

BELVEDERE - TIBURON
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
DISASTER PREPAREDNESS & PUBLIC SAFETY
NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2007

Dear Resident,

The Belvedere Tiburon Peninsula is very unique in that after a major event such as an earthquake, we face the real possibility of being isolated from the rest of Marin County and the resources it offers. Unfortunately, we may also be isolated from many of our own emergency personnel who live outside of the county. The residents of our peninsula must be prepared to care for themselves and the City of Belvedere and Town of Tiburon are here to help! This newsletter will provide valuable information on disaster preparedness classes and events in your area, news on what the City and Town are doing to prepare, information on how to become a registered emergency volunteer, and many other valuable resources available to you. Thank you for being part of the disaster preparedness efforts in our community!

Sincerely,

Laurie K. Nilsen
Emergency Services Coordinator
City of Belvedere & Town of Tiburon
(415) 435-7386

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CASINO NIGHT!

HOSTED BY TIBURON VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

This year, the Tiburon Volunteer Fire Department will host its 57th fundraiser. We have redesigned the Annual Firefighters Ball into a Casino Night and sincerely hope you will join us for a fun filled night of music, cocktails and card games hosted by our very own local Firefighters.

Due to the limited availability please reserve your attendance today.

Date: Saturday, November 3, 2007
Time: 6:30-10:30 pm
Location: Tiburon Peninsula Club
Theme: Casino Night, including a "Texas Hold'em
Tournament, Black Jack, Music
Attire: Black Tie Optional

Contact the Tiburon Fire District at 415-435-7200 for additional information.

Tiburon Police Officer's Association is now selling shirts, sweatshirts, coffee mugs and more!!!

You may have seen a few Tiburon Police T shirts and Sweatshirts on Main Street on Friday nights this summer. These items are being sold as a fundraiser for much needed equipment for the Tiburon Police Officers. In the past month, even more items featuring the Tiburon P.D logo have come in! The Police Officer's Association is now selling T shirts, polo shirts, hooded sweatshirts, 22 karat gold coffee mugs (a must have), and lapel pins. All items are available in the Tiburon Police department lobby.

Upcoming Events!

November 3, 2007 Casino Night 6:30 - 10:30 (Tiburon Peninsula Club)

November 7, 2007
CPR Training 8am - 12 noon (Tiburon Police Station)

November 20, 2007
Belvedere Tiburon Joint Disaster Advisory Council meeting 4:00 - 5:30
(Tiburon Town Hall)

Get Ready Class Schedule

FALL AND WINTER SCHEDULE HAS BEEN POSTED!

OCTOBER

Wednesday October 17th, Belvedere Tiburon Library 10am - 12pm

Thursday October 25th, Lodge at Tiburon 6:30 - 8:30 (wine & cheese)

NOVEMBER

Thursday November 8th, Picnic at Tiburon Police Station 6- 8pm (Bring Your Own Picnic)

Wednesday November 14 Belvedere Tiburon Library 10am - 12pm

Thursday November 29, Tiburon Police Department EOC 10am - 12pm

DECEMBER

Thursday December 6th, Tiburon Police Station EOC 7pm - 9pm

Tuesday December 11th, Tiburon Police Station EOC 10am - 12pm

CALL LAURIE AT 435-7386 TO SIGN UP FOR A CLASS OR GO TO WWW.GETREADY94920.ORG TO REGISTER ONLINE

Tiburon and Belvedere's Emergency Response & Disaster Plan

Recently I was asked if the Town of Tiburon and City of Belvedere have an emergency operation plan, or disaster plan, here on the peninsula. We do in fact have a plan that we would implement in time of disaster and town and city staff have annual exercises to practice this plan.

In time of disaster, the police, fire and administrative staff activate a joint emergency operation center, located in the Tiburon Police Station. This room is set up with a designated phone line and work space for each of eight Emergency Operations functions. The eight functions in the EOC are: Management, Law (operations), Fire (operations) Department of Public Works (operations), Logistics, Planning & Intelligence, Finance and Public Information Officer. This system is a standard operating system nationwide, originally created in California and known as the Standard Emergency Management System (SEMS) and now known nationwide as the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The staff inside the EOC works with the emergency personnel in the field as well as the County's Emergency Operation Center to coordinate response efforts and resources. The SEMS and NIMS systems provide for a plan for mutual aid so that if our own resources on the Peninsula are exhausted we can request assistance from the County. If the County needs additional assistance they contact the regional Office of Emergency Service who in turn can get additional help from the California Office of Emergency Services. If the State of California needs to they can request Federal assistance.

If you would like more information on the EOC or SEMS and NIMS, please feel free to call the Office of Emergency Services at (415) 435-7386.

Local Resources and Volunteers Needed!

