City of Beverly Hills

Health and Safety Commission
Regular Meeting

September 21, 2009
4:00 PM
City Hall Room 280-A

Enhancing the Health and Safety of Our Community
A detailed Commission packet is available for review in the Library and City Clerk’s Office.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please call the City Manager’s Office at (310) 285-1014. Please notify the City Manager’s Office at least seventy-two hours prior to the meeting so that reasonable arrangements can be made to ensure accessibility. Conference Room 280-A is equipped with audio equipment for the hearing impaired, and is wheelchair accessible.

CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
City Hall Room 280-A
AGENDA

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
September 21, 2009
4:00 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL
B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
C. COMMISSION MINUTES
   • Consideration of minutes of July 27, 2009.
D. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE
   At this time, members of the public may address the Commission regarding any items not on the Agenda that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. By State law, the Commission may not discuss or vote on items not on the Agenda.
E. REPORT FROM THE CHAIRPERSON
   • Mayor’s Cabinet Meeting – August 12 and September 9, 2009.
   • Other items of interest.
F. DIRECTOR’S REPORT
   • Report from Myra Lurie, Beverly Hills School District Board Member
     Information Only:
     a) Good Samaritan Laws – SB 39 and AB 83
     b) Hazardous Waste Roundup
     c) CERT letter, schedule and application
     d) Commission Calendar
     e) Commissioner Handbook
     f) 2009 City Flu Shot Clinic
   • Other Items
G. NEW BUSINESS
   1. Introduction of Ariel Triplett, Office of Emergency Management Intern
   2. Health and Safety Week Update
   3. Great California Shakeout Staff Report
   4. Health and Safety Awards
   5. Pandemic Flu: H1N1 Planning
   6. October Commission Meeting
H. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS
   Commissioners’ brief responses to public comments, questions for clarification, brief announcements, request for information, and brief reports on activities.
I. ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Aronberg, Kopeikin, Judelson, Setian, Millan, Vice Chair Landau, Chair Seidel
Commissioners Absent: None
Staff: P. Mottice Muller, K. Ryan

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Aronberg.

C. COMMISSION MINUTES

MOVED by Aronberg, SECONDED by Landau to approve the minutes of the meeting on June 22, 2009 (7/0)
Ayes: Judelson, Aronberg, Landau, Seidel, Kopeikin, Millan, Setian
Noes: None
Absent: None
CARRIED.

D. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None.

E. REPORT FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Chair Seidel noted the following items that were discussed at the Mayor’s Cabinet meetings which relate to health and safety:
• Mayor Krasne updated the Commissions on the issue of feeding feral cats, which was on the July 7th City Council agenda.
• Public Works Commission discussed the need for water rationing. The Public Works Commission advised that the average household in Beverly Hills uses 275 gallons of water per person per day, and the average American household uses 150 gallons per person per day.
• Architectural Commission – will review the digital sign which is visible on Little Santa Monica Blvd. Commissioner Aronberg pointed out that the sign could be a distraction to drivers.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST - none.

F. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

REPORT FROM MYRA LURIE, BEVERLY HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER
The following items were reported by Myra Lurie, Beverly Hills School District Board Member:

- The Annex building at Horace Mann School has been demolished. Some asbestos was found, but is being taken care of.
- The chains on the auditorium door of Beverly Vista school that were reported by Vice Chair Landau at June's meeting have been removed.
- Commissioner Millan asked about how pandemic flu is being prepared for in the schools and summer camps. Ms. Lurie noted that the schools are educating families and students about hand washing, etc. This effort to educate families and students will continue. Gel hand sanitizers have been installed in the schools. It was also mentioned that the school receives funding for each attending student and therefore loses funding if too many students are out sick each day. Director Mottice Muller was asked if County Public Health has the authority to close schools if necessary. Advised schools make that decision. The CDC and LA County Public Health have provided guidance to schools to not close when cases are found. According to Mottice Muller, the County will not inform the City of cases of flu in the schools, but the school district stated they will advise number of cases to the City, as the City and BHUSD maintain a good working relationship.

INFORMATION ONLY:

a) Health and Safety Commission Calendar
- Commissioner Landau noted that he cannot attend the Mayor's Cabinet Meeting in Chair Seidel's place in August due to a conflict. Commissioner Kopeikin volunteered to represent the Health and Safety Commission at the meeting.

OTHER ITEMS

- Director Mottice Muller reported that the issue of feeding feral cats will go to the Health and Safety City Council Liaisons at a meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 30th. This matter will not go before the Health and Safety Commission before it goes to the City Council.
- Chair Seidel gave an interview to the Beverly Hills Weekly, which should appear in the 7/30/09 edition. Some items discussed in the interview were the Health and Safety Week & Expo, the mass notification system, and the goals of the Health and Safety Commission.

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. COMMISSION TERMS

At the last Commission meeting, the Commission discussed a choice of 3-4-5 year re-appointments. The Commission recommended 2 members could be reappointed for 3 years, 3 for 4 years and 2 for 5 years. Commissioners decided the best way was to randomly pick names or terms out of a hat. A City Council liaison recommended Commissioners should be allowed to volunteer for the lesser terms before randomly choosing. Since the ordinance states a Commissioner can be re-appointed for 2 to 6 years (making an 8-year commitment for one Commissioner) this can also be an option.

Commissioners were given the option to volunteer for the shorter terms before terms were selected at random. There were no volunteers for the lesser years and most Commissioners expressed interest in being part of this Commission for as many years as possible.
MOVED by Aronberg, SECONDED by Kopeikin to reappoint Commissioners as follows: 2 Commissioners for 3 years, 3 Commissioners for 4 years, and 2 commissioners for 5 years (7/0)

Ayes: Judelson, Aronberg, Landau, Seidel, Kopeikin, Millan, Setian
Noes: None
Absent: None
CARRIED.

Reappointment terms were selected at random for each Commissioner, resulting in the following:

- Setian – 4 years
- Millan – 5 years
- Kopeikin – 5 years
- Judelson – 4 years
- Aronberg – 3 years
- Landau – 4 years
- Seidel – 3 years

This recommendation will be forwarded by the City Clerk’s Office to the City Council in November for approval.

2. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMISSIONERS IN DISASTERS
Director Mottice Muller reported that during a disaster, Commissioners should contact the Liaison Officers in the EOC for potential assignments. Commissioners should report to any pre-assigned roles (e.g. hospital, DCS volunteer, CERT).

3. UPDATE ON HEALTH AND SAFETY WEEK
MacKenzie Millan, OEM Intern, gave an update on Health and Safety Week. There are two parts to Health and Safety week: speakers during the week, and the Expo. The school presentations will not take place this year due to budget cuts. The School District has agreed that informational handouts will be sent home with students and mass notification calls with information about the Expo will go out to families instead. Speakers for both during the week and at the Expo are being contacted. A list of potential speakers and vendors was provided to Commissioners in their packets. Commissioners were informed that department’s participation in the Expo will be limited due to cuts to department budgets, especially overtime. An Ad Hoc meeting will take place after the Commission meeting to discuss this further.

