
Joe Morrison,
Heating Contractor

HAM
Ken Smith,
Plumbing
Contractor

HAM
Cassie Fitzgerald,
Owner of a Company
That Creates Film Titles

HAM
Dick Norton,
Retired Electrical
Engineer

HAM
Barbara
Campbell,
Local Real
Estate Agent

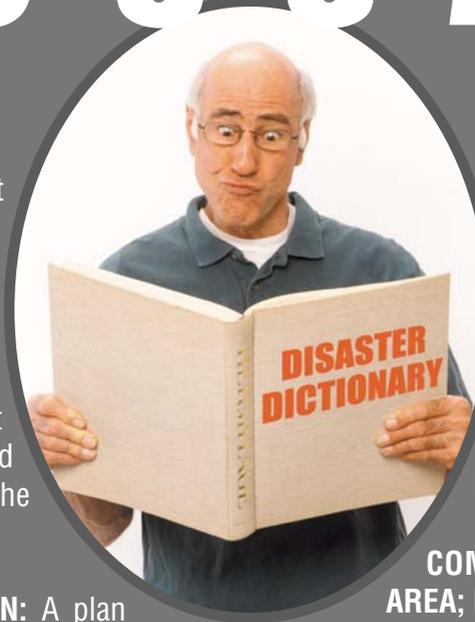
HAM
Buz Tarlow,
Software
Engineer

GLOSSARY

CACHE: A predetermined complement of tools, equipment, and/or supplies stored in a designated location and available for incident use.

COMMAND POST (ICP): Also called an Incident Command Post. A location at which primary incident command functions are executed; usually in the same place as the Incident Base.

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS PLAN: A plan developed by residents and interested individuals of a specific community to communicate critical information during a large emergency or disaster. Critical



information would include evacuation routes, persons needing assistance, shelter locations, family reunion locations, etc. This plan would identify contact numbers (and frequencies) for phone, pager, emergency alert system, radio, and other disaster communications systems. (See Neighborhood Networks, section 12.)

COMMUNITY SAFETY AREA (SAFETY AREA; PLAN B): An area designated for individuals to find refuge during a large wildland fire. Individuals should first determine if they can evacuate the area to a safe location. A Community Safety Area

will provide the safest area during a large wildland fire if individuals cannot evacuate the Canyon completely. (Refer to the “Wildfire Survival Chain” diagram in section 7 for more information.)

DISASTER SUPPLY KIT: A pre-assembled group of critical items that will greatly improve the health and safety of individuals during a disaster. The kit should contain, at a minimum: goggles, bottled water, medications, respiratory protection (filter mask), glasses, personal items, flashlight, extra batteries, protective clothing (long-sleeved T-shirts, pants), cotton or wool blanket, important documents, etc.

DITCH (PLAN D): See the “Wildfire Survival Chain” in section 7. If you cannot reach a Neighborhood Survival Area, a ditch or other low-lying area will provide more safety as a last resort than staying in your home or car.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER: A pre-designated facility established by an agency or jurisdiction to coordinate the overall agency or jurisdictional response to and support for an emergency.

EVACUATION CENTER: A temporary facility or location where people displaced by a disaster can go until a more permanent solution is established or they can return to their homes. In most cases, the American Red Cross will manage Evacuation Centers.

EVACUATION ORDER: A directive by law enforcement to evacuate a designated area immediately for their safety and the safety of others. Failure to follow this order may result in endangerment to the lives of others, personal injury, or death.

EVACUATION REFUSAL: A formal, signed refusal by a resident to evacuate his or her home following an Evacuation

Order. In this circumstance, adult residents assume responsibility for their own safety and acknowledge that they may be prosecuted under the California Penal Code.

EVACUATION ROUTES: Roads and highways identified by law enforcement to evacuate individuals out of harm's way to a safe area or shelter. Evacuation Routes may be identified verbally during an Evacuation Order or predesignated in a written plan.

EVACUATION WARNING: A warning by law enforcement for individuals to either leave a designated area because of a possible threat or prepare to evacuate if an Evacuation Order is issued. This is the time to evacuate those in need of special assistance and your horses. The majority of Evacuation Warnings become Evacuation Orders.

FRS RADIO: Family Radio Service radios are a relatively inexpensive (approximately \$30 per pair) means of communicating in the event of a major disaster when phone service will likely be interrupted. Using FRS radios, you can communicate with your immediate neighborhood to assess damage and injuries and determine where resources are needed. See section 12 for more information on the FRS radio system for Topanga Canyon.

IMMEDIATE EVACUATION: Law enforcement and/or Fire Department personnel may order an Immediate Evacuation when there is a threat to the health and safety of a community. An Immediate Evacuation is usually only verbal.

INCIDENT COMMANDER (IC): The individual responsible for the management of all operations during an emergency incident. In Unified Command there will be two or more Incident Commanders.

INFORMATION OFFICER: A member of the Incident Command staff responsible for interacting with the public and media or with other agencies requiring information directly from the incident.

NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK: A Neighborhood Network is a group of residents, usually organized by street, who come together to devise a plan of action in the event of a disaster. The plan may include the rescue of pets, turning off utilities, retrieving items of value or sentiment, caring for children or neighbors in need of special assistance, and making sure everyone is safe in the Neighborhood Network area.

NEIGHBORHOOD SURVIVAL AREA (SURVIVAL AREA; PLAN C): An area designated for individuals to find refuge during a large wildland fire. Survival Areas should be used only if residents cannot evacuate the Canyon to a safe area (e.g., a Regional Shelter) or reach a Community Safety Area within the Canyon. Survival Areas are usually safer than sheltering in a home in highly vegetated areas such as Topanga, and are safer than sheltering in a vehicle. (Refer to “The Wildfire Survival Chain” diagram in section 7 for more information.)

