

# ESP FOCUS

## Tune In!



Acts of terrorism can happen suddenly and without warning. The result is usually a feeling of helplessness and confusion. Terrorists want to promote political or social objectives by creating fear and

uncertainty. But the terrorists are not in charge. It's up to you to take control of your circumstances. One way to do this is to learn where and how to get critical and possibly life-saving information when a terrorist attack or other disaster occurs.

There are systems in place to keep you informed during emergency situations. The most well known of these systems is the Emergency Alert System (EAS). It replaced the Emergency Broadcast System nationwide on January 1, 1997. The EAS is used to provide the public with immediate messages that affect life or property. The most common reasons to activate the EAS today include acts of terrorism, 9-1-1 system failures, severe weather warnings, hazardous material incidents, tsunami warnings, evacuation orders, and other threats. A threat may be widespread or localized.

Participation in the EAS by the nation's broadcasters is voluntary except in the event of a national emergency. The only EAS message that is mandatory is the warning of a national emergency by or for the White House. Besides the White House or federal activation of the EAS, there are three primary participants in the EAS: (1) The

broadcasters (AM and FM radio, TV stations, and the Cable TV industry); (2) the National Weather Service for weather-related warnings and (3) state and local emergency management agencies for civil emergencies.

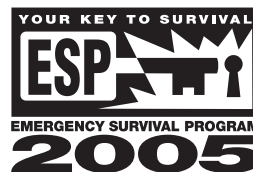
The Emergency Digital Information Service (EDIS) delivers official information about emergencies and disasters to the public and the news media in California. Other states and countries may have similar services. EDIS has been in operation since 1990. In 1999 the statewide EDIS network was upgraded to add image and sound capabilities and to use an advanced satellite datacast technology for reliable statewide service.

## TAKE ACTION

Follow the steps outlined on the reverse side of this sheet. Remember to tune in to your local radio or television for official warnings, alerts or health advisories during the next disaster.

## CHECK THESE WEBSITES

- [www.oes.ca.gov](http://www.oes.ca.gov) (Governor's Office of Emergency Services)
- [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) (United States Department of Homeland Security)
- [www.espfocus.org](http://www.espfocus.org) (Emergency Survival Program)
- [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) (American Red Cross)
- [www.cert-la.com/education/Terrorism.htm](http://www.cert-la.com/education/Terrorism.htm) (Community Emergency Response Team)
- [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) (Federal Emergency Management Agency)



This flyer is courtesy of

# M A R C H

[www.espfocus.org](http://www.espfocus.org)

## WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW

Being aware and prepared is your best defense against acts of terrorism or other emergencies. The steps recommended below are just a reminder of the common sense things that we have all learned over the years on how to protect ourselves.

- Find out what radio and television stations have agreed to broadcast emergency alerts and advisories.
- Make sure you have a portable radio with extra batteries at home, at work and in your car emergency kits.
- Update your personal emergency contact information and your out-of-state contact information.
- If you are hearing or visually impaired, find out which television or radio stations have plans to provide information you can use.
- Be aware of your surroundings and report any suspicious activities to local authorities.
- Check your employer's procedures for instructions about reporting to work after an emergency.
- Learn the emergency policies of your children's schools.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO DURING AN ATTACK

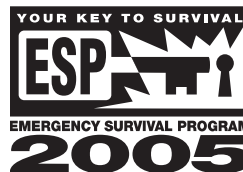
Government officials are on the alert to any possible actions by terrorists. At the first sign of an event, they will issue specific instructions for your safety.

- Listen to emergency news broadcasts on the radio or television.
- Listen to emergency responders like police and firefighters who arrive to help.
- Follow instructions quickly and carefully.
- Do not believe or spread rumors.
- If family members or co-workers don't speak English, have problems hearing or seeing, explain to them what is happening and what officials are telling you to do.
- Check government and media websites.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO AFTER AN ATTACK

Try to remain calm and be a calming influence on those around you. Your decisive action may help others to overcome their anxiety and to act appropriately. Keep the following steps in mind.

- Stay informed. Listen to official reports and instructions on the radio or television.
- Cooperate quickly with local officials and follow their instructions regarding evacuation routes and shelter locations.
- Implement your family emergency plan and as soon as it's safe to do so, notify your out-of-state contact of your location and status.
- Limit your exposure to television, radio, and internet viewing of the incident. Don't go on information overload.
- Resume normal activities as soon as possible.
- Use the telephone only for emergencies.
- Don't sightsee in the affected area.



This focus sheet is produced as part of the Emergency Survival Program (ESP). ESP is an awareness campaign designed to increase home, neighborhood, business and school emergency preparedness. ESP was developed by the County of Los Angeles. The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and representatives from Contra Costa, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Marin, Mono, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, and Ventura counties, Southern California Edison, the Southern California Earthquake Center and the American Red Cross assist in the development of campaign materials and coordination of the campaign.