



# **EMD INFORMATION RELEASE**



**City of Los Angeles Emergency Management Department**

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Date: 4/8/16

## **CITY OF LOS ANGELES EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THE 5 STEPS PREPAREATHON FULL SCALE EXERCISE**

Los Angeles, CA – The City of Los Angeles Emergency Management Department (EMD) and the United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council are conducting a neighborhood disaster exercise as part of America's PrepareAthon on Saturday, April 30, 2016 in the Historical West Adams District of South Los Angeles.

This full scale exercise will simulate a large earthquake, requiring members of the community to actively engage with the scenario, playing the roles of civilian community responders and/or injured survivors. The event will also include participation by local law enforcement, fire fighters, and more. The neighborhood exercise will conclude with a public safety fair, presented by the United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council which will feature live music, food trucks, and raffle prizes. All members of the public and media are encouraged to attend and observe the proceedings.

This event is part of the City's *5 Steps to Neighborhood Preparedness* initiative, which educates citizens about what they can do to prepare their neighborhood for a disaster. Additional information about the 5 Steps program, to include a free guide and video, are available at <http://www.5steps.la>.

The following is a timeline for the day's events:

9:00 AM to 10:00 AM – Neighborhood civilian response to the disaster

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM – City responders arrive and take control of response to the disaster

10:30 AM – Press Conference

11:00 AM to 3:00 PM – Public Safety Fair: preparedness information and entertainment

The following City officials and special guests are confirmed speakers for the press conference:

- Herb Wesson, President Los Angeles City Council, District 10
- Robert Fenton, FEMA Region IX Administrator
- Daren Palacios, Deputy Chief Los Angeles Fire Department
- Jeff Reeb, Director of Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management
- Jeff Camp, President of the United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council
- ***Additional speakers currently being confirmed***

"Saying 'it will never happen' is not an effective neighborhood disaster response plan," explains Mona Curry, Emergency Manager. "This full scale earthquake drill taking place in South Los Angeles, which can be applied to any neighborhood, will allow neighbors to practice responding on their own in the event of a massive earthquake or other type of disaster."

"The earthquake threat facing Angeleños is unfortunately all too real," said Robert Fenton, Regional Administrator for FEMA Region 9. "But instead of throwing up their hands, it's encouraging to see local individuals and communities determined to be ready to meet that reality. Simulated events and exercises, such as Los Angeles' 5 Steps PrepareAthon, will be taking place across the country as part of America's PrepareAthon, and will energize the "Whole Community" to embrace individual, family, and community preparedness activities."

**Special Notes:**

- The Exercise and Press Conference will take place on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave between W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street and Adams Blvd.
- The Public Safety Fair will take place one block east at the Benny H Potter Park.
- Parking spaces on Adams are reserved for those with disabilities and press conference speakers. Media parking is available on W. 25<sup>th</sup> St.