REGIONAL SHELTER/RED CROSS SHELTER (PLAN A): These facilities are usually pre-identified and are designed to shelter individuals in the event of a disaster. Facilities such as showers, sleeping areas, and kitchens may preexist or may have to be constructed during an incident. Regional Shelters are typically located away from the affected disaster area. For the purposes of this Guide, which deals specifically with disasters in Topanga Canyon, any Regional Shelter will be located outside the Canyon. (Refer to “The Wildfire Survival Chain” diagram in section 7 for more information.)

SAFETY AREA: *See* Community Safety Area.

SCHOOL SHELTER: A school that students will be transferred to or remain in that will shelter them during a large

wildland fire or other disaster. School staff will supervise the students until an appointed time when they may be reunited with their parents or guardians.

SHELTER IN PLACE (PLAN E): In some fires and disasters, it is safer for individuals to shelter in their homes or other locations rather than risk evacuation. NOTE: The only time it is safe to shelter in place in Topanga is when you have been instructed to do so by law enforcement or the Fire Department. This instruction may be delivered in person, via radio or television, or by other authorized agencies. (Refer to “The Wildfire Survival Chain” diagram in section 7 for more info.)

STAGING AREA: A location where incident personnel and equipment are assigned on an immediately available status, usually able to respond within three minutes. Staging areas are managed by the operations personnel.

SURVIVAL AREA: *See* Neighborhood Survival Area.

TACTICAL OPERATIONS ZONE: A pre-identified geographical area used by emergency responders to improve coordination and span of control during a disaster. Tactical Zone boundaries are identified by Thomas Bros. map page and alpha-numeric grid boxes. Topanga Canyon is divided into nine Tactical Operations Zones, shown on the foldout map in the back of this Guide and in section 14. Identify the Zone(s) where you live or work, then review the detailed Zone maps in section 14 to determine your best evacuation route or to locate your closest Community Safety Areas and Neighborhood Survival Areas.

T-CEP: The Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness, a group of community volunteers dedicated to emergency planning and response.

TRAFFIC CLOSURE LEVELS:

LEVEL 1: Open to the public

LEVEL 2: Open to Fire Department, law enforcement, critical resources, and residents. (Critical resources include Municipal and Public Works, Edison, LASD volunteer workers, etc.)

LEVEL 3: Open to Fire Department, law enforcement, and critical resources. Critical resources may need to be escorted.

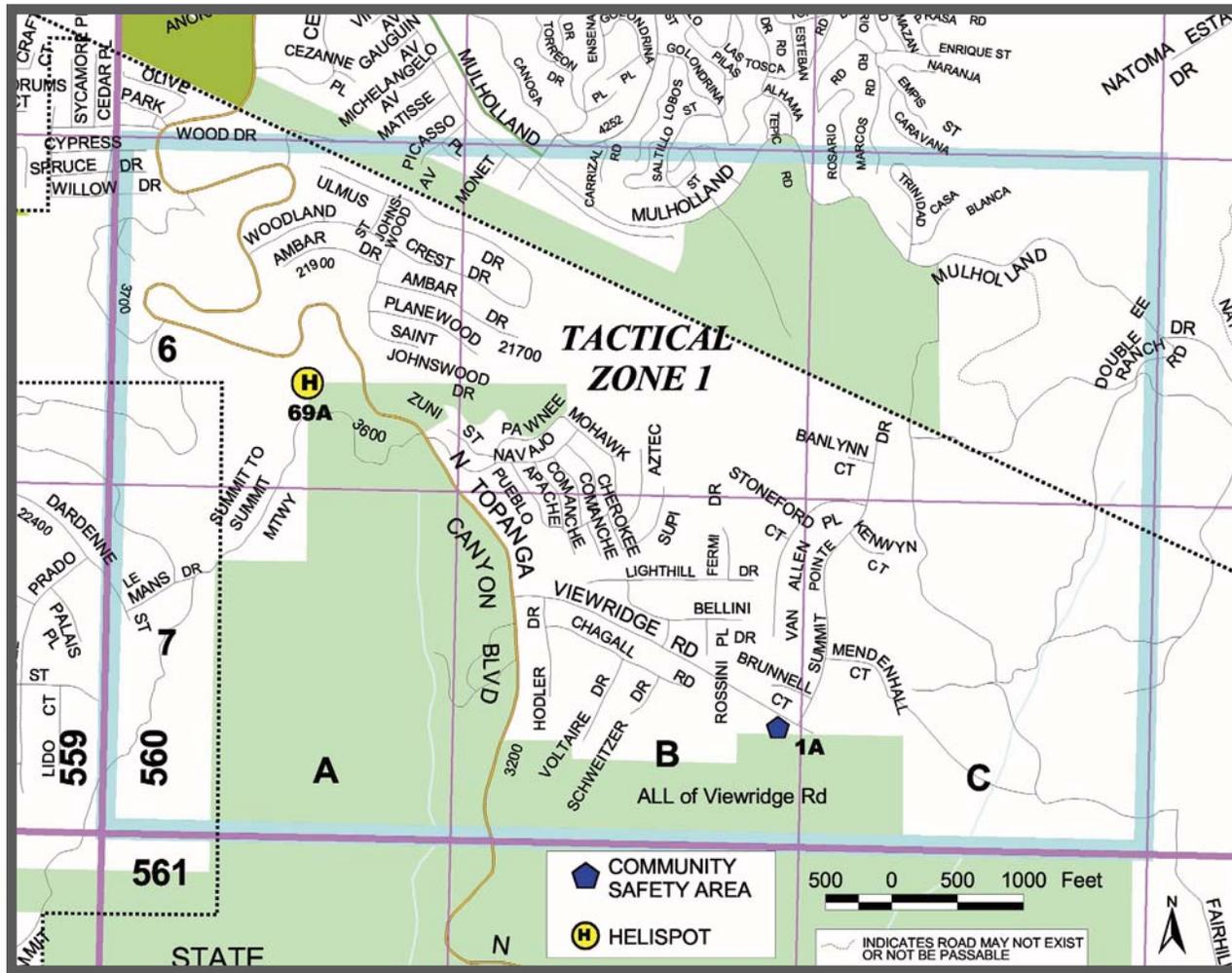
LEVEL 4: Open to Fire Department and law enforcement only.

