Human-Caused Hazards

Human-caused hazards are the result of human intent, error, or as a result of failed systems. They can be caused by accidents in human-built infrastructures or technologies, or intentional human actions that cause destruction or loss of life. While most disaster type emergencies are caused by natural events outside our control, there are a number of Human Caused Disasters that could occur.

The RPV Emergency Preparedness Committee reminds you to be aware and alert by reviewing these general safety tips to help keep you and your family safe.

ACTIVE SHOOTER: An active shooter is an individual engaged in attempting to kill people in a confined space or populated area. This following describes what to do in an active shooter event. Remember, during an active shooting to RUN, HIDE, FIGHT.

Run
- Have an escape route in mind.
- Leave your belongings behind.
- Keep your hands visible to all law enforcement officers.

HIDE
- Hide in an area out of the active shooter’s view.
- Block entry to your hiding place and lock the doors.

FIGHT
- Choose this option only as a last resort when no other options exist.
- Attempt to overpower the active shooter.
- Act aggressively and throw items at the active shooter.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SPILL OR EVENT: Hazardous materials can include explosives, flammable and combustible substances, poisons and radioactive materials. Emergencies can happen during production, storage, transportation, use or disposal. You are at risk when chemicals are used unsafely or released in harmful amounts where you live, work or play.

Listen to local news stations, Alert South Bay, and RPV messaging.
- If you need medical attention, call 911 or go to a doctor or hospital.
- Do not touch any spilled dangerous liquids, mists, or solid materials.
- Stay away and upwind from the incident area to minimize the risk of danger.
- Be ready to shelter-in-place if you are told to stay indoors.
- Evacuate right away if you are told to do so.

TERRORISM: Terrorism is an intentional, dangerous act designed to create fear. With accurate information and basic emergency preparedness, you can fight back. It is especially important to be aware of your surroundings and report suspicious behavior or potential threats.
- If You See Something, Say Something
- If you think something is strange, treat it that way until experts have figured out if it is harmless.
- If you see a terrorist threat or criminal activity, call 911.
- Be Alert. You can stop a crime or an attack at the most important time: before it starts.
EXPLOSION: Explosions do not always involve weapons. Equipment failure such as transformers and generators can explode due to age or wear. Knowing how to react can help you stay safe after an explosion occurs.

ON THE STREET
- Figure out where you are. Check to see if you are hurt.
- Move away in the opposite direction of the blast.
- Do not walk close to buildings, as glass and debris may still be falling.

INDOORS
- Figure out where you are. Check to see if you are hurt and look for structural damage.
- Notice any secondary hazards: fire, smoke, toxic fumes, or the smell of gas.
- Figure out if you should evacuate or shelter-in-place.

IF THERE IS A FIRE
- Remember that fires often happen after a building explosion.
- Leave the building quickly and quietly.
- Crawl low if there is smoke.
- Don’t use elevators.
- Go to your previously chosen meeting place.

BE INFORMED: Download the MyRPV App to your devices and also sign up for Alert South Bay emergency alerts by texting “alertsb” to 888-777. Stay connected and get updates from the City by following RPV on Nextdoor, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

For additional information and resources, please contact Jesse Villalpando, Emergency Services Coordinator at JVillalpando@rpvca.gov or (310) 544-5209.