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NEWS RELEASE

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Citywide Earthquake Exercise Hits Cupertino

Cupertino, CA -On October 21 and 22, from 10 am – 5 pm, Cupertino will practice for a major earthquake in order to test the city’s emergency response plan. During the two day exercise the city will open the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and public reporting stations around the city, known as Area Resource Centers (ARCs). Each of the ARCs will be staffed by trained Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers, Cupertino Amateur Radio Emergency Service (CARES) volunteers, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers and Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

The City of Cupertino will also release an iPhone App, “Ready 95014”, on October 21. This app will put safety information into the hands of Cupertino residents that will be available without cell coverage or Internet access. Steps to prepare and respond to emergencies are outlined in an easy-to-understand format and include information on how to prepare for an earthquake, flood, fire or pandemic. The app also includes a live stream of Cupertino's own AM radio station (1670 AM), and a map of the local ARCs and various preparedness videos.

On Friday, October 21, the city’s public communication system will be activated to test its response to a potential emergency. Residents are encouraged to watch the City Channel (Comcast Channel 26 and AT&T Universe Channel 99) from 10 am to 5 pm for important emergency information related to the exercise. Tune into Radio Cupertino (1670 AM) for emergency announcements, and visit cupertino.org/facebook and cupertino.org/twitter for real-time simulated messages. Residents visiting their local ARC can receive valuable information and see live demonstrations on how to prepare for a disaster. Special focus will be on proper methods for purifying water, how to get water from the water heater, how to turn off water and natural gas, how to use a fire extinguisher, and how to make emergency preparations for your pet. In addition, there will be emergency preparation handouts, posters, and information on free emergency training courses.

Business owners and schools are asked to voluntarily participate by staging a drop, cover, and hold drill and evacuation exercises. Residents are asked to voluntarily simulate loss of electricity, water, and Internet for two hours. Those two hours would be a good time to go and visit the local ARC. Additional activities include the cutest prepared pet contest, raffle prizes for participation in the preparedness survey along with many other gifts and prizes. For ARC locations, and details about the Ready Cupertino drill visit www.cupertino.org/readycupertino or call the Cupertino Office of Emergency Services (OES) at 408.777.3335.

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