LEVEL 5: Closed to all traffic. Area blocked or not safe even for Fire Department and law enforcement.

TRAFFIC CONTROL POINT: A geographical location determined by law enforcement to control access and entry to the area of an emergency incident.

WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE: A geographical area where structures and other human development meets with wildland fuels or vegetative fuels. Generally, there is a clear delineation at this interface, with varying degrees of defensible space between the wildland fuels (brush and chaparral) and the non-combustible structures. This term would apply to many newer subdivisions built in surrounding areas and in outlying communities. Few homes in Topanga Canyon meet this criteria.

WILDLAND URBAN INTERMIX: A term used to describe structures and other human development located and mixed within the wildland and vegetative fuels. The distinction between Interface and Intermix is there is no clear delineation between the wildland fuels and the structures themselves in areas considered to “intermix”. In these cases, structures may be isolated or built in “clusters”, often characterized with poor access roads, steep terrain, combustible construction, and heavy ground, ladder, and aerial fuel loading. Intermix areas are usually associated with isolated structures or with older communities, such as Topanga Canyon.



COMMUNITY SAFETY AREAS

NEIGHBORHOOD SURVIVAL AREA

Thomas
Guide

1A Viewridge (entire street)..... 560 B7

None

**Find your nearest Community Safety Area or
Neighborhood Survival Area. It may not be in your
Tactical Zone.**

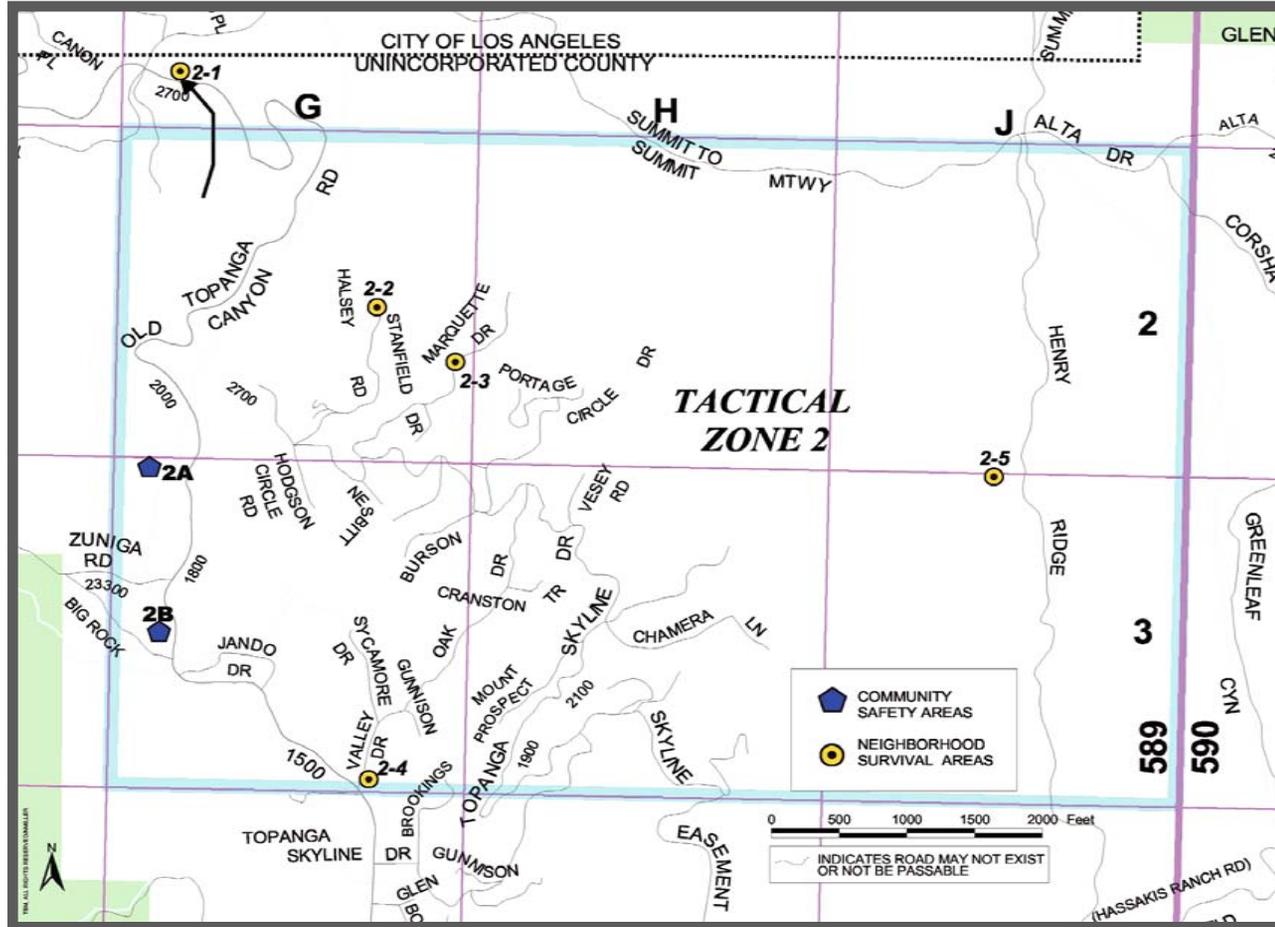
Your Neighborhood Network Coordinator:

Phone:

FRS Channel #:

NOTES:





COMMUNITY SAFETY AREAS

- | | | Thomas Guide |
|----|--|--------------|
| 2A | 1881 Old Topanga Canyon Rd.
(Mill Creek Ranch) | 589 G3 |
| 2B | 1717 Old Topanga Canyon Rd.
(Calmont School) | 589 G3 |

Find your nearest Community Safety Area or Neighborhood Survival Area. It may not be in your Tactical Zone.