4. CHANGE OF AUGUST MEETING DATE
Commissioners discussed whether the August meeting should be moved or cancelled.

MOVED by Millan, SECONDED by Setian to cancel the Health and Safety Commission meeting for August 2009 (6/0)

Ayes: Aronberg, Landau, Seidel, Kopeikin, Millan, Setian
Noes: None
Abstained: Judelson
Absent: None
CARRIED.

H. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS
Commissioner Millan attended a presentation at Cedars-Sinai given by an Israeli police officer who discussed the impact of suicide bombers. The main points taken
from the presentation were finding closure for bombing victims' families, identifying bodies quickly, and assisting in getting life back to normal for the country as soon as possible.

I. ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business, Chair Seidel, with the consent of the Commission, adjourned the meeting at 5:25 p.m.
Senator John J. Benoit's Legislation Protecting Good Samaritans Signed Into Law By Governor Schwarzenegger

Senator John J. Benoit (R-Bermuda Dunes) today announced that Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has signed into law Senate Bill 39 (Good Samaritan Protection Act), which will take effect immediately. SB 39, Benoit's first law as a State Senator, clarifies the Legislature's 1980 Good Samaritan Law to provide legal immunity to emergency service volunteer workers who perform disaster services during a state of emergency.

"Good Samaritans should never again have to second-guess the consequences of helping," said Senator Benoit. "Thankfully, the chilling effect that last December's court ruling had on people willing to help in times of emergency has been drastically diminished because of this law's immediate implementation."

Last December, a 4-3 ruling by the California Supreme Court uncovered significant shortfalls in legal protections for Good Samaritans. A civil suit was filed in the aftermath of a 2004 Chatsworth traffic crash, in which a Good Samaritan, fearing that a crashed car would explode, pulled her coworker out of the vehicle. The co-worker filed the suit, claiming that her rescuer pulled her "like a rag doll," causing her paralysis. The Court decided that State law, written in 1980, only shielded Good Samaritans from liability incurred in giving medical care in an emergency.

As soon as he heard the decision, Senator Benoit teamed up with the Chair of the Assembly Judiciary Committee, Assemblyman Mike Feuer (D-Los Angeles), to author two bipartisan, bicameral bills to restore legal protections for Good Samaritans. The two legislators fused their legal and law enforcement backgrounds to craft balanced, comprehensive legislation to make the technical fix to the court decision.

Benoit's bill, SB 39, was introduced with the support of Rancho Mirage physician Max Weil, "The Father Of Critical Care Medicine." SB 39 provides legal immunity to emergency service workers who perform disaster services during a state of emergency. Many communities enlist the help of disaster service volunteer workers for emergency operations, such as fires, flash floods, and earthquakes that occur in and around our region.

"This is an important correction of an anomaly in the earlier California law," commented Dr. Weil. "Society depends on individuals willing to take care of each other as our brothers' and sister's keepers without any fear of liability."

The Governor today also signed Feuer's legislation, AB 83, which immunizes Good Samaritans from liability when they assist others at the scene of an emergency — regardless of whether the care provided is of a medical or non-medical nature— unless the person providing assistance acts in a reckless or grossly negligent manner.

"The job of disaster service workers is to save lives during emergencies," said Assemblyman Feuer. "They should not hesitate to perform their duties responsibly for fear of a lawsuit. I am proud to have joined with Senator Benoit in ensuring that disaster workers can focus on protecting people."

As with AB 83, SB 39 received unanimous votes in both houses of the Legislature. The bipartisan measure was sponsored by a wide coalition of supporters, including the National Ski Patrol, Civil Justice Association of California, League of California Cities, California Emergency Nurses Association, and California Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse.
TOO TOXIC TO TRASH

Household Hazardous and E-Waste Roundup

Saturday
October 3, 2009
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Beverly Hills City Streets
Foothill Road between
Alden Drive and West 3rd St,
Beverly Hills

Open to all LA County residents.

DISPOSE OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE AND E-WASTE
THE RIGHT WAY ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2009

BUSINESS WASTE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

How to prepare items for transportation:
- Bring the items in a sturdy box, preferably in their original labeled containers.
- Do not mix the items together.
- There is a limit of 15 gallons or 125 pounds of hazardous waste per trip.
- Be prepared to leave your containers and boxes. Remove all other items from your trunk.

What you CAN bring to an event (examples):
- Brake fluid, paint, paint thinner, cleaners with acid or lye, pesticides or herbicides, household batteries and car batteries, pool chemicals, motor oil, oil filters, expired pharmaceuticals, anti-freeze, and fluorescent light bulbs.
- Household electronic waste which includes: Computer monitors, televisions, computer CPUs, keyboards, printers, cellular phones, etc.

What you CANT bring to an event:
- Hazardous waste and electronic waste from businesses.
- Explosives, ammunition and radioactive materials.
- Trash and tires.
- White goods such as refrigerators, stoves and washing machines, etc.
- Controlled substances.

For a complete listing of what you can and cannot bring or information on events, contact:
1(888) CLEAN-LA = www.CLEAN LA.com, or
1(800) 238-0172 = www.LACSD.org

Home-generated sharps waste such as hypodermic needles, pen needles, syringes, lancets, and intravenous needles SHOULD NOT be placed in your trash. Bring them to the Roundups. Pick up a free state-approved sharps container at the Roundup or visit www.383CLEANLA.com for alternate disposal options.

You can also take your used motor oil and more than 800 oil recycling centers in Los Angeles County. Call 1(888) CLEAN-LA for a complete listing.
Dear Residents,

The City of Beverly Hills is pleased to be able to offer a **FREE** Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) program to its residents. The program was developed to enable citizens to help themselves, their neighbors, and their community in the event of a disaster. A well trained civilian work force will allow our residents to be self sufficient in the event of an incident where the conventional emergency services are overwhelmed.

CERT members receive 28 hours of initial training, which is taught by firefighters and other certified instructors. This training includes a certified class in First Aid, CPR, and the use of an AED. Periodic skills maintenance programs are conducted which are designed to reinforce and enhance the skills and concepts of the program.

Experience tells us that recovery from any incident is improved by active participation, planning, and cooperation of those affected. Emergencies come in all shapes and forms, and with rare exception, give no warning. The fundamental responsibility for preparedness lies with every individual and the time to prepare is now.

Dates for upcoming classes: Wednesdays, September 23 & 30, and October 7 & 14 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.; and Saturdays, October 3, 10 & 17 from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Our only requirements for participation are a commitment to attend all classes, proof of residency, a minimum age of 15, and the physical ability to participate in some lifting, bending, and walking at least a quarter of a mile.

I invite you to join the next CERT class – learn, have fun, meet your neighbors, and be prepared for any emergency.

For further information or to receive an application, please call Sonia Berman, the CERT Coordinator, at (310) 281-2754.

