City of Beverly Hills

Health and Safety Commission
Regular Meeting

March 28, 2011
4:00 PM
City Hall Room 280-A
455 N. Rexford Drive

Enhancing the Health and Safety of Our Community
CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
City Hall Room 280-A
455 N. Rexitford Drive
AGENDA

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
March 28, 2011
4:00 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. COMMISSION MINUTES
   • Consideration of minutes of February 28, 2011.

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 – March 9.
   • Other items of interest.

F. DIRECTOR'S REPORT
   • Report from Myra Lurie, Beverly Hills School District Board Member
   • Information Only:
     a) Beverly Hills CPR Newsletter – March 2011
     b) List of Health and Safety Commissioners and Term Dates
     c) Commission Calendar
     d) Tobacco Ordinance – Smokeless Tobacco
     e) City Council Liaisons to Health and Safety Commission
   • Other Items

G. NEW BUSINESS
   1. Neighborhood Watch on April 9th – Officer Don Chase
   2. Japan Earthquake & Radiation Issues
   3. April is Earthquake Month
   4. Health and Safety Awards Video

   • COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS
      Commissioners' brief responses to public comments, questions for clarification, brief
      announcements, request for information, and brief reports on activities.

   • ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m.

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

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Setian.

C. COMMISSION MINUTES
MOVED by Aronberg, SECONDED by Kopeikin to approve the minutes of the meeting on
January 24, 2011 (7/0)
Ayes: Aronberg, Millan, Kopeikin, Seidel, Setian, Landau, Judelson
Noes: None
Absent: None
CARRIED.

D. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE
None.

E. REPORT FROM THE CHAIRPERSON
MAYOR'S CABINET MEETING – FEBRUARY 9, 2011.
Chair Landau attended the Mayor's Cabinet Meeting on February 9th.
He reviewed the items which were discussed by the other Commissions at the Mayor's
Cabinet Meeting.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST
Chair Landau attended the “ARKstorm” Seminar on Friday, February 25th given by Dr. Lucy
Jones. The presentation specified the possible scenario for the storm, levels of damage, and
ways to prepare. Chair Landau’s notes from the presentation will be provided to appropriate
staff. More information on ARKstorm can be found at http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2010/1312/.

F. DIRECTOR'S REPORT
REPORT FROM MYRA LURIE, BEVERLY HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER
Ms Lurie reported the following items:
• BHUSD will soon announce that the High School's campus will be a “closed
campus” with limited access points, due to security concerns.
• An analysis of the district’s K-8 schools has been completed, showing that there
are some security adjustments that need to be made at these schools. BHUSD is
continuing to take positive action to make all campuses safe and secure.
• BHUSD's search for a new Superintendent continues. If any Commissioners wish to speak to the search firm, they should contact Ms. Lurie.
• The High School's morning snack program will undergo budget cuts. A staff position for this program has been eliminated, and the program will now focus on providing healthy snack options via vending machines in the school.
• The School Board approved budget cuts at its last meeting. Staff layoffs were approved, and furloughs and salary freezes are also possible.
• The Bond is moving forward. A master plan is being created to utilize bond money.

INFORMATION ONLY- no comment
a) BHUSD FAC Meeting Minutes — December 15, 2010
b) BHUSD FAC Meeting Minutes — January 13, 2011
c) BHUSD FAC Meeting Minutes — January 27, 2011
d) CPR Newsletter - February 2011
e) Commission Calendar

OTHER ITEMS
Director Mottice Muller invited Commissioners to volunteer at the Office of Emergency Management booth at Woofstock 90210 on Sunday, March 13th, and the City's Earth Day celebration on Sunday, April 10th. Director Mottice Muller reminded the Commission that the focus for the Earth Day event this year is earthquake preparedness.

G. NEW BUSINESS
1. UPDATE OF SERVICES FOR LA COUNTY WEST VECTOR & VECTOR-BORNE DISEASE CONTROL DISTRICT
Bill DiSalvo, Trustee for the City of Beverly Hills, of LA County Vector Control spoke briefly to the Commission. Mr. DiSalvo reviewed the services that LA County Vector Control provides, and explained some of the insect problems that occur here in the city. Vector receives the highest amount of bee service calls from within the City of Beverly Hills. They believe this is due to the city's large amount green areas.
Mr. DiSalvo passed out a flyer which includes contact information for Vector Control. The flyer also provides information on insects and how to protect yourself and your home.
The Commission requested that the City's Parks staff and other City staff receive training. Director Mottice Muller agreed to arrange this training.

2. FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE LIAISON APPOINTMENT
Commissioner Seidel, who has been serving as the Commission's liaison to the School District's Facilities Advisory Committee, can no longer attend the meetings. Commissioner Seidel described the duties and responsibilities of the Commission's representative on the FAC, and noted that meeting frequency will increase soon as more activity will take place with the bond.
As no other commissioners volunteered to serve as liaison, Chair Landau will attend the meetings, and the Commission will consider rotating this position at another time.

3. NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH BLOCK PARTY DISCUSSION
Commissioners engaged in a discussion about the Neighborhood Watch Party which took place on February 12th. The discussion included a new name for the event, positives, negatives, and what can be improved upon. The details of this discussion will be provided to Officer Don Chase to take into consideration for the upcoming Neighborhood Watch events.
Commissioners agreed that the event was a success.
4. HEALTH AND SAFETY AWARDS
Director Mottice Muller informed the Commission that the winners of the Beverly Hills Community Health and Safety Awards will be recognized at a City Council meeting in May. A date for this meeting has not yet been determined due to the upcoming City Council election. Commissioners were asked to look at pictures of possible plaques to present to the winners, and make note of the ones they preferred. Staff will purchase an engraved plaque to present to the winners at the City Council meeting.

5. AM RADIO
Director Mottice Muller requested the Commission's support and input on the use of the City's AM 1500 radio station. Commissioners stated that the radio station has been underutilized in recent years, and could be put to better use on a regular basis. They agreed it is a very valuable tool to use before, during and after a disaster. Commissioner Judelson suggested announcing street closures, traffic reports and traffic delays on the station.

6. LA MARATHON PLANNING – MARCH 20, 2011
Director Mottice Muller reviewed the date, time and street closures for the marathon. She also reminded Commissioners how they can sign up to volunteer at the event.

H. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS
• Commissioner Seidel noted that he had a traffic safety concern. Director Mottice Muller asked Commissioner Seidel to type up a description of this, and she will pass it along to the appropriate staff person.
• Commissioner Setian shared with the Commission an article in a newsletter about a "smokeless tobacco" product. He asked if the City's Tobacco Retailer ordinance covered the sale of such items to minors. Director Mottice Muller stated that she thought these items were addressed in the ordinance, but will research this and get back to the Commission.
• The remainder of the "Every 15 Minutes" video was viewed by Commissioners. Commissioner Setian reiterated the importance of this program to encourage students to make good decisions.
• Chair Landau informed the Commission that the next DUI checkpoint will take place on March 17th from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at La Cienega and Gregory.

I. ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business, Chair Landau, with the consent of the Commission, adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

PASSED, Approved and Adopted
This _______ of ______________, 2011

________________________________________
Peter Landau, Chair
Just because February was "Heart Health Awareness" month doesn't mean we should stop caring for our heart now that it's passed. Here at Beverly Hills CPR we are joining The American Heart Association in its efforts to promote Heart Health. Our focus is to reduce preventable deaths from heart disease, provide training for as many people as possible in CPR as well as the use of AED's (automated external defibrillators), first aid and the Heimlich Maneuver. If you are a Healthcare Professional or just someone part of the General Public looking for a CPR or First Aid certification we are a one stop shop with a wide range of classes to fit your needs.

In this edition of our newsletter we will provide articles on how to maintain a healthy heart and as always supply a list of our upcoming classes. Our hope is to have you join us and The American Heart Association in pursuing a healthy heart for you and your loved ones!

Sincerely,
Les Bronte
Administrative Coordinator
Beverly Hills CPR
Beverly Hills CPR is a non-profit organization that relies on donations from the community to keep the program running. Through your generous donation you are helping to save a life.

To make a donation you can reach us at the contact information provided above.

