

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Second Annual Graton Area Disaster Preparedness Fair
“People Helping People”
Saturday, April 7, 2018 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Graton Fire Department

Graton, CA. February 20, 2018. The Second Annual Graton Area Disaster Preparedness Fair will be held at the Graton Fire Department, located at 3750 Gravenstein Hwy. N. on Saturday, April 7, 2018 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. This free, fun, family friendly event will help community members learn how to empower themselves during a disaster.

The Graton Fire Department will host the event at their station, conducting fire extinguisher training, CPR training, and displaying their vehicles. Address signs, allowing your house to be found faster during an emergency, can be made while you enjoy the festivities.

“It’s important for the public to understand that 911 will be overwhelmed with emergencies during a major disaster,” said Graton Fire Chief Bill Bullard. “Everyone should be self-sufficient until help can reach them.”

Families can learn how to escape from a burning building and test their knowledge (and win prizes!) through games. Adults will learn how to safely turn off gas valves, avoid electrical hazards, develop survival strategies, and provide emergency first aid. There will be information about large animal rescue, search and rescue, ham radio operation, and volunteer opportunities. Everyone will be able to enroll in SoCoAlert or Nixle, the countywide emergency notification systems, and receive a handbook of practical information compiled by the sponsoring groups.

Project Coordinator, Jody James of Graton, said, “This event is going to be fun and informative with something for every resident and business in West County. Local emergency resource providers have banded together to provide life-saving information and materials with skill demonstrations, practical tools and emergency kit items. Are we ready to depend on ourselves and our neighbors if emergency services can’t arrive right away? Let’s learn how!”

The fair will include booths from sponsoring non-profits and government organizations, such as the Graton and Sebastopol Fire Departments, Sonoma County Sheriff’s Office, Sonoma County Fire and Emergency Services, the Community Disaster Response Team, the American Red Cross, Sonoma West Medical Center, and Palm Drive Healthcare District.

“This event really addresses the health and well-being of West County,” said Alanna Brogan, Executive Director of Palm Drive Health Care District. “Our recent experience with the large scale emergency response in Santa Rosa and beyond has taught us that being prepared can make all the difference in the outcomes.”

Pat Kerrigan with KSRO 1350 AM will call in with live updates throughout the event. Richard Ruge, Chairperson for Disaster Preparedness for Vulnerable Populations, will do a live broadcast on KOWS 107.3 FM radio.

The tagline, "People helping People," emphasizes how important our communities are in dealing with disaster. Come join us and find out more. Limited parking will be available, so please carpool or use alternative transportation where possible.

For more information, please contact:

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