NEIGHBORHOOD SURVIVAL AREAS

- | | | Thomas Guide |
|-----|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| 2-1 | 2691 Old Topanga Canyon Rd. (off map) | 589 G1 |
| 2-2 | 2807 Halsey Road | 589 G2 |
| 2-3 | 2795 Marquette Dr. (in front)..... | 589 G2 |
| 2-4 | 1508 Valley Dr. | 589 G3 |
| 2-5 | 1725 Henry Ridge Motorway..... | 589 J2 |

Your Neighborhood Network Coordinator:

455-

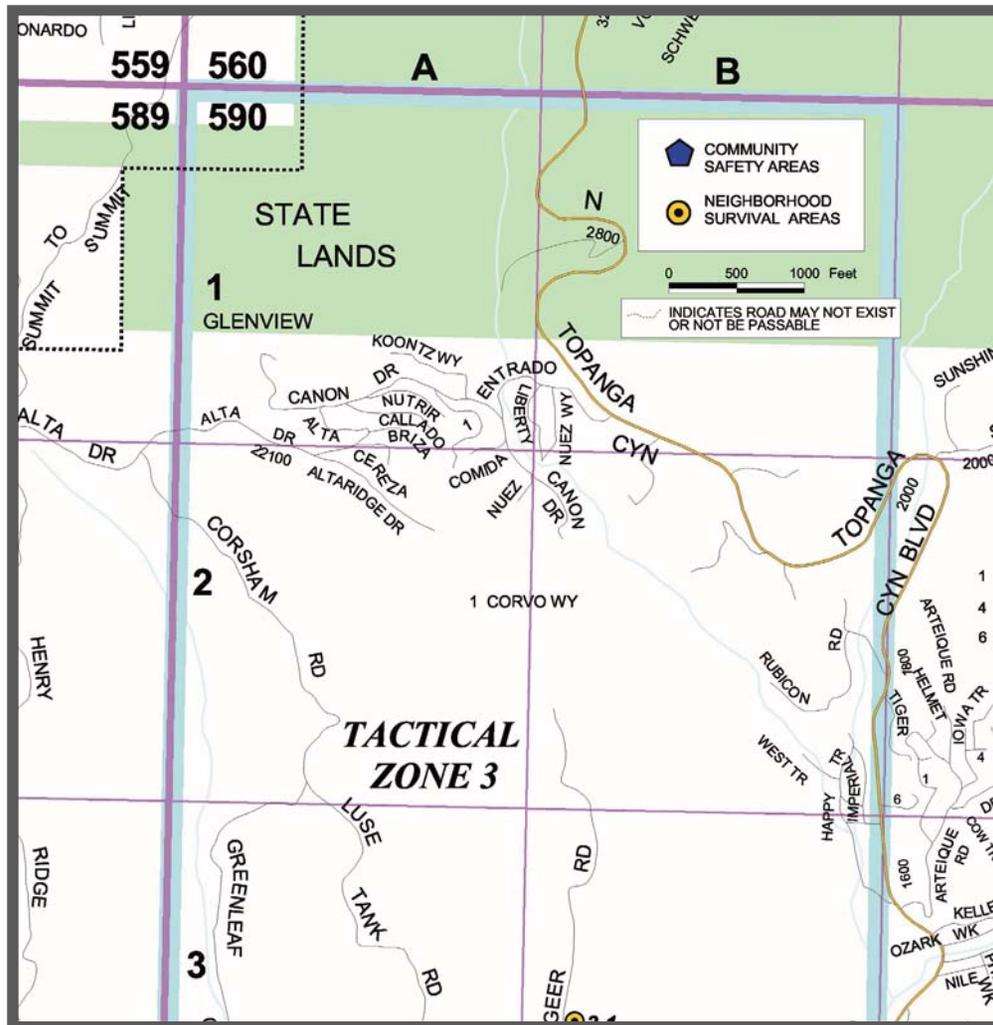
Phone:

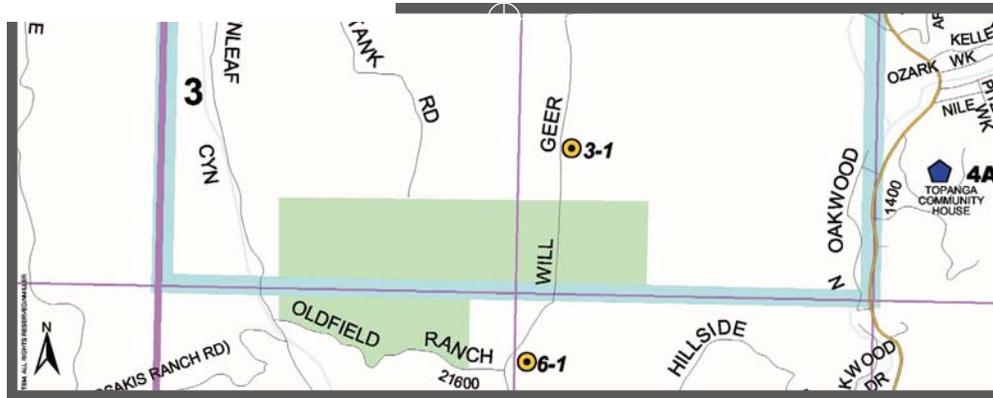
FRS Channel #:

NOTES:

14







COMMUNITY SAFETY AREAS

None

Find your nearest Community Safety Area or Neighborhood Survival Area. It may not be in your Tactical Zone.