Please be advised that we also offer all of our classes as an online course followed by a short skills test that takes place one hour prior to each of our regularly scheduled classes.
Heart Healthy Recipes
By: Ellen Lund
Freemont Tribune.com
Published: February 22, 2011

One of the newest tools that the American Heart Association promotes on their website is its Life's Simple Seven which is a guide to heart health factors and strategies for achieving a heart healthy lifestyle.

The Simple Seven are: get active, control cholesterol, eat better, manage blood pressure, lose weight, reduce blood sugars and stop smoking.

Under the eat better factor the association makes the following recommendations:

"Vegetables and fruits are high in vitamins, minerals and fiber - and they're low in calories. Eating a variety of fruits and vegetables may help you control your weight and your blood pressure.

Unrefined whole-grain foods contain fiber that can help lower your blood cholesterol and help you feel full, which may help you manage your weight.

Eat fish at least twice a week. Recent research shows that eating oily fish containing omega-3 fatty acids (salmon, trout, and herring) may help lower your risk of death from coronary artery disease. Choose lean meats and poultry without skin and prepare them without added saturated and trans fat. Select fat-free, 1 percent fat and low-fat dairy products. Cut back on foods containing partially hydrogenated vegetable oils to reduce trans fat in your diet. Aim to eat less than 300 milligrams of cholesterol each day. Choose and prepare foods with little or no salt. Aim to eat less than 1,500 milligrams of sodium per day."

Here are several wonderfully tasty yet healthful recipes from its pages; be sure to click the link below for the full recipe of each.
Last June, Beverly Hills High School health teacher Colleen Lynch began collaborating with Beverly Hills CPR. "CPR and first aid were added to the health education state standards. I wanted to incorporate it into our curriculum with student certification," Lynch said.

Not too long after, Beverly Hills CPR was given a generous donation from Mercedes Benz of Beverly Hills to make these training sessions a reality. As a result, Beverly Hills CPR was welcomed back to Beverly Hills High School in December where over 150 students were successfully trained and certified in First Aid practices, CPR, and the use of an AED (automated external defibrillator) according to the requirements set forth by the American Heart Association."Many of my students were very excited and enthusiastic about getting their certification. In fact, I had a student tell me he saved a life over winter break." said Lynch.

It wasn't long before we received the following statement from Mrs. Lynch,

It turns out, one of the students was involved in an emergency situation over the holiday break. Although they wished to remain anonymous, the student explained how they knew what to do as a result of their training provided by Beverly Hills CPR. Furthermore, the student explained that they felt comfortable in knowing that they did everything they possible could to successfully revive the unconscious victim.

Although we hope no child ever needs to use their skills, Beverly Hills CPR is proud that our students know what to do in an emergency situation and we commend this young adult for taking action and putting their CPR skills to good use.

Know CPR? An App Can Help Connect You to Someone In Need

www.techcrunch.com

Wednesday, 2 February 2011

On January 25, tech news site Tech Crunch reported on a
new iPhone app that aims to connect CPR-trained good Samaritans to people in urgent situations, particularly those suffering heart attacks.

If you’re trained in CPR’s life-saving techniques and are willing to help strangers in need, the app allows you to receive an alert if someone in crisis is located in your general area. When an emergency dispatch center (911 in the US) receives a call for an emergency occurring near you, you receive a notification with the victim’s location. If the victim is suffering from a heart attack, the app tells you if and where you can find an automated external defibrillator on the way or nearby.

For the complete article, click here.

Les Bronte
Administrative Coordinator
Beverly Hills CPR
Health & Safety Commissioners

Chairperson Peter B. Landau *(11/20/07 - 11/19/13)
Vice Chairperson Debra Judelson, MD *(11/20/07 - 11/19/13)
Commissioner David Seidel *(11/20/07 - 11/19/12)
Commissioner Sandra Aronberg, MD *(11/20/07 - 11/19/12)
Commissioner Stacia Kopeikin *(11/20/07 - 11/19/14)
Commissioner Gail Millan *(11/20/07 - 11/19/14)
Commissioner Karen Setian *(11/20/07 - 11/19/13)

* Term dates
## HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION CALENDAR

**Updated: 3/23/11**

### MARCH 2011

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Health and Safety Commission
FROM: Pamela Mottice Muller, Director Office of Emergency Management
DATE: March 28, 2011
SUBJECT: Smoking Ordinance – Smokeless Tobacco Products

At the February 28th meeting, Commissioner Setian asked if the City's Smoking Ordinance covered the sale of “smokeless tobacco” products to minors. The attached excerpt from the ordinance shows that “smokeless tobacco” products are covered under the definition of tobacco product.
4-2-2102: DEFINITIONS:

For purposes of this article, the following words and terms shall be defined as follows:

PERMITTEE: Any proprietor holding a permit issued by the city pursuant to this article.