On a local level, we are in the process of updating our local resources such as equipment, goods, shelters, and volunteers. In the months to come, an effort is being made through the office of emergency services here in Tiburon and Belvedere to identify and organize volunteers to assist overwhelmed emergency responders in the time of

disaster. The volunteer effort will also follow the SEMS and NIMS systems so that they can work closely and uniformly with the emergency responders without hampering their efforts. The Office of Emergency Services is looking for volunteers to sign up and get identified as the first step in organizing the volunteer efforts here. Areas where volunteers are needed are: Care and Shelter (working in shelters), animal care, boat operators, medical personnel, and all Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members. If you wish to volunteer in the event of disaster but don't know in which area, please call the Office of Emergency Services and a function suiting your abilities will be found. Pre-identified volunteers will be given an identification card and will be sworn in as a disaster service worker which then covers you under the City and Town's insurance when responding to a disaster. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, or Disaster Service Worker, please call the Belvedere Tiburon Office of Emergency Services at (415) 435-7386.

Tiburon Fire Protection District Public Access Defibrillator Program

Bringing Automatic External Defibrillator's (AEDs) into the community!
by Colin Jackson - Tiburon Fire Captain & Paramedic

We live in Paradise - Ask anyone walking down Main Street on a sunny day or sitting on a bench looking at the City or the Golden Gate Bridge. If you were to have a Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA), paradise would quickly fade into a plea for help and a hope that your friends would know what to do. SCA is the number one killer in America harming more than 400,000 people a year. It can strike anyone, at any time, and in most cases, without warning. The American Heart Association reports:

75% of the people who die from cardiac arrest are outside the hospital setting. Without treatment, victims have only minutes to live.

Most of the time, the necessary life-saving equipment does not arrive in time. As a result, typical survival rates are only 2%-5%. The chance of survival decreases by 10% for every minute that passes.

If a defibrillator is used within 2 minutes, there is an 80% chance of restoring a pulse. The success rate drops to 60% after 4 minutes. So.... every second counts!

The Tiburon Fire District (TFD) is passionate about saving lives and enhancing the quality of lives we save. We feel so strongly about the value of the Public Access Defibrillator Program that we are willing to give this gift of life to local businesses and their patrons. To shave a few minutes off the time between when someone goes down and emergency Medical service care begins the Tiburon Fire District will happily:

Provide you with an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)

Install the AED in your establishment at no charge

Offer initial training to your response team in AED/CPR by a certified EMT of the Fire District at no charge.

Coordinate the PAD program with the County of Marin.

This is made possible through the fundraising efforts of the Tiburon Volunteer Fire Department. Already, the Corinthian Yacht Club and Fitness in Tiburon have taken advantage of this life-saving program. If you have questions or want to take part in this program, please call Colin Jackson at the Tiburon Fire Department 435-7200 or email at cjackson@tiburonfire.org

FIREPLACE AND WOODSTOVE SAFETY

It's that time of the year again when the temperature drops and our fireplaces are put to work!. Before fireplace season starts, here are a few things you should know about fireplace safety.

The two leading causes of fireplace and woodstove fires are creosote build-up and improper disposal of ashes.

Creosote is a sticky liquid or tar-like substance caused by incomplete combustion in your woodstove or fireplace. Extremely cold outdoor temperatures rapidly cool your chimney, causing creosote to harden and stick to the inside of it.

Creosote is extremely flammable. A sever chimney fire can occur with only 1/4th accumulation. Creosote can be minimized by controlling two variables: burning fuel at the correct temperature, and choosing appropriate wood.

Fires should burn at a temperature of approximately 300* Fahrenheit. You can purchase a stove pipe thermometer to help gauge the temperature. Fires should be kept small, but they should burn at a constant, brisk rate. When fires burn at lower temperatures, incomplete combustion contributes to creosote buildup.

The second variable is the type of wood you choose. Burn only seasoned hardwoods. Wood is seasoned when it has been allowed to dry for at least one year. Green wood and softwoods (such as pine) contain more moisture which contributes to creosote build up. By splitting and thoroughly drying the wood, you allow for more complete combustion lessening the creosote effect.

How Often Should I Clean My Chimney?

If the fireplace is used only on occasion, it should be inspected, and cleaned if necessary, at least once a year. If you use your fireplace or woodstove frequently, cleaning should be performed more often. If your wood burning appliance is your primary source of heat, you should inspect your chimney and flue pipes at least once every other week for creosote build-up.

Be aware that airtight stoves present a unique problem: because of the limited air supply and low temperature fires, creosote accumulation is more rapid. Remember, if the creosote is more than 1/4" deep, you can have a fire.

How Do I Clean My Chimney?

You can clean the chimney yourself or you can have someone do it for you. It is preferable to use mechanical methods (brushes) to clean your chimney. Chemical solvents may contain abrasives that can damage metal pipes or

chimney liners. Use brushes purchased for this purpose or hire a chimney sweep to do the job for you. This simple procedure can save you voluble time, effort and expense later.

For more information please go to www.tiburonfire.org or call the Tiburon Fire Department at 435-7200.

Thank you for subscribing to the Belvedere Tiburon Office of Emergency Services Newsletter. The more we learn and prepare for imminent disaster, the better we will survive and recover from it. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please feel free to call me at 435-7386.

Sincerely,

Laurie K. Nilsen
Emergency Services Coordinator
Belvedere & Tiburon
(415) 435-7386

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