

March 29, 2011

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**APRIL IS EARTHQUAKE AWARENESS MONTH
LEARN TO BE PREPARED AT FREE S.C.O.P.E. TRAINING
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, FROM 1 – 4 PM AT VINTAGE HOUSE**

The public is invited to attend the free City of Sonoma S. C. O. P. E. training, (Sonoma Citizens Organized to Prepare for Emergencies) hosted in partnership with the Vintage House senior center, on Friday, April 29, from 1 – 4 pm at Vintage House, 264 First Street East. The training is presented by the Sonoma Valley Fire and Rescue team. Please call Vintage House at 996-0311 to register.

It's a question of when, not if, the next earthquake will occur in northern California. The single most important thing we as individuals can do to minimize the impact of any disaster is to be prepared, both personally in our homes and workplaces and collectively as neighborhoods and communities. The current advice is to prepare to be on your own for at least 3 – 4 days, perhaps even longer.

Fortunately we have the S.C.O.P.E. (Sonoma Citizens Organized to Prepare for Emergencies) program to help us get organized and prepared. The SCOPE team from Sonoma Valley and Rescue offers basic emergency preparedness information including what to do during and after an earthquake, household utilities control, small fire suppression, neighborhood outreach and organization, and much more. You, your family, friends and neighbors are encouraged to take advantage of this free opportunity.

Here's what a prior attendee had to say about the training: "I implemented many of the helpful suggestions. I located both my water and gas shut-off valves, and now have a wrench at my gas shut-off. I purchased the suggested items from hardware, grocery and feed stores for both my dogs and me, and I got large water bottles and filled them. It is a huge comfort to know that I am as prepared as I can be in the events of a disaster – and I owe that to my SCOPE training and the materials provided." Jennifer Hainstock, District Director for Supervisor Valerie Brown.

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