Sincerely,

Timothy Scranton
Fire Chief
# COURSE SYLLABUS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SESSION</th>
<th>TOPICS COVERED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Disaster Preparedness</strong></td>
<td>• Introduction to disasters</td>
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<td>• Impact on infrastructure</td>
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<td>• Building structures and nonstructural items</td>
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<td>• Role of CERTs in disaster response</td>
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<td><strong>Disaster Psychology and Team Organization</strong></td>
<td>• The post-disaster emotional environment</td>
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<td>• CERT organization</td>
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<td>• CERT decision making and documentation</td>
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<td><strong>Disaster Medical Operations</strong></td>
<td>• Treatment strategies for life-threatening conditions, including:</td>
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<td>- Airway obstruction</td>
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<td>- Bleeding</td>
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<td>- Shock</td>
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<td>• Principles of triage</td>
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<td>• Medical operations conducted within treatment areas to which victims</td>
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<td>are sent from triage, including:</td>
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<td>- Head-to-toe patient assessment</td>
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<td>- Treatments for various injuries</td>
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<td>- Public health considerations</td>
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<td><strong>Disaster Fire Suppression</strong></td>
<td>• Identifying and reducing potential fire hazards</td>
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<td>• Basic fire suppression strategy</td>
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<td>• Firefighting resources</td>
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<td>• Firefighting techniques</td>
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<td><strong>Terrorism</strong></td>
<td>• Identify actions to take during and following a suspected terrorism event</td>
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<td>• Learn procedures for decontamination and sheltering in place</td>
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<td>• Apply the CERT principles to a suspected terrorism scenario</td>
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<td>• Identify possible terrorism targets within your community</td>
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<td><strong>Light Search And Rescue Operations</strong></td>
<td>• Search and rescue priorities and resources</td>
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<td>• Techniques for situation size-up and search</td>
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<td>• Lifting, cribbing, and victim removal</td>
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<td>• Rescuer safety, including recognizing:</td>
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<td>- Rescuer limitations</td>
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<td>- Construction-related hazards</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Course Review</strong></td>
<td>• Review all material learned in course</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Disaster Simulation</strong></td>
<td>• Exercise: Disaster Simulation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CPR and AED</strong></td>
<td>• Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation procedures and instruction in the use of</td>
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<td>an Automated External Defibrillator.</td>
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CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION
2009 APPLICATION

Name ____________________________________________

Home Address ____________________________________

__________________________________________ Zip Code ____________

Home Phone ( )__________ Work Phone ( )__________ Extn ______

Cell Phone ( )__________ Pager ( )________________________

Email __________________________________________

Occupation ______________________________________

Employer _______________________________________

Work Address ____________________________________ Zip Code ____________

How did you hear about the CERT Program?
_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

List related community service and training over last five years:
_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

Yes, I want to be a CERT member. I hereby request to participate in the Community
Emergency Response Team training in the City of Beverly Hills. I am over the age of 15
and physically able to be an active participant (class includes lifting, bending and walking).
I understand that if I am accepted, I will make a commitment to attend ALL classes.

Signed ___________________________ Date __________________

Attn.: CERT, City of Beverly Hills, 445 N. Rexford Dr.,
Beverly Hills, CA 90210; Fax number 310.281.2770
If you have any questions, please call 310.281.2754
# HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION CALENDAR

**Updated: 9/8/09**  
**= New Item Added**

## SEPTEMBER 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Meeting/Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Attendees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>4:00pm</td>
<td>Health and Safety Commission Meeting</td>
<td>City Hall 280-A</td>
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## OCTOBER 2009

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<tr>
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<th>Attendees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri-Sat</td>
<td>2–3</td>
<td>meet at 7:15am</td>
<td><strong>Inspection Trip of the State Water Project and the Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta</strong></td>
<td>Meet at Metropolitan Water District-700 N. Alameda St, LA CA 90012</td>
<td>DS, PL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4:30pm</td>
<td>Mayor’s Cabinet Meeting</td>
<td>280-B</td>
<td>DS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10:15am</td>
<td>The Great California Shakeout</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>4:00pm</td>
<td>Health and Safety Commission Meeting</td>
<td>City Hall 280-A</td>
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<tr>
<td>M-Sat</td>
<td>26-31</td>
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<td>Health and Safety Week</td>
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## NOVEMBER 2009

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<tr>
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<th>Attendees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9:00-1:00p</td>
<td>Health and Safety Expo at Farmer’s Market</td>
<td>Civic Center Drive</td>
<td>All</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4:30pm</td>
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<td>4:00pm</td>
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**JANUARY 2010**

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<tr>
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<td>13</td>
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<td>Mayor's Cabinet Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
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<td>4:00pm</td>
<td>Health and Safety Commission Meeting</td>
<td>City Hall 280-A</td>
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**FEBRUARY 2010**

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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4:30pm</td>
<td>Mayor's Cabinet Meeting</td>
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<td>DS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>4:00pm</td>
<td>Health and Safety Commission Meeting</td>
<td>City Hall 280-A</td>
<td>All</td>
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**MARCH 2010**

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<tr>
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<td>Wed</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
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<td>4:00pm</td>
<td>Health and Safety Commission Meeting</td>
<td>City Hall 280-A</td>
<td>All</td>
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City of Beverly Hills
2009 Flu Vaccination Program

INFORMATION

Who is eligible? - All regular full and part-time employees. There is a limited supply of vaccine available. Vaccinations will be given on a first-come, first-serve basis while our supply lasts.

Cost: - 3 canned goods or other food items per employee (All food to be donated to the Westside Food Bank)

Flu facts - See attached fact sheet

Attire - Please wear clothing that will allow access to upper arm without disrobing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday September 22nd</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>HQ Fire Station 445 N. Rexford Dr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday September 23rd</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>HQ Fire Station 445 N. Rexford Dr.</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday October 1st</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>HQ Fire Station 445 N. Rexford Dr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday October 5th</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>HQ Fire Station 445 N. Rexford Dr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Wednesday October 7th</td>
<td>1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>HQ Fire Station 445 N. Rexford Dr.</td>
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<td>Wednesday October 14th</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Thursday October 15th</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>HQ Fire Station 445 N. Rexford Dr.</td>
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FLU VACCINATION CONSENT FORM

Influenza (Flu): Influenza is a highly infectious respiratory disease caused by the influenza virus. All age groups are affected, and people who get the flu may experience fever, chills, sore throat, headache, dry cough and muscle aches and may be sick for several days or more. Most people recover completely. However, the flu may be especially severe for some people, and complications, including pneumonia, Reye’s syndrome (in children), myocarditis and chronic pulmonary disease, may occur.

Vaccine: The flu vaccine contains only inactivated viruses. The vaccine cannot cause the flu. Respiratory disease after vaccination represents coincidental illness unrelated to the flu vaccination. The strains of virus included in the vaccine are those, which have most recently been causing influenza. As with any vaccine, flu vaccine may not protect 100% of all susceptible individuals. The vaccine is made from viruses selected by the US Public Health Service, and is current ‘seasonal’ vaccine for the 2009 to 2010 season.

