



W Laguna Woods WOOD WORKS

Inside This Issue

PAGE TWO

Emergency Preparedness, continued
“No Right Turn on Red” Traffic Signs

PAGE THREE

What Does “Owner/Builder” Mean?
Laguna Woods Village Postal Annex
Fire Safety

PAGE FOUR

City Services
City Meeting Schedules



NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Leslie Keane
City Manager

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

Patrick Foley
Community Services Manager
Gary Gates, Building Official



CITY OF LAGUNA WOODS



WOOD WORKS is published by the City of Laguna Woods and is distributed as a public service to the homes and businesses of the City. The City of Laguna Woods welcomes your comments, suggestions and questions regarding WOOD WORKS. Please call or write:

Editor, WOOD WORKS
City of Laguna Woods
24264 El Toro Road
Laguna Woods, CA 92637
(949) 639-0500
lkeane@lagunawoodscity.org

Emergency Preparedness



September was National Emergency Preparedness Month — are you prepared?

Disasters disrupt hundreds of thousands of lives every year. Each disaster has lasting effects, both to people and property. If a disaster occurs in our community, local government and disaster relief organizations will try to help, but you need to be ready as well. Local responders may not be able to reach you immediately or they may need to focus their efforts elsewhere. You should know how to respond to severe weather or any disaster that could occur in your area, including earthquakes, wildfires, widespread disease outbreak, flooding, terrorism and more. You should also be ready to be self-sufficient for at least three days. This may mean providing for your own shelter, first aid, food, water and sanitation.

BEFORE AN EMERGENCY

- ✓ Know the risks and danger signs.
- ✓ Purchase insurance, including earthquake and/or flood insurance (not part of your homeowner’s policy).
- ✓ Develop plans for what to do in case of emergency.
- ✓ Assemble an emergency supply kit.
- ✓ Volunteer to help others in your community.

DURING AN EMERGENCY

- ✓ Put your plan into action.
- ✓ Help others as you’re able.
- ✓ Follow the advice and guidance of officials in charge of the event.

AFTER AN EMERGENCY

- ✓ Repair damaged property.
- ✓ File insurance claims if necessary.
- ✓ Take steps to prevent or reduce future loss.
- ✓ Reassess your plan and make appropriate changes.

HAVE AN EMERGENCY PLAN

- ✓ Talk to family and friends about how you will communicate after an emergency — consider an out-of-state contact who can relay messages.
- ✓ If you have to evacuate, know where you can go.

(Emergency Preparedness continued on page 2)

Emergency Preparedness, continued from page 1

HAVE AN EMERGENCY PLAN, continued

- ✓ Make a list of prescription medicines including dosage, treatment and allergy information. Talk to your pharmacist or doctor about what else you need to prepare.
- ✓ Consider other personal needs such as eyeglasses, hearing aids and hearing-aid batteries, wheelchair batteries, and oxygen.
- ✓ If you undergo routine treatments administered by a clinic or hospital, or if you receive regular services such as home health care, treatment or transportation, talk to your service provider about their emergency plans. Work with them to identify back-up service providers and incorporate them into your personal support network.
- ✓ Make sure everyone in your support network knows where you keep your emergency supply kit and plan.
- ✓ If you have an allergy or disability, wear medical alert tags or bracelets to help identify your disability.
- ✓ Add specific items to your emergency supply kit that relate to your medical needs, such as extra medication, food, water, batteries and battery chargers for assistive technology devices. Carry emergency health information at all times including details about any disabilities, medications, allergies, assistive technology devices and durable medical equipment.
- ✓ Create an emergency preparedness buddy plan (include attendants, readers, interpreters, family, friends, neighbors) with people who know about your medications, how to operate assistive technology devices and the location of your emergency supply kit.

COMPILE OR PURCHASE AN EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT — KEEP EVERYTHING IN ONE CENTRAL LOCATION

- ✓ Water: one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- ✓ Food: at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- ✓ Battery-powered or hand-crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- ✓ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ✓ First aid kit
- ✓ Whistle to signal for help
- ✓ Dust mask to help filter contaminated air, and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- ✓ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- ✓ Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- ✓ Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- ✓ Maps for Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside and San Diego counties
- ✓ Cell phone with chargers
- ✓ Copies of important family documents such as insurance policies, identification documents, medical records and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
- ✓ Cash or traveler's checks and change
- ✓ Emergency reference material such as a first aid book
- ✓ Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- ✓ Complete change of clothing including a long-sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes
- ✓ Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper. When diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of

water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.

- ✓ Fire extinguisher
- ✓ Matches in a waterproof container
- ✓ Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels
- ✓ Paper and pencil
- ✓ If you have pets – food, water and medical records

Being prepared can reduce the fear, anxiety and losses that accompany disasters. Get ready — have a plan. 🌳

'No Right Turn on Red' Traffic Signs

The City has installed “no right turn on red” traffic signs at:

- Westbound El Toro at Avenida Sevilla
- Westbound El Toro at Town Centre Drive
- Westbound El Toro at Calle Sonora
- Southbound Moulton Parkway at Santa Maria Avenue.



These signs, pictured here, are designed to help motorists make safe right turns. They are activated by left-turn arrows and pedestrian crossing signals. When the sign is on, drivers may not turn right. When the sign is not illuminated, safe right turns are allowed. Before turning, however, drivers should always check for opposing traffic and pedestrians in crosswalks. 🌳

What Does 'Owner/Builder' Mean?

