



16 October 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTENTION: CHIEF REPORTERS

Council to test Civil Defence siren

The Invercargill City Council will test its Civil Defence siren system on Saturday, October 17 at 10.50 am.

Council's Civil Defence Manager Bill Obers said the sirens would be heard throughout Invercargill and was being held to test the city's emergency siren system.

"While it is NOT A CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY we would like residents to turn on and listen to their local radio station to hear the test message because it is a good practice to get into as that is what one should do in the event of an emergency," Mr Obers said.

The Civil Defence siren test was one of the many activities planned to mark Disaster Awareness Week from October 11 – 17.

The Southland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group, with the Invercargill City Council, Environment Southland and Southland District Council, have organised a week of activities aimed at raising awareness of Civil Defence and the need for people to be better prepared for disasters when they happen.

Council's Civil Defence Manager Bill Obers said it was 25 years ago that Southland faced the devastating effects of the 1984 floods and it was important that we as a province did not become complacent as floods, earthquakes and other natural disasters could strike anywhere at any time.

The following community events are planned for Disaster Awareness Week (October 11 – 17):

Saturday October 10 – Friday 31 October – Southland Floods, 25th Anniversary Roadshow Exhibition at the Southland Museum and Art Gallery

An exhibition of photos from the January 1984 floods, with memorabilia and Civil Defence material, along with television footage from 1984. Come along and reminisce about the event which caused the worst flooding in Southland's recorded history and recall an event that was of great social significance for the province.

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Monday October 12 – Friday October 16 - Survival Items Shopping List Challenge

If you are out and about shopping in any of the New World supermarkets throughout Southland during Disaster Awareness Week you may be asked to take the “Survival Items Shopping List” Challenge. Invercargill City Council and Environment Southland Councillors and Emergency Management staff will be inviting shoppers to buy three different items off the checklist and in return they will receive a free recyclable shopping bag as well as entering the draw to win an Emergency Survival Kit. In the event of an emergency you and your family could be on your own for up to three days or longer – are you prepared?

Welfare Exercise and Rescue Demonstration at James Hargest College Junior Campus - Saturday October 17, 1pm to 4pm

Members of the public are invited to come along and join with Civil Defence Welfare workers, taking part in an emergency exercise to learn more about the role of a Welfare Centre in an emergency. This will also include a demonstration from Invercargill’s Rescue and Response Team at 2pm.

For more information on Disaster Awareness Week and Civil Defence Preparedness go to www.getthru.govt.nz or www.civildefence.co.nz
ENDS.

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