NEIGHBORHOOD SURVIVAL AREAS

Thomas Guide

3-1 1410 Will Geer Rd. ... 590 B3



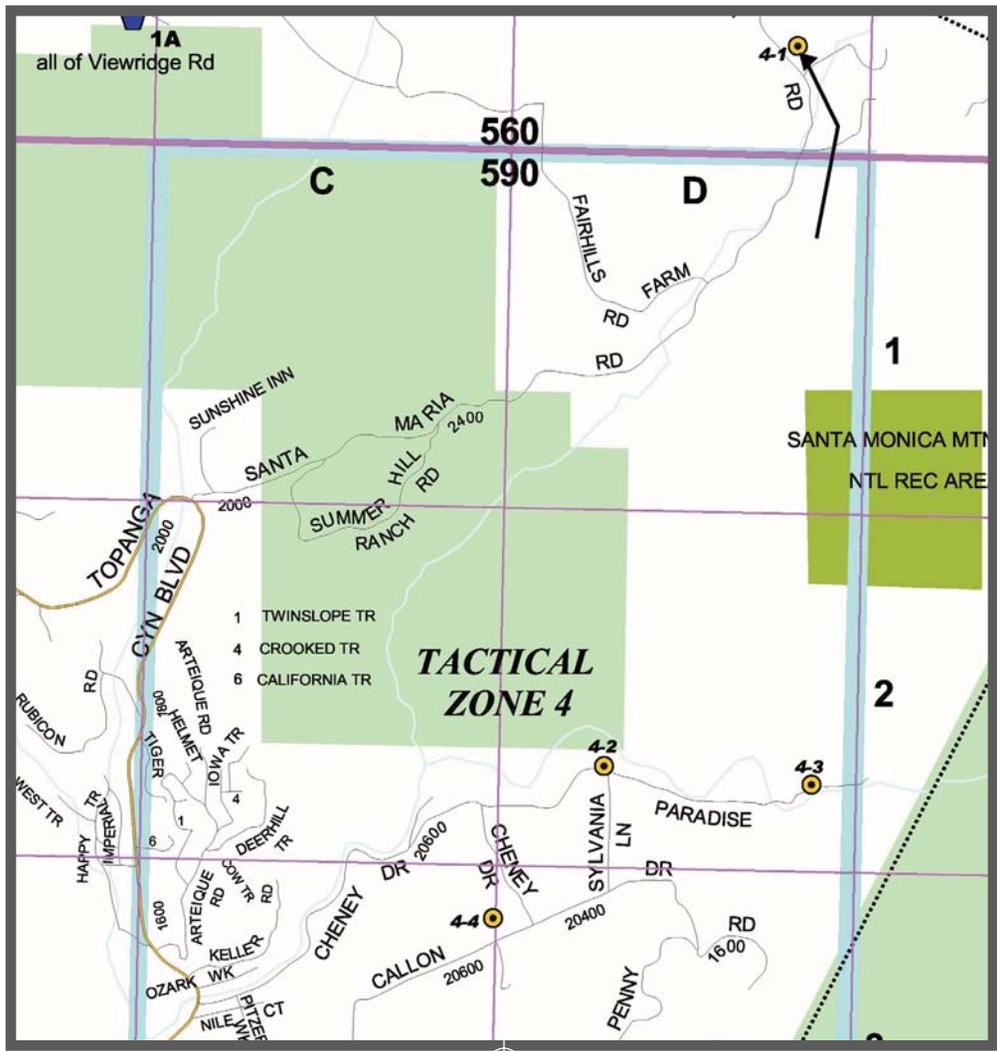
Your Neighborhood Network Coordinator:

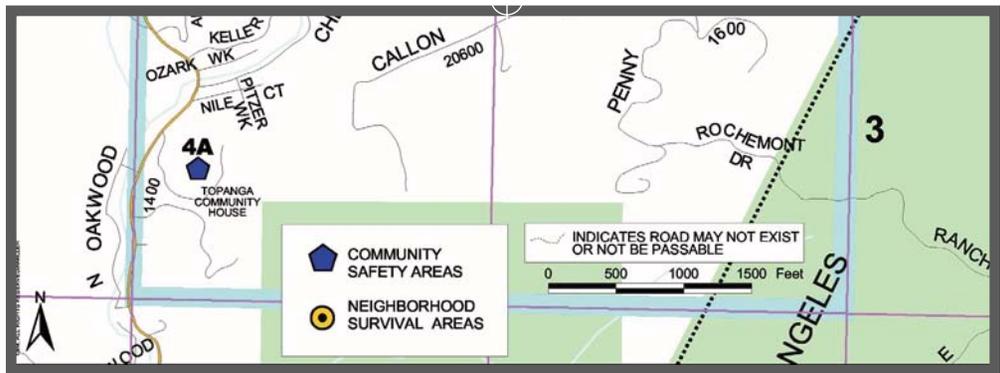
455-

Phone:

FRS Channel #:

14





COMMUNITY SAFETY AREAS

4A 1440 Topanga Canyon Blvd. **590 C3**
 (Community House) **Thomas Guide**

Find your nearest Community Safety Area or Neighborhood Survival Area. It may not be in your Tactical Zone.

NEIGHBORHOOD SURVIVAL AREAS

4-1 3150 Santa Maria Rd. **560 D7**
 (north of zone)..... **Thomas Guide**
4-2 20403 Paradise Lane **590 D2**
4-3 Across from 20210..... **590 D2**
 Paradise Lane
4-4 20501 Callon Dr. **590 C/D3**



Your Neighborhood Network Coordinator:

Phone:

FRS Channel #:

455-

14

COMMUNITY SAFETY AREAS

None

Find your nearest Community Safety Area or Neighborhood Survival Area. It may not be in your Tactical Zone.

