



## Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### ***Belmont Community Emergency Response Teams Participating in County-Wide Emergency Exercise***

*Belmont, CA --*

On Thursday March, 24, 2011 from 9 a.m. until noon, members of the Belmont-San Carlos Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will be participating in the San Mateo County Health System's "Silver Dragon V" emergency drill. CERT members will be going door-to-door in the Sterling Downs and Central Neighborhoods, in Belmont delivering kitchen fire safety information, to simulate the distribution of medicine and medical supplies from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Strategic National Stockpile. The medicine and/or supplies would be distributed through the San Mateo County Health System, in the event of a major health emergency. CERT team members will be wearing green helmets or caps and green reflective vests.

Belmont-San Carlos CERT members will be joined by CERT members from the Redwood City Fire Department and Volunteers from both the Belmont and Redwood City Police Departments.

"The recent tragic events in Japan reinforce our need to be ready, as a community, to respond in times of disaster". Both Fire Chief Doug Fry and I strongly believe that community-government partnerships like CERT are vital parts of disaster preparedness", said Belmont Police Chief Don Mattei. "This exercise also shows how the various emergency services in San Mateo County work together on a daily basis", Chief Mattei added.

Belmont-San Carlos CERT was formed in 2002 to give local residents the skills to help themselves and their neighbors in times of disaster or other emergency. As of 2010, over 500 community members have been through the basic 20-hour CERT course. In addition, CERT classes have been taught to Belmont city employees and staff at Notre Dame de Namur University.

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