PERSON: Any individual, partnership, copartnership, firm, association, joint stock company, corporation, or combination of the above in whatever form or character.

PROPRIETOR: A person with an ownership or managerial interest in a business. An ownership interest shall be deemed to exist when a person has a ten percent (10%) or greater interest in the stock assets, or income of a business other than the sole interest of security for debt. A managerial interest shall be deemed to exist when a person can or does have, or can or does share ultimate control over the day to day operations of a business.

TOBACCO PARAPHERNALIA: Includes cigarette papers or wrappers, pipes, holders of smoking materials of all types, cigarette rolling machines, and any other item designed for the smoking or ingestion of tobacco or products prepared from tobacco.

TOBACCO PRODUCT: Any manufactured substance made from the tobacco plant, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco and smokeless tobacco, or products prepared from tobacco and designed for smoking or ingestion.

TOBACCO RETAILER: Any person or business that operates a store, stand, booth, concession or other place at which the person or business sells, offers for sale, or exchanges or offers to exchange for any form of consideration, tobacco, tobacco products or tobacco paraphernalia.

TOBACCO RETAILER PERMIT: A permit issued by the city authorizing a proprietor to engage in tobacco retailing.

TOBACCO RETAILING: The selling, offering for sale or exchanging or offering to exchange for any form of consideration tobacco, tobacco products or tobacco
With the recent election and City Council rotation, the City Council liaisons to the Health and Safety Commission are Mayor Barry Brucker and Councilmember Julian Gold.
The next two Neighborhood Watch Community Gatherings will be held as follows:

April 9  800 N. Roxbury

June 5  200 N. Gale

The Commission's comments were passed on to Officer Don Chase. He will attend the meeting to discuss and advise changes to the program.

Staff plans on having available for distribution by the Commission the same handouts and items. Please advise if there are changes or suggestions.
Commissioners Millan and Setian requested a discussion on messaging issues regarding the Japan earthquake and radiation exposure to California.

Attached is a Frequently Asked Questions sheet from the California Department of health and press releases from Dr. Fielding of County Public Health.

Concerned community members who have contacted the City have been told that there is currently no risk and for further questions to call the Public Health hotline. Information has been posted on the website and cable television.
FAQs About Radiation

According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Japan's nuclear emergency presents no danger to California. CDPH is working closely with our state and federal partners, including NRC, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Energy, FEMA Region IX, and the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA).

California has a plan of response for radiological emergencies if one were to arise. Plans include the Nuclear Radiological Emergency Program and the National Response Framework.

Frequently Asked Questions
Updated: March 18, 1:30 p.m.

- Q. Is a plume of radiation coming to California?
  A. At present, all data from state and federal sources show that harmful radiation won't reach California. CDPH is monitoring the situation, working closely with our federal, state and local partners.

- Q. How much radiation will reach California?
  A. No harmful radiation. Distance, time, and weather is in our favor. Japan is 5,000 miles from California. Radiation levels lessen with distance and we don't expect much above the amounts we see everyday. Precipitation removes radiation from the atmosphere.

- Q. What's the everyday level of radiation we receive?
  A. The typical North American exposure from natural background radiation is 2.0 millirem per day. A chest x-ray would expose an individual to 10 millirems. Radiation from Japan is expected to be thousands of times less than daily background radiation from natural and man-made sources—like the sun, air, soil, medical imaging, and life-saving therapies.

- Q. What's a millirem?
  A. A millirem is a dose of ionizing radiation. The average American is exposed to approximately 620 millirems of radiation each year from natural and medical sources.

