



ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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National Preparedness Month

Nearly 800 firefighters from state and local agencies are fighting a canyon fire in central California today. A bit closer to home, in June, fire crews fought a 5-acre brush fire in the Angeles National forest that burned more than 4,500 acres and destroyed homes along the way.

It's disasters like these that exemplify the importance of being prepared in an emergency. September is National Preparedness Month, sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Although Southern California is prone to disasters such as droughts, earthquakes, and wildfires, the [Department of Homeland Security](#) warns residents to be prepared for anything.

Possible disasters to consider include floods, explosions, power outages, landslides, home fires, household chemical emergencies, nuclear explosions, chemical threats, and even biological threats such as infection and diseases.

According to [The National Weather Service](#), there are a few simple things that you can do to be prepared in case of a disaster. First, it is important to create a disaster kit with food and supplies to last you and your family three days. Second, create a plan in order to effectively communicate with your family. Third, purchase a [NOAA radio](#), which will keep your family in communication with a nationwide network of radio stations that broadcast weather conditions.

Another way to stay informed is through [Alert OC](#). Alert OC is a mass notification system that informs Orange County residents about emergencies in a time sensitive manner. Residents can sign up for updates on their website, and opt for notifications via phone call, text message, or e-mail.

While protecting yourself and your family seems to be first priority, the [Center for Disease Control](#) also provides guidelines to keep your pets safe during a disaster. It is important to update your pet's tags, ensure that your pet has a micro-chip, and always have a pet carrier available. It is also important to stay sanitary when you handle your pet during a disaster, as to prevent illnesses or diseases.

Whether you want to protect your family, your friends, or your pet, it is of utmost importance to have a plan in case of a disaster. It is essential to understand that emergency personnel will not be able to help everyone during a large-scale disaster, therefore you must arrange your own plan. It is your responsibility to be informed and to be prepared.