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Bay Area SUASI Citizen Preparedness Projects

Cope Program: Making Preparedness Fun in Sonoma County

COPE (Citizens Organized to Prepare for Emergencies) recently released a DVD encouraging individuals to prepare themselves and their families for disasters such as earthquakes, flooding, terrorism or other emergencies. The program, distributed through a collaborative effort by the city of Santa Rosa and the Bay Area SUASI, encourages



neighborhoods, mobile home parks and homeowners' associations to conduct "Preparedness Parties." Neighborhood groups are organizing barbecues, potlucks, cook-offs, and wine and cheese get-togethers to watch the seven-step training video and discuss the simple concepts of COPE, including gathering emergency kits and supplies. Groups select leaders and hold resident meetings to gather information and develop an emergency plan that includes household details, utility shut-off locations and designated meeting places. Program previews, or brief "COPE Teasers," can even be found on [YouTube.com](http://www.youtube.com).

The new SUASI-funded COPE DVDs (available in English and Spanish) will be distributed to 1,200 neighborhood and community leaders in Sonoma County to help with recruiting and training new leaders. COPE has more than doubled in size in the last year, primarily due to social outreach initiatives such as Preparedness Parties. In Santa Rosa, there are more than 400 COPE leaders representing approximately 4,000 households, or more than 5 percent of all city households.

In addition to the DVDs, interested individuals can also view and download COPE booklets and handouts in English and Spanish from the city of Santa Rosa Web site at www.cope.srcity.org.

For more information, please contact:

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The Bay Area SUASI Dispatch is a monthly newsletter that provides information about the people and projects of the San Francisco Bay Area Super Urban Area Security Initiative (SUASI). The Bay Area SUASI enhances regional capability through regional collaboration: to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist incidents and other catastrophic events in the 10-county northern California region.

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