- Q. Is there a danger of radiation from the Japanese nuclear incident making it to the United States?
  A. Given the thousands of miles between the two countries, Hawaii, Alaska, the U.S. Territories and the U.S., the West Coast is not expected to experience any harmful levels of radioactivity. In response to nuclear emergencies, CDPH works with state and federal agencies to monitor radioactive releases and predict their paths.

- Q. What is the state and federal government doing to monitor radiation?
  A. CDPH Radiologic Health Branch maintains eight air monitoring stations throughout California. They are located in Eureka (2 units), Richmond, Livermore, Avila Beach, San Luis Obispo, Los Angeles and San Diego. CDPH has increased surveillance from once a week to every 48 hours. The United States Environmental Protection Agency operates a network of air monitors in California and has recently enhanced its capability in response to the Japan nuclear crisis (U.S. EPA has real time monitoring capability).

PREVIOUSLY POSTED FAQ

- Q. Does California have a plan in place to respond to a radiological emergency?
  A. CDPH has a plan for response to radiological emergencies, called the Nuclear Emergency Response Plan. This plan is exercised regularly with local and federal partners in the communities around our nuclear power plants.

- Q. Does California stockpile supplies for such an emergency?
  A. California does stockpile emergency supplies, including potassium iodide (KI) tablets. Potassium iodide tablets are not recommended at this time, and can cause significant side effects in people with allergies to iodine, shellfish or who have thyroid problems. Potassium iodide tablets should not be taken unless directed by authorities.

- Q. Why are potassium iodide tablets used during emergencies involving radiation exposure?
  A. Potassium iodide (KI) tablets may be recommended to individuals who are at risk for radiation exposure...
or have been exposed to excessive radiation to block the body's absorption of radioactive iodine. Using KI when inappropriate could have rare but serious side effects such as abnormal heart rhythms, nausea, vomiting, electrolyte abnormalities and bleeding.

• Q. Should I be taking potassium iodide to protect myself?
  A. No. Potassium iodide (KI) tablets are not recommended at this time, and can present a danger to people with allergies to iodine, shellfish or who have thyroid problems.

• Q. Should I purchase potassium iodide as a precaution?
  A. No. KI is only appropriate within close proximity to a nuclear event. Using KI when inappropriate could have potential serious side effects such as abnormal heart rhythms, nausea, vomiting, electrolyte abnormalities and bleeding.

• Q. Are there any protective measures I should currently take?
  A. The best thing anyone can do is to stay informed. CDPH and other state and federal partners are monitoring the situation. If circumstances change, officials will alert the public to appropriate precautionary procedures. But, again, at this time, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission reports Japan's nuclear emergency presents no danger to California.

While California is not at risk of significant radiation from Japan, we are at risk of major earthquakes. People who live in earthquake prone regions should stock emergency supplies of food, water, and other emergency supplies to be self sufficient for at least 3-5 days.

For additional information:
CDPH Information Line: (916) 341-3947 Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time
CDPH Media Inquiries: (916) 440-7259, CDPHPress@cdph.ca.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636), Seven days a week, 24 hours a day

CDPH Media Briefing March 17, 2011
Audio of Media Briefing (MPEG, 8.1 MB
Includes media questions and answers

Opening Statements

Other Resources
Governor Brown and CDPH Interim Director Statement on Radiation Safety
Issued March 18, 2011
CDC Information on Potassium Iodide (KI)
CDC Radiation Emergencies
Information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
NRC news releases
Information from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Emergencias causadas por radiación
Remarks by the President on the Situation in Japan
Made March 17, 2011

Last modified on: 3/21/2011 12:10 PM

http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Pages/RadiationFAQS2011.aspx
For Immediate Release:
March 15, 2011

HEALTH ADVISORY:

LA County residents cautioned to AVOID ingesting potassium iodide; based on current situation, there is NO increased risk of radiation exposure from nuclear power complex situation in Japan

LOS ANGELES — The damage to nuclear reactors in Japan has understandably lead to concerns about the safety of individuals throughout the world, including here in Los Angeles County. The County Health Officer, Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding, is cautioning residents against ingesting potassium iodide (KI) as a precaution against possible radiation exposure. It is not an effective precautionary measure.