Possible Side Effects: Most people who are vaccinated experience either no reaction or mild reactions. The most common reaction is soreness or tenderness at the vaccination site for up to 2 days; this is reported by less than one-third of those vaccinated. Other possible reactions include: fever, chills, headache or muscle aches and, rarely, hives, localized swelling and allergic asthma. These effects begin 6 to 12 hours after vaccination and usually last 24 to 48 hours.

It is not advisable to vaccinate under any of the following conditions:

1. You are allergic to eggs, egg products or thimerosal.
2. You have a current active illness such as a fever, cold or respiratory infection.
3. You have had an adverse reaction to a flu vaccination in the past.
4. You have any of the following neurological conditions: Guillain-Barre syndrome, optic neuritis, branchial plexus, encephalopathy and/or radiation therapy.

CONSENT

I have read the above information and have had an opportunity to ask questions. I understand the benefits and risks of flu vaccination as described and I request that the vaccine be given to me.

INFORMATION CONCERNING PERSON TO RECEIVE INFLUENZA VACCINE

Name (please print) Date of Birth Age

Signature of Person to receive vaccine (or Patient or Guardian) Department
Key Facts about Influenza and the Influenza Vaccine

What is Influenza (Also Called Flu)?
The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The best way to prevent the flu is by getting a flu vaccination each year.

Every year in the United States, on average:

- 5% to 20% of the population gets the flu;
- more than 200,000 people are hospitalized from flu complications, and;
- about 36,000 people die from flu.

Some people, such as older people, young children, and people with certain health conditions, are at high risk for serious flu complications.

Symptoms of Flu
Symptoms of flu include:

- fever (usually high)
- headache
- extreme tiredness
- dry cough
- sore throat
- runny or stuffy nose
- muscle aches
- Stomach symptoms, such as nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea, also can occur but are more common in children than adults

Complications of Flu
Complications of flu can include bacterial pneumonia, ear infections, sinus infections, dehydration, and worsening of chronic medical conditions, such as congestive heart failure, asthma, or diabetes.

How Flu Spreads
Flu viruses spread mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing of people with influenza. Sometimes people may become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose. Most healthy adults may be able to infect others beginning 1 day before symptoms develop and up to 7 days after becoming sick. That means that you may be able to pass on the flu to someone else before you know you are sick, as well as while you are sick.

Preventing the Flu: Get Vaccinated
The single best way to prevent the flu is to get a flu vaccination each year. There are two types of vaccines:

- The "flu shot" – an inactivated vaccine (containing killed virus) that is given with a needle. The flu shot is approved for use in people 6 months of age and older, including healthy people and people with chronic medical conditions.
- The nasal-spray flu vaccine – a vaccine made with live, weakened flu viruses that do not cause the flu (sometimes called LAIV for “Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine”). LAIV is approved for use in healthy people 5 years to 49 years of age who are not pregnant.

About two weeks after vaccination, antibodies develop that protect against influenza virus infection. Flu vaccines will not protect against flu-like illnesses caused by non-influenza viruses.
When to Get Vaccinated

October or November is the best time to get vaccinated, but getting vaccinated in December or even later can still be beneficial since most influenza activity occurs in January or later in most years. Though it varies, flu season can last as late as May.

Who Should Get Vaccinated?

In general, anyone who wants to reduce their chances of getting the flu can get vaccinated. However, certain people should get vaccinated each year either because they are at high risk of having serious flu-related complications or because they live with or care for high risk persons. During flu seasons when vaccine supplies are limited or delayed, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) makes recommendations regarding priority groups for vaccination.

People who should get vaccinated each year are:

1. **People at high risk for complications from the flu, including:**
   - Children aged 6 months until their 5th birthday,
   - Pregnant women,
   - People 50 years of age and older,
   - People of any age with certain chronic medical conditions, and
   - People who live in nursing homes and other long term care facilities.

2. **People who live with or care for those at high risk for complications from flu, including:**
   - Household contacts of persons at high risk for complications from the flu (see above)
   - Household contacts and out of home caregivers of children less than 6 months of age (these children are too young to be vaccinated)
   - Health care workers.

3. **Anyone who wants to decrease their risk of influenza.**

Use of the Nasal Spray Flu Vaccine

Vaccination with the nasal-spray flu vaccine is an option for healthy persons aged 5-49 years who are not pregnant, even healthy persons who live with or care for those in a high risk group. The one exception is healthy persons who care for persons with severely weakened immune systems who require a protected environment; these healthy persons should get the inactivated vaccine.

Who Should Not Be Vaccinated

Some people should not be vaccinated without first consulting a physician. They include:

- People who have a severe allergy to chicken eggs.
- People who have had a severe reaction to an influenza vaccination in the past.
- People who developed Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) within 6 weeks of getting an influenza vaccine previously.
- Children less than 6 months of age (influenza vaccine is not approved for use in this age group).
- People who have a moderate or severe illness with a fever should wait to get vaccinated until their symptoms lessen.

If you have questions about whether you should get a flu vaccine, consult your health-care provider.
TO: Health and Safety Commissioners
FROM: Pamela Mottice Muller, Director of Emergency Management
DATE: September 21, 2009
SUBJECT: Introduction of Ariel Triplett, OEM Intern

Please join us in welcoming OEM's new intern, Ariel Triplett.

Ariel is originally from Chicago. She graduated from Howard University with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. She is currently a candidate for a Master's in Public Health from St. Louis University School of Public Health with a concentration in Biosecurity: Disaster Preparedness and Disease Control.

She recently interned with St. Louis County Health Department, helping to aid in the process of helping their Business Operation Center (BOC) grow. The BOC was formulated to aid business transactions during disaster situations, disseminate emergency preparedness information and provide important information during emergencies. She has also been an Intern for the National Medical Association.

Her major City projects are the Health & Safety Week, especially the Expo, and updating the Pandemic Flu Plan, including working with the Pandemic Flu Task Force to ensure the City is prepared.

Ariel plans to be interning with OEM until December, 2009.
MEMORANDUM

TO: Health and Safety Commissioners
FROM: Kathy Ryan, Commission Secretary
DATE: September 21, 2009
SUBJECT: Update on Health and Safety Week

Director Mottice Muller and the Health and Safety Week Ad Hoc Committee will report on the upcoming Health and Safety Week and the Health and Safety Expo. Intern Ariel Triplett will be working on the Expo.

The Ad Hoc Committee will meet after today’s Commission meeting.
MEMORANDUM

TO: Health and Safety Commissioners
FROM: Ariel Triplett, Office of Emergency Management
DATE: September 21, 2009
SUBJECT: Health and Safety Week

Please see the attached Health and Safety week card. The cards have been distributed at various locations throughout the city. Please make any suggestions for improvement or changes to the card.

In the past we have sent postcards advertisements about the expo to each resident. Should a postcard be mailed out to the resident's home address about Health and Safety Week this year? It will cost $6,000 for printing and postage.

In addition, we will be advertising the events in Cable TV, newspaper ads and email blasts. Cable TV will create a PSA advertising the week. Commissioners are asked to volunteer to be a part of the video. The NHW PSA featured Commissioners Sandra Aronberg, David Seidel, and Peter Landau. Filming dates will be passed out at the meeting.