NEIGHBORHOOD SURVIVAL AREAS

Thomas Guide

- 5-1 Southeast corner of Bonnell and Willow Dr. 589 G4
- 5-2 1200 Old Topanga Canyon Rd. 589 G4
- 5-3 1180 Old Topanga Canyon Rd. 589 G4
- 5-4 711 Old Topanga Canyon Rd. 589 J5

Your Neighborhood Network Coordinator:

Phone:

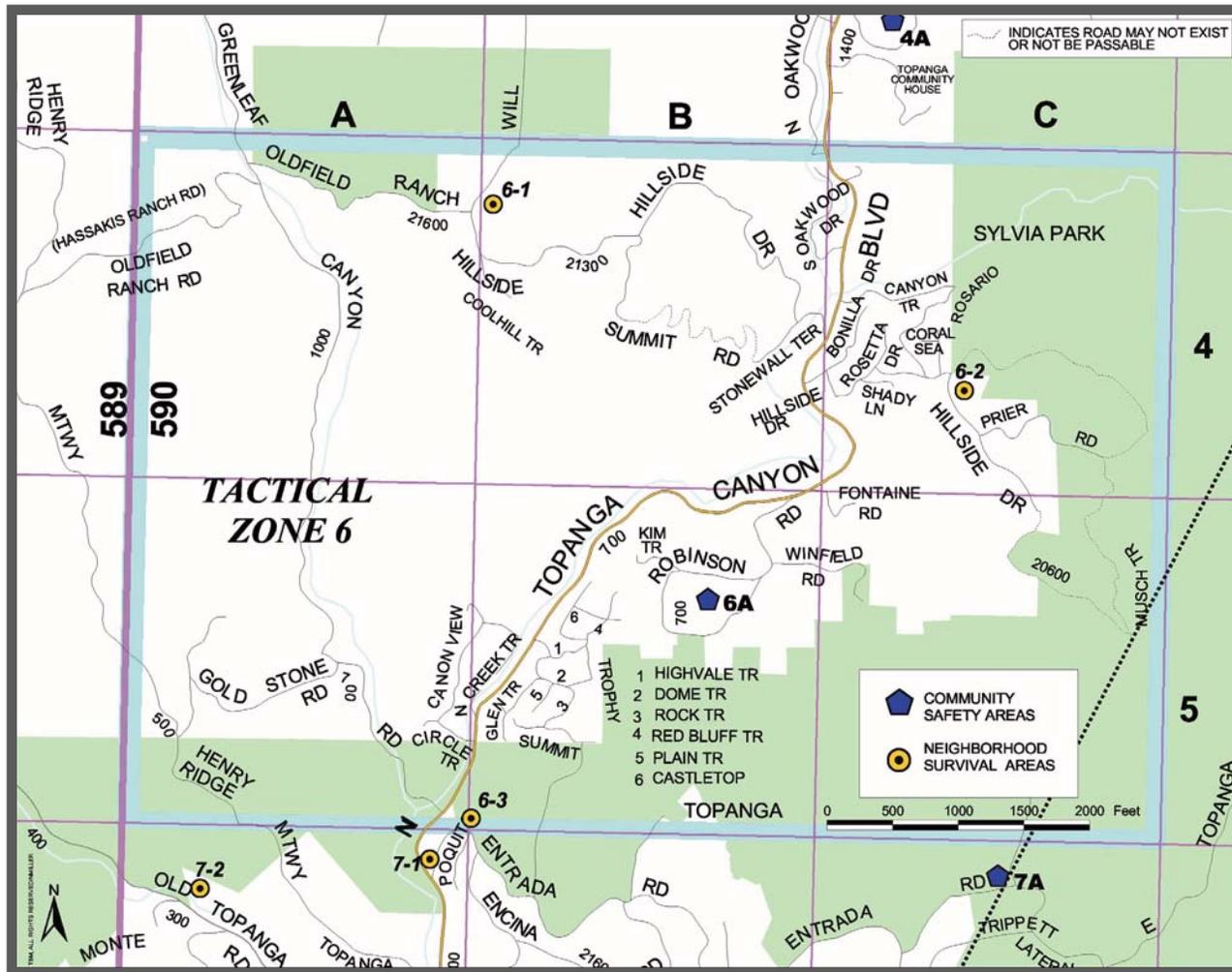
FRS Channel #:

455-

NOTES:

5

ZONE FIVE



COMMUNITY SAFETY AREAS

Thomas
Guide

6A 814 Robinson Rd. (Old Elysium)..... 590 B5

Find your nearest Community Safety Area or
Neighborhood Survival Area. It may not be in your
Tactical Zone.

NEIGHBORHOOD SURVIVAL AREAS

Thomas
Guide

6-1 1291 Will Geer Road, a.k.a. West Hillside Dr. 590 B4

6-2 20825 Hillside Dr. 590 C4

6-3 Entrada at Poquito..... 590 B5

Your Neighborhood Network Coordinator:

455-

Phone:

FRS Channel #:

NOTES:

6

ZONE SIX

COMMUNITY SAFETY AREAS

	Thomas Guide
7A Entrada Rd. (State Park parking lot).....	590 C6
7B 120 N. Topanga Canyon Rd. (Pine Tree Circle)	590 A6
7C 101, 137, 139 N. Topanga Canyon Rd. (Topanga Center).....	590 A6

**Find your nearest Community Safety Area or
Neighborhood Survival Area. It may not be in your
Tactical Zone.**

NEIGHBORHOOD SURVIVAL AREAS

	Thomas Guide
7-1 360 N. Topanga Canyon Rd. at Entrada.....	590 A6
7-2 282 Old Topanga Canyon Rd. (church parking lot).....	590 A6
7-3 22155 Eden Rd.	590 A6
7-4 121 Old Topanga Canyon Rd. (Topanga Ranch).....	590 A6
7-5 Summit Dr. at Peak Trail.....	590 A7
7-6 Fernwood Pacific at Basin Dr.	590 A7
7-7 19543 Webb Trail.....	590 B7
7-8 21342 Colina Dr.	590 B7
7-9 21071 Entrada Rd.	590 B6