The "owner/builder" designation for a home improvement project means that the building owner elects to act as his or her own general contractor. By signing a building permit application as an owner/builder, you assume full responsibility for all phases of the project — its integrity, code compliance and workmanship. You may also be limited in your ability to file complaints against tradespersons you hire, as owner/builder, for failing to complete work or comply with codes.



As an owner/builder, your responsibilities may include the obligation to pay state and federal taxes, purchase worker's compensation insurance and assume other legal liabilities associated with hiring employees. You may have to hire subcontractors, which could include scheduling and supervising their work. If a worker is injured on your project, you may have to pay medical expenses and rehabilitation costs. You can also be held responsible for paying mechanics' liens against your property from unpaid subcontractors and material suppliers.

Unless you are experienced in construction, you are advised to hire a reputable, licensed general contractor to take over all project responsibilities. When you select a general contractor, check the status of their license and determine whether or not they are required to carry worker's compensation insurance. With the contractor's license number, you can check their status by calling the California Contractors State License Board at 1-800-321-2752 or by visiting the Board's website at www.cslb.ca.gov. We can also check for you if you come into City Hall.

Remember, a tradesperson who presses you to be your own general contractor (owner/builder), may not be doing you a favor. For additional information, contact the Contractors State License Board or call the City's Building Department at 639-0500. 🌲

Laguna Woods Village Postal Annex

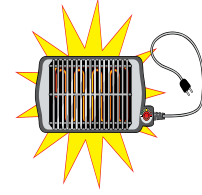


The United States Postal Service is conducting an area mail processing study to determine if it can consolidate some of its branches. Closure of 252 facilities is under consideration; among those is the postal annex in Laguna Woods Village. According to the Postal Service, the current economic downturn and continued diversion of mail to the Internet has led to a 20% decline in mail volume since 2007. As

a result the postal service has more equipment, personnel and facilities than it needs to process mail and less revenue than it needs to cover its costs.

Public input is being solicited as a part of the study and will be considered in the decision making process. Information about opportunities to comment on the process is available at <http://about.USPS.com> under the section "Our Future Network." 🌲

Fire Safety



GIVE SPACE HEATERS SPACE!

Keep them at least three feet away from anything that can burn. Unplug them when you shut them off, leave your home, or go to bed.

WATCH CANDLES AS THEY BURN!



Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that can burn and use sturdy, safe candleholders. Never leave a burning candle unattended — extinguish them when you leave a room. Avoid using candles in bedrooms and sleeping areas.



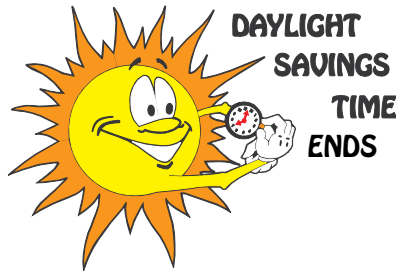
BE STOVE SAVVY!

Wear tight-fitting or rolled-up sleeves when cooking. Use oven mitts to handle hot pans. Never leave cooking unattended. Keep flammable materials such as paper towels and potholders away from burners. If a pan of food catches fire, slide a lid over it and turn off the burner. Don't cook if you are drowsy. Mark stove dials with bright-colored tape so that you know from a distance if the stove is on or off. Double check the kitchen before you go to bed or leave the house. Never use the oven to heat your home.




SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES!

Have smoke alarms installed in every sleeping area and hallway, and on every level of your home. Test your smoke alarms once a month. Make sure everyone can hear your smoke alarms. 🌲



**Remember to change your clocks
back an hour and check your smoke
alarm batteries on Nov 6th.**




CITY HALL
24264 El Toro Road
Laguna Woods, CA 92637
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Plan Counter Hours: 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
OC Public Library: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Phone: (949) 639-0500
Fax: (949) 639-0591
Website and E-mail Links:
www.lagunawoodscity.org

CITY COUNCIL
Bert Hack, Mayor
Cynthia Conners, Mayor Pro Tem
Marty Rhodes, Councilmember
Bob Ring, Councilmember
Milt Robbins, Councilmember

Leslie A. Keane, City Manager

Get Connected to City Services

Attend City Council Meeting



3rd Wednesday of each month,
2 p.m., Laguna Woods City Hall,
Council Chambers, 24264 El
Toro Road. Cablecast live on LW Communica-
tions Channel 31. See replays on Channel 31
and Cox Communications Digital Channels 30
and 856.

Visit the City's Website

www.lagunawoodscity.org



Call us at (949) 639-0500

TTY phone at (949) 639-0535



Tune In – Channel 31 (on LW
Communications channel)

Write to Us



City of Laguna Woods
24264 El Toro Road
Laguna Woods, CA 92637

Send Us an E-mail



cityhall@lagunawoodscity.org
Share your thoughts and ideas.

Apply to Serve on a Committee
Call the City Clerk's office at (949) 639-0500.

City Meeting Schedules

- ❖ City Council 3rd Wednesday of month 2 p.m.
- ❖ Community Services Committee 4th Wednesday of month 9:30 a.m.
- ❖ Public Safety Committee..... 2nd Wednesday of month... 9:30 a.m.
- ❖ Land Use and Design Review Committee.... 2nd Thursday of month..... 9 a.m.

Meetings are held at City Hall, 24264 El Toro Rd., Laguna Woods CA (949) 639-0500.

Meeting schedules are subject to change.