Please let me know your recommendations. Thank you!
STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: September 21, 2009
To: Health and Safety Commission
From: Pamela Mottice Muller, Office of Emergency Management
Subject: Health and Safety Week
Attachments: None

The following memo will be on the City Council agenda on October 6.

INTRODUCTION

Safety and Emergency Preparedness Week was developed over ten years ago through joint planning efforts between City staff, the Beverly Hills Unified School District and the PTA Council. The week, over the years, has offered the community a variety of programs and activities designed to educate and raise citizen awareness on the importance of living safely and being prepared in the event of a disaster. With the establishment of the Health and Safety Commission, the Commission evaluated the entire program from previous years and decided to continue holding the week and focus on activities that will promote health and safety, especially health. The emergency preparedness aspect of the week has become highly promoted during National Preparedness Month in September. The name of the week is now changed to Health and Safety Week. The Commission is working hard to produce a fun and eventful week this year to accommodate the new focus.

DISCUSSION

Health and Safety Week will be held October 26 – November 1. The week will consist of two main components; speakers and an expo. The following is information on planned activities:

Speakers
On October 26, Laurie Paletz, RN-BC from Cedar-Sinai Medical Center will talk with seniors at the Roxbury Park Community Center during the Senior Meeting on stroke prevention.

On October 28, at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Karen Halligan, DVM will give a speech entitled "Keeping Your Pets Healthy and Safe" in the City Council Chambers. Karen "Doc" Halligan is the Director of Veterinary Services at the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of Los Angeles (SPCLA) and has developed a distinguished veterinary medical career while gaining acclaim as a national authority on animals. She was on the ground in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, dealing firsthand with the animals abandoned by Hurricane
Katrina. She appears on Animal Planet including *Animal Rescue 911*, *Dog Tales*, *Dogs 101*, *Cats 101*, and television news show throughout the country. She is also the author of the award-winning, highly acclaimed book "What Every Pet Owner Should Know: Prescriptions for Happy, healthy Cats and Dogs" and served as a judge on the hit series "Groomer Has It."

**Expo**
The Health and Safety Expo will be held November 1 in conjunction with the Farmers' Mark on Civic Center Drive from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Expo will feature educational information from health and safety-related agencies and organizations. Vendors will sell emergency and safety items. Activities for children will include puppet shows, marionettes, "Safe Moves" from Safety Town, an 8.0 earthquake experience from Safe-T Proof Quake Cottage and plenty of interactive presentations from vendors. Featured highlights are pet licensing, pet micro-chipping, health screenings, car seat checks by CHP and many more exciting presentations.

**School Presentations**
Due to budget constraints no school presentations will be held this year. The School District has agreed to distribute information to students that is provided by the City.

**Library**
The library will have a health and safety display.

**FISCAL IMPACT**
The cost of holding Health and Safety Week is currently in the budget of the Office of Emergency Management.

**RECOMMENDATION**
Staff recommends Health and Safety Week be held as reflected above. We invite all City Council members, family, and friends to attend the events.

*Pamela Mottice-Muller*
Current as of 9/15/2009
Health and Safety Expo November 1, 2009

Highlights:

1. Health Screenings (H)
2. Chipping of Animals—Found Animals (S)
3. Quake Cottage (S)
4. Car seat Safety (S)
5. “Red Cross Ready” Puppet Show (S)

Confirmed Participants List:

1. American Red Cross Lifeline Services (H)
2. LA City Animal Care and Control (S)
3. The Maple Counseling Center Crisis Response Team (H)
4. Safe Moves (S)
5. LA County Public Health (H)
6. Quake Kare, Inc. (S)
7. Impact- Personal Safety (S)
8. National Weather Service (S)
9. SafetyBeltSafe, USA (S)
10. Automatic Generators, LT Electric & Lighting (S)
11. Alyssa Ann Rush Burn Foundation (H)
12. Teenline (H)
13. Cedars: blood mobile (possibly), blood pressure, hygiene (H)
14. American Cancer Society (H)
15. Vector Control (H)
16. Safety Orange (S)
17. Found Animals (S)
18. Holistic health Practitioners (H)
19. Critter Trapper
20. U.S. Geological Survey (S)
21. Gentle Transitions (S)
22. Department of Building and Safety
23. Department of Communications and Marketing
24. Fire Department (S)
25. Police Department (S)
26. Department of Public Works (S)
27. Department of Recreation and Parks (S)
(H)= Health Related
(S)= Safety Related

Maybe:

1. March of Dimes (H)
2. Pet Rescue Association (S)

Left Messages & Emails:

1. South Coast Air Quality (H)
2. Arrowhead Water (H)
3. Project Get Safe (S)
4. The Child ID Program (S)
5. Sun Mate, Solar-Powered Emergency Equipment (S)
6. California Poison Control System (S)
7. Southern California Earthquake Center (S)
8. Pet Rescue Association (S)
9. Sure Safe (S)
10. Beverly Hills Small Animal Hospital (H)

Received Vendor Forms:

1. American Cancer Society
2. American Red Cross
3. LA County Animal Care and Control
4. LA County Public Health
5. Impact-Personal Safety
6. Found Animals
7. Holistic Health Practitioners
8. Critter Trapper
9. Gentle Transitions
10. Cedars
11. Vector Control
12. Safety Organge

(H)= Health Related
(S)= Safety Related
INTRODUCTION

On October 15, 2009 at 10:15 a.m., the City of Beverly Hills will join the State of California and the County of Los Angeles, and many stakeholders in participating in the Great California Shakeout drill. On that date, the City, the BHUSD and various businesses and residents will stop what they are doing and react as if an earthquake has occurred; responding by dropping to the ground, taking cover under something sturdy, and holding on: DROP, COVER and HOLD.

DISCUSSION

We all must become better prepared for major earthquakes, and also practice how to protect ourselves when they occur. The purpose of the earthquake drill, is to help people and organizations do both. Compared to the rest of the country, California is considered a high earthquake risk. As with anything, to react quickly you must practice often. We may only have seconds to protect ourselves, before strong shaking knocks us down or drops something on us. The idea is, if we practice now, then when an earthquake actually occurs, we will take the correct action by automatically dropping to the ground, taking cover and holding on. On October 15, 2009 at 10:15 a.m., City staff will join millions of others by participating in the Shakeout Drill. All employees will stop and react accordingly. The City hopes residents and businesses will do the same. Information on how to prepare and how to join the City and millions of others is found at www.shakeout.org.

Drill goals for all City departments are as follows:

- practice DROP
- practice COVER
- practice HOLD
- practice the activation of the EERT (Employee Emergency Response Team)
- practice the initial reporting and compiling of information on City facility damage, city injuries, and department status.
The initial drill will last two minutes, but the remaining drill may last up to one hour.

FISCAL IMPACT
None

RECOMMENDATION
Commissioners are asked to go to www.shakeout.org and sign up to participate as well as encourage residents and businesses to do the same. Commissioners are welcome to observe and participate in the drill at any City facility. This memo was also provided to the City Council at the September 15th City Council meeting.