Your Neighborhood Network Coordinator:

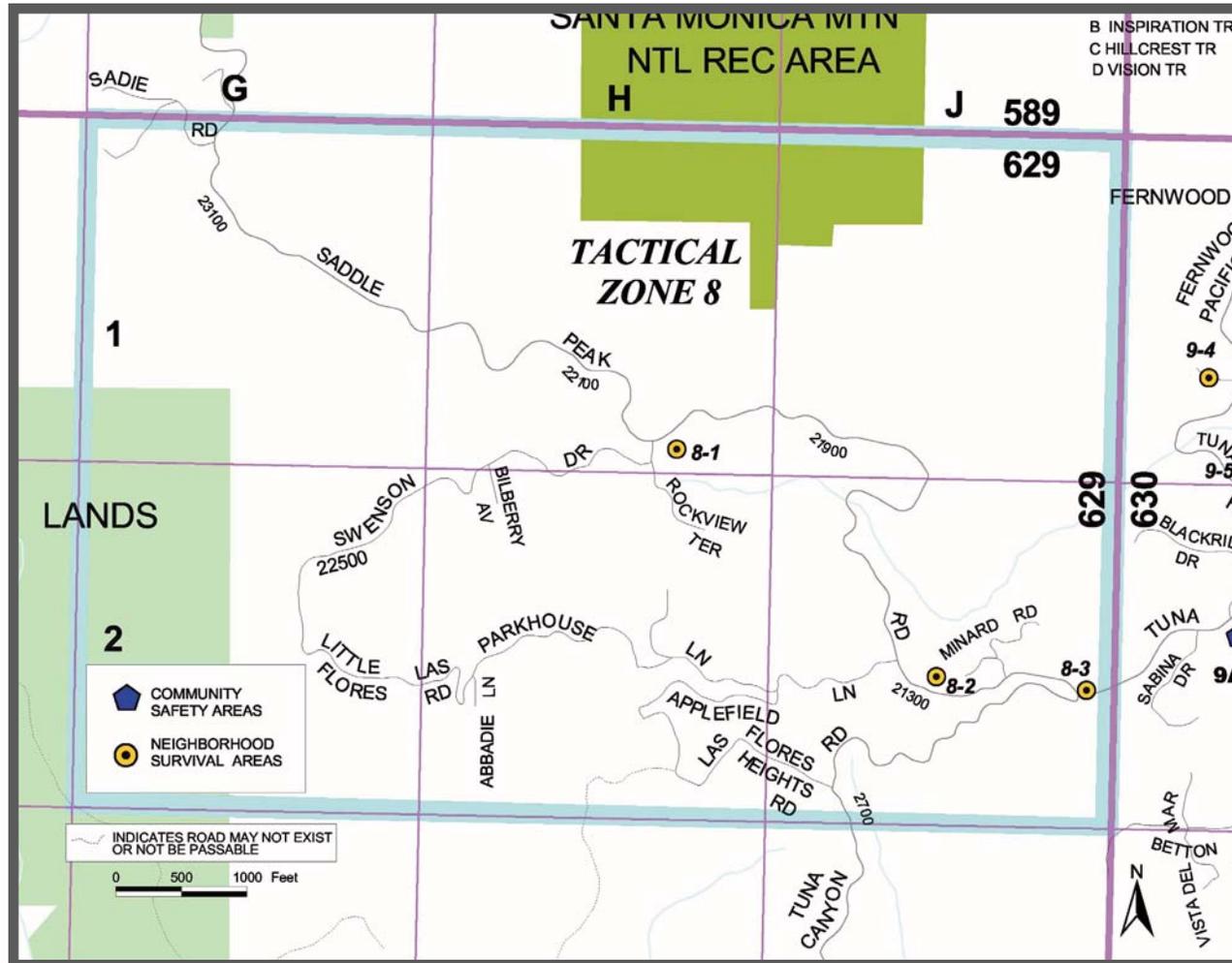
455-

Phone:

FRS Channel #:

NOTES:





COMMUNITY SAFETY AREAS

None

Find your nearest Community Safety Area or Neighborhood Survival Area. It may not be in your Tactical Zone.

NEIGHBORHOOD SURVIVAL AREAS

Thomas
Guide

8-1	22064 Saddle Peak Rd.	629 H1
8-2	21201 Saddle Peak Rd.	629 J2
8-3	Northeast corner of Tuna Canyon Rd. at Saddle Peak Rd.	629 J2

Your Neighborhood Network Coordinator:

455-

Phone:

FRS Channel #:

NOTES: NSA #8-1 is no longer listed as a pre-designated NSA.



C O N T R I B U T O R S ¹⁴³

TO THE TOPANGA SURVIVAL GUIDE

**Los Angeles County—Topanga Canyon
Emergency Planning Project**

COORDINATED BY THE OFFICE OF ZEV YAROSLAVSKY, SUPERVISOR, THIRD DISTRICT

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Assistant Coordinator: Ben Saltsman
Office of Supervisor Yaroslavsky

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DESIGN AND PHOTOGRAPHY

THE WILDFIRE SURVIVAL CHAIN

When fire threatens, your absolute safest alternative is to leave the Canyon.

Follow the Evacuation Plan instructions and the directions from law enforcement and Fire Department personnel.

From the NORTHERN end (Zones 1 through 6), with no smoke in the immediate area, evacuate in a northbound direction on Topanga Cyn. Blvd.

From the SOUTHERN End (Zones 7 through 9), under any conditions, evacuate in a southbound direction on Topanga Cyn. Blvd.

From any location with smoke and/or ash in the immediate area, evacuate in a southbound direction on Topanga Cyn. Blvd.