“There is no increased risk of harmful levels of radiation exposure in the United States based on the situation to date at the nuclear power complex in Japan. Residents who ingest potassium iodide out of concern of possible exposure from this situation are doing something which is not only ineffective, but could also cause side effects,” said Jonathan E. Fielding, MD, MPH, Director of Public Health and Health Officer. “If a need should arise for residents to start taking potassium iodide to guard against effects of radiation exposure, the Los Angeles County Public Health Department — along with other local, state and federal agencies — will inform the public. We do not anticipate this need.”

However, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health — along with other local, state and federal agencies — is actively monitoring the situation. These agencies utilize a number of redundant monitoring systems capable of detecting any significant elevation in radiation levels. The public is encouraged to check reliable sources for up-to-date information.

Potassium iodide, or KI, is a stable form of iodine. During a nuclear emergency, persons may be exposed to a radioactive form of iodine, which can be harmful to the thyroid gland. In such an event, public health officials may recommend use of KI to offer some protection. KI is not recommended for use as a precautionary medication, unless there is a specific emergency that warrants use as recommended by public health officials.

Although usually benign, it can be harmful to people with allergies to iodine or shellfish, those with certain skin disorders, or those with thyroid problems. Observed but infrequent side effects of ingesting potassium iodide include nausea, intestinal upset, rashes, inflammation of the salivary glands, and possibly severe allergic reactions. KI cannot protect the body from radioactive elements other than radioactive iodine—if radioactive iodine is not present, taking KI is no: protective.
All residents are reminded to prepare a basic, emergency kit to prepare for any kind of disaster. While potassium iodide is not a recommended component of such a kit, there are at least 10 Essential Items, as recommended by the Emergency Survival Program in LA County’s Office of Emergency Management, which should be included:

1. Water  
2. Food  
3. Cash and Important Documents  
4. Clothes  
5. Flashlight  
6. First Aid Kit  
7. Prescription Medication  
8. Radio  
9. Toiletries  
10. Tools

These essential items will help ensure that people have access to basic essentials when other resources may not be available during an emergency. It is also vital that families put together a Communications Plan, such as a pre-planned place to meet and a designated out-of-state contact, in case family members are separated or at work or school when a disaster strikes.

For more information on earthquake and disaster readiness, call (866) 999-5228 or the LA County Information Line at 2-1-1. Additional information can be found on the Public Health website at http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov.

For more information on potassium iodide (KI), visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s website at http://emergency.cdc.gov/radiation/ki.asp.

The Department of Public Health is committed to protecting and improving the health of the nearly 10 million residents of Los Angeles County. Through a variety of programs, community partnerships and services, Public Health oversees environmental health, disease control, and community and family health. Public Health comprises more than 4,000 employees and has an annual budget exceeding $750 million. To learn more about Public Health and the work we do, please visit http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov, visit our YouTube channel at http://www.youtube.com/lapublichealth, or follow us on Twitter: LAPublicHealth.

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For Immediate Release:
March 18, 2011

HEALTH ADVISORY: UPDATE #2
Public Health, Emergency Management Officials Reiterate: There is NO increased risk of radiation exposure from nuclear power complex situation in Japan

LOS ANGELES – The Los Angeles County Health Officer, Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding, reiterated to all residents that there is no increased risk of harmful levels of radiation exposure in the United States based on the situation at the nuclear power complex in Japan. Dr. Fielding participated in a joint agency conference call to discuss this topic yesterday, March 17, 2011, with Dr. Howard Backer, Interim Director of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and Mike Dayton, Acting Secretary for the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal-EMA).

“We understand there is concern over the nuclear power complex situation in Japan, and we want to reassure everyone that multiple agencies at the local, state and federal levels are working together to monitor this situation out of an abundance of caution,” said Jonathan E. Fielding, MD, MPH, Director of Public Health and Health Officer. “Our position has not changed: we still do not expect to see an increase in harmful levels of radiation in California. We will continue to provide you with the latest, most accurate information possible.”

Recently, news reports have discussed plume models that forecast the path of radiation released in Japan. These models do not track actual radiation levels, but instead make a prediction of where radiation may be carried based on weather patterns at that particular moment. Given that more than 5,000 miles separate Southern California from Japan, any radiation from Japan is expected to disperse well before reaching the West Coast. The public should be reassured that LA County is equipped with highly sensitive, redundant monitoring systems capable of detecting any significant elevation in radiation levels.