Pamela Mottice Muller
Individuals and Families
Get Ready to ShakeOut!

At 10:15 a.m. on October 15, 2009, millions of Californians will "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" in The Great California ShakeOut, the largest earthquake drill ever! Everyone is encouraged to participate in the drill wherever you are at 10:15 a.m. on 10/15!

Major earthquakes may happen anywhere you work, live, or travel in California. The ShakeOut is our chance to practice how to protect ourselves, and for everyone to become prepared. The goal is to prevent disasters from becoming catastrophes.

Why is a "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" drill important? As with anything, to act quickly you must practice often. You may only have seconds to protect yourself in an earthquake before strong shaking knocks you down, or something falls on you.

Nearly 5.5 million Southern Californians participated in the 2008 ShakeOut. Now statewide, the Great California ShakeOut will be held on the third Thursday of October each year.

Everyone can participate! Individuals, families, businesses, schools, government agencies and organizations are all invited to register.

Register today at ShakeOut.org

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Here are simple things individuals and families can do to participate in the ShakeOut. Instructions and resources can be found at ShakeOut.org/individuals.

Plan Your Drill:
• Register at www.ShakeOut.org/register to be counted in the ShakeOut Drill, get email updates, and more.
• Have a "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" drill at 10:15 a.m. on October 15.
• Discuss what you learned and make improvements.

Get Prepared for Earthquakes:
• Do a "hazard hunt" for items that might fall during earthquakes and secure them.
• Create a personal or family disaster plan.
• Organize or refresh your emergency supply kits.
• Identify and correct any issues in your home’s structure.
• Other actions are at www.earthquakecountry.org.

Share the ShakeOut:
• Invite everyone who matters to you to register.
• Have a neighborhood party to discuss preparedness, and register for the ShakeOut.
• Encourage your community, employer, or other groups you are involved with to participate.
• Share your experience at www.shakeout.org/drill.

As a registered ShakeOut participant you will:
• Learn what you can do to get prepared
• Be counted in the largest earthquake drill ever!
• Receive ShakeOut news and other earthquake information
• Set an example that motivates others to participate
INTRODUCTION

The Office of Emergency Management has conducted research on possible Health and Safety Awards. This is a compilation of examples based off of the information that was found.

DISCUSSION

In researching health and safety awards that other cities, communities, and organizations have given out in the past, the Office of Emergency Management has gathered a number of examples for the Health and Safety Commission to discuss.

Options:

- **Private Sector Award**: for private sector organizations or individuals who have shown exceptional efforts in the field of emergency preparedness. Can be issued for preparedness efforts or for response to a specific event.
- **Individual Community Volunteer Award**: for outstanding individual effort that contributes to a safer and healthier community.
- **Public Awareness Award**: for an outstanding contribution in raising public awareness/understanding of community health and safety issues.
- **Nonprofit Organization Award**: for the recognition of a nonprofit organization that contributes to the greater well-being and safety of the local community.
- **Safer School Award**: for the BHUSD school that has done the most to improve personal health and safety awareness among pupils and staff.
- **Good Samaritan Award**: for the recognition of a citizen who has performed an exemplary act that displays a willingness to take quick and decisive action where another's well-being is concerned.
- **Student Association Award**: for a group of students (i.e. a club at BHHS) that has made a positive impact on the health and safety of other students, the school, or the community as a whole.

Although specific criteria should be discussed in greater detail, it is suggested that to be eligible for each of these awards the recipient must either be a resident of Beverly Hills or have made a positive impact on the city in the areas of health and safety.
FISCAL IMPACT
Plaques are budgeted in the Commission's budget

RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that the Commission discuss the types of awards and decide which award or combination of awards should be sponsored. The Commission may want to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to study the issue further and make recommendations.

This is a project slated for the beginning of next calendar year but discussions can begin and the Commission can begin to think about this project.
MEMORANDUM

TO: Health and Safety Commissioners
FROM: Pamela Mottice Muller, Director Office of Emergency Management
DATE: September 21, 2009
SUBJECT: H1N1 Planning

Information is included that you may find interesting on H1N1. Planning efforts at the City level are continuing with the Pandemic Task Force meeting the first week of Sept. Staff will discuss the subject further in the meeting.

Commissioner Landau and Setian also provided articles attached and the following websites for review http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3032076/ns/health.
August 10, 2009

Dear Los Angeles County School Administrators:

On August 7, 2009, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued further guidance for schools regarding the pandemic H1N1 flu. The guidance can be found at the CDC website at http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/schools/. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health concurs with the CDC guidance and will soon be issuing our own updated guidance to schools, colleges and universities within the county on practical approaches to limit the spread of pandemic H1N1 flu on school campuses. Some of the key CDC recommendations include:

- **Stay home when sick:** Those with flu-like illness should stay home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever, or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines. A lingering cough may sometimes occur, but should not be the sole reason to refuse readmission.

- **Separate ill students and staff:** Students and staff who appear to have flu-like illness should be sent to a room separate from others until they can be sent home. CDC recommends that they wear a surgical mask, if possible, and that those who care for ill students and staff wear protective gear such as a mask.

- **Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette:** The new recommendations emphasize the importance of the basic foundations of influenza prevention: stay home when sick, wash hands frequently with soap and water when possible, and cover noses and mouths with a tissue when coughing or sneezing (or a shirt sleeve or elbow if no tissue is available).

Because it is so important for those who are sick to stay home, we encourage all families to start planning alternative child care options so that they can keep their child home from school, daycare, or afterschool programs and camps during an illness. We also encourage employers to develop business continuity plans in case sick employees need to take time off for themselves or a family member. These proactive steps can minimize the spread of disease and safeguard the health of our community.

As you may know, the CDC and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) have announced that a large scale pandemic H1N1 flu vaccination campaign is likely to be conducted this fall. While many details of the plan have yet to be determined, our department is developing a comprehensive plan that will be ready for implementation once the vaccine is available.
On July 29, 2009, the CDC announced the population groups that will be prioritized if the vaccine is initially available in extremely limited quantities. Several factors, including current disease patterns, how much vaccine is expected to be available, and the timing of vaccine availability, were considered when determining the priority groups. These five key populations include:

- Persons between the ages of 6 months through 24 years of age,
- Health care and emergency services personnel,
- Pregnant women,
- People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age, and
- People from ages 25 through 64 years who are at higher risk for pandemic H1N1 flu infection because of chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems.

Based on CDC estimates from vaccine manufacturers, the pandemic H1N1 flu vaccine may be ready for distribution in mid-October. Children and young adults ages 24 and younger will be a critical group for H1N1 vaccination because they have been, and will likely continue to be, disproportionately affected by pandemic H1N1 flu. To help coordinate this large scale vaccination effort we will be working with public and private partners including health plans, health care providers, retail pharmacies, community-based groups, hospitals, clinics, and schools.