<p>MOST SAFE</p> <p>↑</p> <p>↓</p> <p>LEAST SAFE</p>	PLAN A	REGIONAL/ RED CROSS SHELTER	<i>Proceed to a safe location outside the Canyon or to a Regional Shelter. Please note: during school hours, children will be located at a School Shelter.</i>
	PLAN B	SAFETY AREA	<i>If you are unable to evacuate the Canyon completely, proceed directly to your closest Community Safety Area (Safety Area). Safety Area locations are identified on Zone Maps located in this guide.</i>
	PLAN C	SURVIVAL AREA	<i>If you are unable to reach a Safety Area, proceed directly to your nearest Neighborhood Survival Area (Survival Area). Survival Areas are to be used only if you are unable to make it to a Safety Area. Survival Area locations are identified on the Zone Maps located in this guide.</i>
	PLAN D	DITCH	<i>If you are trapped by fire while evacuating on foot, find an area clear of traffic and vegetation (but not on a road), lie facedown, and cover your head. You will find the most protection by lying in a ditch or other low area where the air is coolest.</i>
	PLAN E	SHELTER IN PLACE	<i>You should not consider sheltering in place unless you have been specifically instructed to do so by Sheriff or Fire personnel. In most areas of Topanga Canyon, this alternative provides the least amount of individual safety. In a few select areas, however, this may become a viable option.</i>

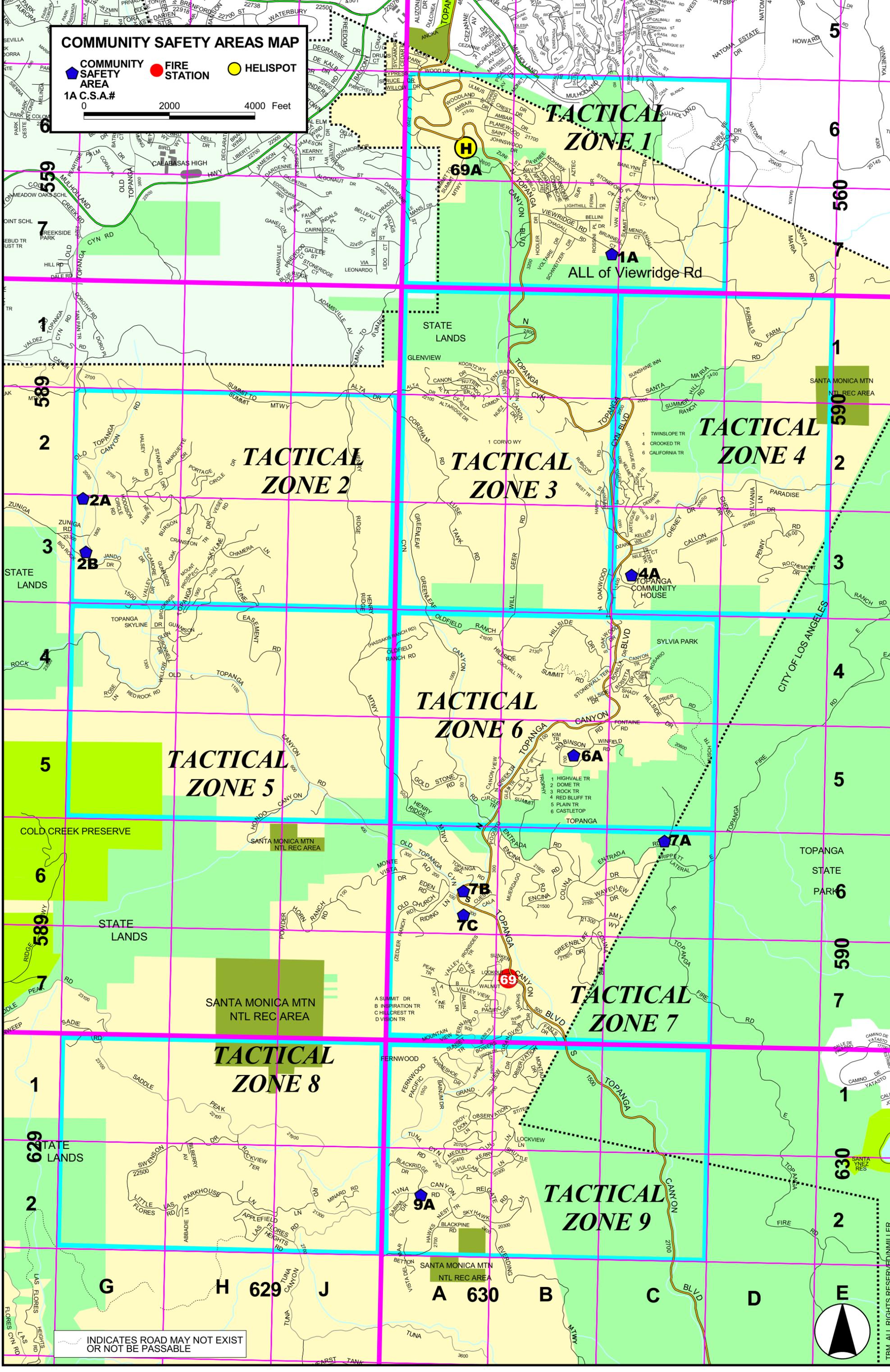
COMMUNITY SAFETY AREAS MAP

COMMUNITY SAFETY AREA
1A C.S.A.#

FIRE STATION

HELISPOT

0 2000 4000 Feet



TACTICAL ZONE 1

TACTICAL ZONE 2

TACTICAL ZONE 3

TACTICAL ZONE 4

TACTICAL ZONE 6

TACTICAL ZONE 5

TACTICAL ZONE 7

TACTICAL ZONE 8

TACTICAL ZONE 9

H 69A

1A
ALL of Viewridge Rd

2A

2B

4A
TOPANGA COMMUNITY HOUSE

6A

7B

7C

7A

9A

69



INDICATES ROAD MAY NOT EXIST OR NOT BE PASSABLE

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