The public is encouraged to check reliable sources for up-to-date information on this issue. CDPH has set up a hotline with information available in English and Spanish at (916) 341-3947. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also has a hotline with information available 24/7 at (800) CDC-INFO (800-232-4636).

“We also want to deter people from ingesting potassium iodide (KI) out of concern of possible exposure. Taking KI is not only ineffective, but could also cause side effects,” said Dr. Fielding. “If a need should arise for residents to start taking potassium iodide to guard against effects of radiation exposure, the Los Angeles County Public Health Department – along with other local, state and federal agencies – will inform the public. We do not anticipate this need.”

Potassium iodide, or KI, is a stable form of iodine. During a nuclear emergency, persons may be exposed to a radioactive form of iodine, which can be harmful to the thyroid gland. In such an
event, public health officials may recommend use of KI to offer some protection. KI is not recommended for use as a precautionary medication, unless there is a specific emergency that warrants use as recommended by public health officials.

Although usually benign, it can be harmful to people with allergies to iodine or shellfish, those with certain skin disorders, or those with thyroid problems. Observed but infrequent side effects of ingesting potassium iodide include nausea, intestinal upset, rashes, inflammation of the salivary glands, and possibly severe allergic reactions. KI cannot protect the body from radioactive elements other than radioactive iodine—if radioactive iodine is not present, taking KI is not protective.

All residents are reminded to prepare a basic, emergency kit to prepare for any kind of disaster. While potassium iodide is not a recommended component of such a kit, there are at least 10 Essential Items, as recommended by the Emergency Survival Program in LA County’s Office of Emergency Management, which should be included:

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7. Prescription Medication
8. Radio
9. Toiletries
10. Tools

These essential items will help ensure that people have access to basic essentials when other resources may not be available during an emergency. It is also vital that families put together a Communications Plan, such as a pre-planned place to meet and a designated out-of-state contact, in case family members are separated or at work or school when a disaster strikes.

For more general information on earthquake and disaster readiness, visit the Public Health website at http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov.

A replay of the joint agency conference call held with Public Health, CDPH and Cal-EMA is available at http://cdph.ca.gov/Pages/DEFAULT.aspx.

For more information on potassium iodide (KI), visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s website at http://emergency.cdc.gov/radiation/ki.asp.

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For Immediate Release:
March 21, 2011

HEALTH ADVISORY: UPDATE #3
No risk to LA County food and water supply; No health risks from airline passengers arriving from Japan

LOS ANGELES - The latest news reports concerning the nuclear power complex situation in Japan may have some residents concerned about food and drinking water safety here in the United States. The County Health Officer would like to reassure all residents that there is no risk of radiation contamination to the current food or drinking water supply in Los Angeles County, and no risk from foods previously imported from Japan.

"Food and livestock produced and grown in California are not at risk as there is no indication that harmful levels of radiation will reach our state. Drinking water supplies in Los Angeles County are frequently monitored to ensure safety. There is no risk to the water supply," said Jonathan E. Fielding, MD, MPH, Director of Public Health and Health Officer. "Food and other products previously imported from Japan into our state are also safe as these were produced and distributed well before this tragedy occurred."

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) are both actively monitoring the situation in Japan, and are working with the Japanese government and other U.S. agencies to ensure the continued safety of imported food and other products. The FDA already has a strict screening process in place for imports.

"There may also be concerns over airline passengers arriving in LA County from Japan. Let me reassure you that these passengers do not pose a health risk to others as a result of this unfortunate situation in Japan," said Dr. Fielding. "Most passengers are being screened for possible radiation contamination upon arrival at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)."

LAX and U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) are using radiation detection devices to screen new arrivals and their baggage. If decontamination is needed, typical actions would include removing affected clothing, and washing with soap and water. Baggage may be wiped down or thrown away.

The public is encouraged to check reliable sources for up-to-date information on this issue. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has set up a hotline with information available in English and Spanish at (916) 341-3947. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also has a hotline with information available 24/7 at (800) CDC-INFO (800-232-4636).

