

In Response

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card

A Publication of San Francisco Collaborating Agencies Responding to Disaster made possible by a grant from the United Way

THE DISASTER FILES SF CARD's In Response Newsletter

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The Disaster Files – News You Can Use

Children:

The National Association of School Psychologists has just published a document entitled:

Helping Children Cope in Unsettling Times: Tips for Parents and Teachers

This journal provides helpful information on how to communicate with children and allay their fears. You can find this information and more, online at:

www.nasponline.org/NEAT/helpingchildrencope.html
and
www.nasponline.org/NEAT/children_war_general.html

People with Disabilities:

It is not safe to assume that people with disabilities have been included in evacuation plans, no matter what laws and public policies say.

The Emergency Evacuation Preparedness Guide for People with Disabilities -- written by June Isaacson Kailes is a simple, logical approach for preparation of emergency situations for people with disabilities.

Listen to the archived webcast on
http://www.comspace.com/ilru/forums/topic_show.pl?tid=21

For further disability related emergency information visit: <http://www.ilru.org/ku-ilru/online/index.html>

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)

SARS is an illness possibly caused by the corona virus and has been reported in 26 countries around the world.

SARS usually begins with a high fever which can be accompanied by chills, headache, body ache, cough and/or difficulty breathing. The SARS illness has a mortality rate of approximately 4% and appears to be spread by close person-to-person contact.

As of early April, there were 100 suspected cases of SARS in the United States. Most of the U.S. cases of SARS have occurred among travelers returning to the United States from other parts of the world affected by SARS. Currently, there is no evidence that SARS is spreading more widely in the community in the United States.

There is no test for SARS but if you or someone you care for fulfills all three of the following conditions, call you doctor or clinic.

1. have been to an area where there has been transmission of SARS *in the past 10 days* or had close contact with someone suspected of having SARS
2. documented fever of over 100.4
3. cough, difficulty breathing or pneumonia seen in a chest x-ray.

For the most up to date information, check the World Health Organization website on www.who.int/csr/sars/en/ or the Center for Disease Control on www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/index.htm

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Volunteers Needed!!

San Francisco Department of Public Health needs 2,000 volunteers!

On **Tuesday, July 17, 2003** the SF Department of Public Health will conduct a practice exercise to test our ability to respond to a public health emergency.

To best simulate a real event, they need 2,000 volunteers representative of the diverse population of the City: families, seniors, children, people with disabilities, non-English speakers etc...

The exercise will take place at:

**Bill Graham Auditorium
99 Grove Street (at Larkin)**

Volunteers will be asked to participate for 2 hour slots between the hours of 10am and 3pm. You will be asked to:

Participate in a short educational session
Fill out paper work
Pretend to be vaccinated (q-tips will be used)

If you are interested, please contact:

Judith Klain, Logistics Chief
SFDPH
(415) 206-2358
Judith.s.klain@sfdph.org

Thanks for your participation!!

HELPLINK has moved!

HELPLINK is the individual's link to community services. At HELPLINK a trained information and referral specialist will help you find information on community resources, employment, housing, substance abuse treatment, and more. They've recently moved offices. You can now reach them at:

221 Main Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105
Toll Free: (800) 273-6222
English: (415) 808-HELP
Spanish: (415) 808-4444
Chinese: (415) 808-7339
TTY: (415) 808-4440

From the State Office of Emergency Services:

Please be advised, effective March 28, 2003, the worker's compensation funding for the Disaster Service Worker Volunteer Program has been restored to the current fiscal year budget. When the issue was brought to the attention of Governor Gray Davis he took immediate action to restore the current year funding and has committed to sustaining funding for this program in the 2003/2004 fiscal year.

The Disaster Service Worker Volunteer Program is only open to those who are registered with the State to provide assistance during an emergency or disaster. For further information visit:
http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/disaster_volunteer_fact_sheet.htm

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SFCARD NEWS!!!

As you can see we have a fabulous new look thanks to **Randall Homan** our superlative volunteer graphic designer. We are in the process of printing business cards, letterhead and Agency Emergency Plan stickers so keep an eye out for SFCARD.

Also in the pipeline is a new look website. Please send any recommendations to info@sfcad.org and make the SFCARD yours! **Bill Travis** is our webmaster extraordinaire, he's the one who keeps it all together and looking great.

A big thank you also to **Bob Jacklevich of NERT** and **Andrea Scharf of the American Red Cross** for the April trainings: 'SEMS for Non-Profits' and 'Personal Disaster Preparedness' respectively.

Did you miss the 'Personal Disaster Preparedness Training' in April? Join us on **May 8th** for a second training presented by **JoAnn Scordino of the Office of Emergency Services**. You will learn what to plan for and how to protect yourself in any type of disaster.

Date: May 8th 2003
Time: 9am – 11am
Place: Rose Resnick Lighthouse for the Blind
214 Van Ness Avenue, at Hayes
nearest MUNI/BART: Civic Center
RSVP: info@sfcad.org or leave a voice mail on (415) 558.2737

CARD of Alameda County is organizing a SEMS and Personal Preparedness training for people who are deaf or hard of hearing at the end of May. For further information, please email CARD of Alameda at card_proj@yahoo.com or call (510) 451-3140.

As always, if you have anything to add or would like us to address in our next newsletter let us know at info@sfcad.org