As soon as we have information on how to obtain pandemic H1N1 flu vaccination in Los Angeles County, we will share it with you and hope you will help urge students to be vaccinated. More than one flu virus can circulate through communities at a time, which is why we are also urging everyone to get the seasonal flu vaccine, which comes out every year. Seasonal vaccine will be available starting this fall, and is recommended for everyone, starting at 6 months of age.

To help schools prepare for this upcoming flu season and to protect the health of school communities in general, we have created an online toolkit for schools with resources including posters, flyers and fact sheets to help prepare and respond to a public health emergency (www.laschooltoolkit.com) as well as an online preparedness training program for schools and communities (www.laschoolhealth.com).

Please feel free to contact our Office of External Relations and Communications at (213) 240-8144 should you have any questions regarding this information. In addition, we encourage you to visit our website (http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov) to get the most up to date information on this situation and to access resources that can be used to promote healthy habits in schools.

We look forward to being in close contact in the upcoming months and thank you for your patience and your continued support as we all work towards ensuring the health of our students, faculty and communities.

Sincerely,

Jonathan E. Fielding, MD, MPH
Director and Health Officer

JEF:ml
August 21, 2009

TO CITY EMERGENCY MANAGERS:

Since the arrival of pandemic H1N1 (formerly called “swine flu”) in the spring, millions of people have been affected, the virus continues to spread and we expect an extensive number of cases in the fall and winter.

On August 19, 2009, a letter was sent out to elected city officials across Los Angeles County to inform them of the Department of Public Health’s (LA County DPH) emergency preparations for pandemic H1N1. As a follow up to that letter, I am writing to ask for assistance in implementing our pandemic H1N1 vaccination program.

To counter the threat of pandemic H1N1, the Federal Government has declared a national health emergency and vaccine is being produced for a national mass vaccination campaign in the fall. Los Angeles County continues to operate under an emergency ordinance due to the ongoing challenges of pandemic H1N1. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has set priority populations for vaccination based on their surveillance and investigation into the behavior of this virus and which segments of the human population are most vulnerable.

The CDC defined priority populations are:

- Pregnant women.
- All people between the ages of 6 months to 24 years.
- Healthcare and Emergency Medical Services personnel.
- People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age.
- People ages 25 to 64 who have chronic illnesses or compromised immune systems.

Approximately half of the population of Los Angeles County, or 5.5 million people, fit into these priority groups. Vaccine for these people will be arriving in mid-October, and Public Health will begin its direct vaccination activities during the third week of October. The Federal Government’s expectation is that Public Health will coordinate the vaccination of this priority population over a two to three month period. The majority of the population will be able to receive vaccine through their regular health care providers with coverage from their health insurance. However, LA County DPH will be activating and operating PODs (Points of Dispensing) to vaccinate the uninsured population which has no other way to receive vaccine. This translates into an estimated 900,000 people.
In order to reach this population close to where they live and work, we will be working closely with a number of community partners, including local City partners, to operate PODs. These pandemic H1N1 PODs will be scheduled beginning the third week of October through the rest of the calendar year, on both weekdays and weekends. This mass vaccination campaign will require PODs to be activated in all areas of the County. Due to the scale of this campaign, we will need many City partners.

To be a POD partner with Public Health, a City must agree to provide the following:

- Work with LA County DPH to choose a suitable facility within the City (previously identified POD sites with completed plans are preferred, but not required).
- Agree to host the POD on dates/times agreeable to both the City and LA County DPH.
- Provide the majority of the non-clinical staffing for the POD (20 City staff members and/or volunteers at a minimum).
- Provide security, traffic control and parking management.

LA County DPH will provide to partner cities the following:

- Training regarding POD operations
- Free vaccination to city staff that are directly involved in staffing the POD

We encourage your City to operate a POD with us so that pandemic H1N1 vaccine is provided to your uninsured residents. The Department will be contacting you to follow-up on this matter. In the interim if you have any questions please contact: Anthony Arakelian, UASI Coordinator at (213) 637-3634 or via e-mail at aarakelian@ph.lacounty.gov.

Each of us has an important role in keeping our communities healthy. For the latest on pandemic H1N1 and to find information about creating emergency plans, visit our website at: http://publichealth.lacounty.gov.

Sincerely,

Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.
Director and Health Officer
Welcome to the first edition of Pandemic H1N1 Update! This publication will provide timely and credible information from the Department of Public Health for Los Angeles County community groups and residents.

Public Health’s Response to Pandemic H1N1

Flu is a serious illness. Pandemic H1N1 (formerly called swine flu) is no exception.

Since April 2009, Pandemic H1N1 has spread easily from person to person and disproportionately affected younger age groups. A number of people, many with underlying conditions, have even died from this virus.

That’s why the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health takes Pandemic H1N1 influenza very seriously.

Public Health is currently taking the following actions to protect the health of LA County residents:

- Conducting influenza surveillance
- Coordinating the provision of seasonal and H1N1 vaccines.
- Promoting prevention messages to limit the spread of disease in communities.
- Communicating risk and disease updates.

Community partners, like you, are essential to spreading accurate information throughout LA County.

Please use this issue and future ones to keep yourself and your partners abreast of Pandemic H1N1 activities. Visit our Website for the latest Pandemic H1N1 and vaccine information: www.publichealth.lacounty.gov.

Preventing H1N1 or Seasonal Flu

No matter the type of virus, preventing the flu requires little effort. Follow these tips to keep healthy:

- **Cover** your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- **Wash** your hands often with soap and water. Gel sanitizers (such as Purelle) are also effective.
- **Avoid touching** your eyes, nose, or mouth since germs spread that way.
- **Avoid close contact** with sick people.
- **If you’re sick, stay home** and rest for at least 24 hours after fever ends.
Who Is at Risk for Flu?

There can be more than one flu virus circulating among LA County residents at any time. That's why both the seasonal flu and H1N1 vaccines will be available later this fall. The best way to prevent getting the flu is by getting a flu shot. However, one vaccine won't prevent getting both flu types because they're caused by different germs.

Since each virus is unique and puts different groups of people at risk, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend the following groups get the vaccines detailed below:

### SEASONAL FLU VACCINE IS RECOMMENDED FOR...
- Anyone that wants to reduce their risk for seasonal flu.

### H1N1 VACCINE IS RECOMMENDED FOR...
- Pregnant women
- Children and young adults from 6 months to 24 years
- People caring for infants under 6 months of age
- People aged 25-64 with a chronic medical condition
- Health care workers
- Emergency medical providers

Vaccine distribution will be through doctors' offices, some pharmacies and workplaces, other private organizations, and through some public organizations, such as the Department of Public Health.

For the latest vaccine information visit these Websites:

Flu Medications

Most people don't need medicine for H1N1 and will get better on their own with rest and fluids. Keep these things in mind when thinking about taking flu medication:

- Antivirals, such as Tamiflu® or Relenza®, are not vaccines and shouldn't be used without a doctor's guidance. These medications prevent problems in most severe flu cases.
- Antivirals are not effective against all types of flu.
- Antibiotics are not effective against viruses.
- Take acetaminophen (Tylenol®), ibuprofen (Motrin®, Advil®), or naproxen (Aleve®) NOT aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid) for fever and body aches.

