**Spark of Love**

Every year, tens of thousands of children experience Christmas morning with no gifts to open. To bring smiles to these children, the firefighters in Moreno Valley, in cooperation with CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire and KABC Channel 7, host a "Spark of Love Toy Drive". Residents that wish to be part of this special event are encouraged to drop off a new, unwrapped toy or sports equipment at any local fire station to support this worthwhile cause.

With your support, children throughout Moreno Valley will receive a new toy this holiday season. Your donation to the "Spark of Love Toy Drive" will be accepted at any of the City's seven fire stations through December 24, 2013:

- Fire Station #2  
  24935 Hemlock Avenue  
- Fire Station #6  
  22250 Eucalyptus Avenue  
- Fire Station #48  
  10511 Village Road  
- Fire Station #99  
  13400 Morrison Street  
- Fire Station #58  
  28040 Eucalyptus Avenue  
- Fire Station #65  
  15111 Indian Avenue  
- Fire Station #91  
  16110 Lasselle Street

For eligibility requirements to receive toys for a child in need, please contact the Moreno Valley Community Assistance Program at 951-485-7792. For any other questions regarding the "Spark of Love Toy Drive" call 951-486-6780.

**Evacuation Preparedness**

Evacuations are more common than many people realize. Fires and floods cause evacuations most frequently across the U.S. and almost every year, people in these communities evacuate as wildfires approach. In addition, hundreds of times a year, transportation and industrial accidents release harmful substances, forcing many people to leave their homes.

In some circumstances, local officials decide that the hazards are serious and require mandatory evacuations. In others, evacuations are advised or households decide to evacuate to avoid situations they believe are potentially dangerous. When community evacuations become necessary local officials provide information to the public through the media. In some circumstances, other warning methods, such as sirens, text alerts, emails or telephone calls are used.

Evacuation orders may come with little or no warning. Even so, you can use the tips below to prepare for the possibility of evacuating as part of your personal preparedness efforts at home and work.
IDENTIFY possible places to reunite with family members after the event as part of your emergency plans.

MAKE plans for children, seniors and others with special needs. CHECK with your schools, work place and other sites about their evacuation plans.

SECURE the building if possible. TURN OFF utilities only if instructed to do so by local officials.

LISTEN to the radio or watch TV for information from local officials. FOLLOW their instructions.

REMAIN calm.

USE the phone ONLY to report life-threatening emergencies.

IDENTIFY facilities that care for pets during disasters since pets are not allowed in American Red Cross shelters. (In-service animals excluded).

RETRIEVE emergency supplies and evacuation kits if possible. Be sure to include medications.

LEAVE a note indicating your destination if possible.

ASSEMBLE enough food, drinking water, medicines, and other supplies to last a minimum of five days in an emergency kit or backpack that is easy to transport.

REPORT to the evacuation site, using recommended travel routes given by local officials.

**SPOT A STROKE F.A.S.T.**

**Stroke Warning Signs and Symptoms**

In 2012, the Moreno Valley Fire Department responded to over 55 emergency calls for stroke victims. Stroke is the fourth cause of death and of disability in the United States. A person’s life can potentially be saved if the proper medical attention is received immediately.

A stroke occurs when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain is either blocked by a clot or bursts (or ruptures). When that happens, part of the brain cannot get the blood (and oxygen) it needs, so it and brain cells die.

The brain is an extremely complex organ that controls various body functions. If a stroke occurs and blood flow can’t reach the region that controls a particular body function, that part of the body won’t work as it should. If the stroke occurs toward the back of the brain, for instance, it’s likely that some disability involving vision will result. The effects of a stroke depend primarily on the location of the obstruction and the extent of brain tissue affected.
F.A.S.T. is an easy way to remember the sudden signs of stroke. When you can spot the signs, you'll know that you need to **call 9-1-1 for help** right away. F.A.S.T. is:

**F.** Face Drooping- Does one side of the face droops or is it numb? Ask a person to smile. Is the person’s smile uneven?

**A.** Arm Weakness- Is one arm weak or numb? Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

**S.** Speech Difficulty- Is speech slurred? Is the person unable to speak or hard to understand? Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence, like “The sky is blue”. Is the sentence repeated correctly?

**T.** Time to call 9-1-1 If someone shows any of these symptoms, even if the symptoms go away, call 9-1-1 and get the person to the hospital immediately. Check the time so you’ll know when the first symptoms appear.