For more information from the FDA on radiation safety, visit http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/PublicHealthFocus/ucm247403.htm.

For more information from the USDA regarding food imports, please visit http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome.

"Again, I want to remind everyone that they should avoid taking potassium iodide (KI) out of concern of possible exposure to radiation. Taking KI is not only ineffective, but could also cause side effects," said Dr. Fielding. "I would also caution against purchasing products that claim to prevent or treat effects of radiation. These products come in all varieties, such as dietary supplements, devices or vaccines, and could cause harm. The best prevention is to prepare a basic emergency kit to prepare for any kind of disaster."

While potassium iodide is not a recommended component of such a kit, there are at least 10 Essential Items, as recommended by the Emergency Survival Program in LA County's Office of Emergency Management, which should be included:

1. Water
2. Food
3. Cash and Important Documents
4. Clothes
5. Flashlight
6. First Aid Kit
7. Prescription Medication
8. Radio
9. Toiletries
10. Tools

These essential items will help ensure that people have access to basic essentials when other resources may not be available during an emergency. It is also vital that families put together a Communications Plan, such as a pre-planned place to meet and a designated out-of-state contact, in case family members are separated or at work or school when a disaster strikes.

For more general information on earthquake and disaster readiness, visit the Public Health website at http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov.

For more information on potassium iodide (KI), visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website at http://emergency.cdc.gov/radiation/ki.asp.

The Department of Public Health is committed to protecting and improving the health of the nearly 10 million residents of Los Angeles County. Through a variety of programs, community partnerships and services, Public Health oversees environmental health, disease control, and community and family health. Public Health comprises more than 4,000 employees and has an annual budget exceeding $750 million. To learn more about Public Health and the work we do, please visit http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov, visit our YouTube channel at http://www.youtube.com/lapublichealth, or follow us on Twitter: LAPublicHealth.

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Related Information Site(s): Food and Drug Administration Information | U.S. Department of Agriculture Information
INTRODUCTION

Earthquake Preparedness Month is held each April to encourage community members to take simple steps to prepare for earthquakes. Building upon previous years’ efforts, a variety of outreach efforts designed to reach all segments of the community, including employees and residents, are planned for April.

DISCUSSION

The City of Beverly Hills will focus on the importance of earthquake preparedness throughout the community with the “When It Rocks...Are You Ready to Roll” campaign. The campaign has two components: employee preparedness and community preparedness.

The sixth annual employee preparedness campaign will encourage employees to evaluate their disaster supply kits and provide them with a resource guide that will have the information and links where to purchase earthquake preparedness items.

The third annual community preparedness campaign will encourage residents to evaluate their financial preparedness. The campaign flyer will provide them with a checklist of basic emergency financial preparedness.
Meeting Date: March 28, 2011

Educational information will be made available throughout the month. The community can find this information as follows:

- "April is Earthquake Preparedness Month" banners displayed on City streets and at City facilities,
- earthquake themed programming to air on the City’s cable channel,
- public service announcements to air on the City’s 1500 AM station,
- information on City website,
- press release to local press,
- information booth at the Earth Day Farmers’ Market—April 10th, Civic Center Drive,
- information will be distributed during Neighborhood Watch Meetings – April 9th

**FISCAL IMPACT**

No fiscal impact. Funds used are within the City’s Office of Emergency Management’s budget.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff invites the Health and Safety Commission to participate in the Community and Employee Preparedness Campaign and requests the Commissioners to encourage community members to be emergency prepared and to seek preparedness information from the sources available.

Health and Safety Commission members are asked to refer Community members to the above places for information or by calling the Office of Emergency Management at 310-285-1025.

Additionally, if any of the Health and Safety Commission participates wish to participate in staffing the Earth Day booth please contact the Office of Emergency Management at 310-285-1025

Pamela Mottice Muller
TO: Health and Safety Commission
FROM: Pamela Mottice Muller, Director Office of Emergency Management
DATE: March 28, 2011
SUBJECT: Health and Safety Awards Video

The Health and Safety Awards video is complete. The video will be shown at the meeting.

A date to present the awards to the winners has not yet been set since the City Council meeting dates have not been determined.