H1N1 Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
(800) CDC-INFO
(800) 232-4636
www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/general_info.htm

California Department of Public Health
(888) 865-0564
www.cdph.ca.gov

Los Angeles County
Dial 2-1-1 to find health care services in your area
The H1N1 virus is unpredictable, evolving and widespread. Declared a global pandemic in June, the flu is expected to stress U.S. schools, healthcare systems and the economy this fall. A look at where it has spread so far—and who is vulnerable.

**Worldwide**
H1N1 is now the dominant flu strain in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile and New Zealand. Before countries stopped tracking numbers this summer, health officials in the Americas reported five times as many cases as their European counterparts. African nations reported the fewest cases.

**U.S.**
The CDC estimates over 1 million cases in the U.S. Outbreaks were reported this summer in at least 80 camps in 40 states, including a quarter of Maine’s residential summer camps. At Camp Modilli, right, 1 in 5 campers and staffers fell ill, but a quick and effective response contained the virus.

**Who is most affected?**
Each strain of influenza affects age groups differently. So far, swine flu seems to primarily target the young.

**Seasonal Flu**
- % of all ages hospitalized:
  - 0-4: 16%
  - 5-9: 3%
  - 10-17: 3%
  - 18-49: 19%
  - 50-64: 15%
  - 65+: 44%

**Swine Flu**
- % of all ages hospitalized:
  - 0-4: 22%
  - 5-9: 19%
  - 10-17: 15%
  - 18-49: 31%
  - 50-64: 10%
  - 65+: 3%

*Based on 5,830 cases from 2007-08
**Based on 312 cases from April 15 to June 30, 2009

Sources: CDC, American Journal of Public Health
The influenza virus usually enters the body through the respiratory tract. It then invades cells, using them to make more copies of itself. The cell releases the new viruses to infect more cells. The body fights back. The immune system has several layers of defense, including killer T cells, which attack cells overcome by viruses. Eventually, new antibodies are created that can neutralize viruses before they infect cells.

Hemagglutinin (H) Protein allows virus to bind to host cell and enter it. Neuraminidase (N) Enzyme helps viruses break out. Antibodies bind to viruses' H receptors and block the virus from entering healthy cells.

There is no cure for viral infections, but antiviral drugs can lessen the severity and length of influenza. Tamiflu inhibits the N enzyme, preventing the flu virus from reproducing inside infected cells.

When reproducing, viruses can make mistakes in their genetic material or even re assort with other flu viruses. Mutation can create new viruses that the immune system can't recognize.

The H1N1 virus evolved from various swine and avian flu viruses, along with the seasonal H3N2 human-flu virus.

Sources: New England Journal of Medicine; Nature; WHO; CDC; TIME Graphics by Lee Travis and Bryan Walsh
Three federal agencies recently issued a joint press release announcing the release of a new guidance to help businesses plan for and respond to the upcoming flu season. The press release issued by the Department of Commerce Secretary Gary Locke, Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano urges employers to "set the right tone in the workplace" including implementing common sense measures to reduce the risk of spreading the flu and encouraging workers who are sick to stay home. The press release notes that the guidance will help employers prepare for the upcoming influenza season, which will help ensure business continuity necessary to keep the economy functioning. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issued the guidance and a communication toolkit to assist employers in preparing for influenza.

The guidance provides recommendations for two types of situations: 1) a continuation of the current severity level of influenza as was observed during the spring and summer of 2009; and 2) a more severe outbreak. The guidance notes that even if the severity of the virus does not change, planners should expect that there will be more people who are ill in the fall and winter as the 2009 H1N1 outbreaks coincide with seasonal influenza season. The second situation involves an outbreak of greater severity including more people with severe illness and thus, more people hospitalized for influenza complications; more deaths from influenza; and a probable escalation of absenteeism.

In both the press release and the guidance, the government urges employers to allow and encourage workers who have symptoms of influenza-like illness to stay at home without fear of losing their jobs. Other recommendations include hand washing, encouraging workers to cover coughs and sneezes and routine cleaning of commonly touched surfaces. If the severity of illness increases, employers should be ready to implement additional measures as called for by public health officials.

**How Long Should Employees With Influenza-Like Symptoms Stay Home?**

The CDC's new guidance shortened its recommended exclusion period for individuals with influenza-like symptoms. The revised guidance recommends that such individuals stay away from others until at least 24 hours after they are free from fever (100° F or 37.8° C) without the use of fever-reducing medication.

This is a change from the prior recommendation that such individuals stay home for 7 days after the onset of the illness or until 24 hours after the resolution of symptoms, whichever is longer. This new recommendation applies to general community settings where most people are not at increased risk for influenza complications, such as camps, schools, businesses and mass gatherings.

The guidance recommends that sick individuals stay at home until the end of the exclusion period, to the extent possible, except where necessary to seek required medical care. Additionally, the CDC recommends the exclusion period regardless of whether antiviral medications are used.

Are There Special Considerations for Employees Working in Health Care Settings?

Yes, the new guidance does not apply to health care settings. The CDC recommends the exclusion period in such settings continue to be 7 days from the onset of symptoms or 24 hours after the resolution of symptoms, whichever is longer. The CDC's recommendation for health care settings is available on the agency's web site at: http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidelines_infection_control.htm.

How Should Employers Account for Leave Taken by Employees with Influenza-Like Symptoms?

Employers with FMLA policies should tentatively designate the leave taken by an employee with influenza-like symptoms as FMLA leave, pending receipt of required medical certification from a health care provider. If the employer does not have the required number of employees to come within FMLA or comparable state or local leave laws, the employer should provide the employee with accrued sick time if available. If the employee does not have any accrued sick time or FMLA leave available, employers should consult employment counsel and consider providing unpaid leave, in light of the public health risks associated with having employees report to work who may have influenza-like symptoms.

Employers' Bottom Line:

Employers should take an approach that encourages employees to stay at home when they have influenza-like symptoms, rather than having employees report to work out of concern that they do not have any available leave.

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact the Ford & Harrison attorney with whom you usually work or Pedro Forment, a partner in our Miami office who works on workplace environmental, safety and health issues, at 305-808-2104 or pforment@fordharrison.com.
CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
Policy and Management

MEMORANDUM

TO: Health and Safety Commissioners
FROM: Pamela Mottice Muller, Director Office of Emergency Management
DATE: September 21, 2009
SUBJECT: October Meeting

The October meeting falls on the Monday of the Health and Safety Week: October 26. On October 28 at 7:00 pm the Commission will host the Health and Safety Week speaker. Does the Commission want to modify this meeting date?

The Commission has the following options:
- Hold meeting on the 26 Oct. as scheduled.
- Hold meeting on Oct. 26 with minimal agenda items.
- Re-schedule meeting to Wed. October 28. Hold meeting, full or minimal agenda items, before the speaker.
- Cancel October meeting due to week activities.

It should be noted that you may have a substitute staff liaison for this meeting.