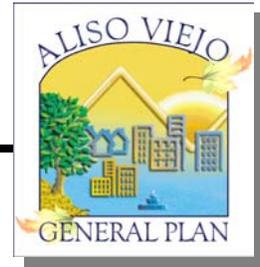


SAFETY ELEMENT



INTRODUCTION

While hazards created by natural phenomena or as a result of human activity are part of everyday life, they potentially can threaten quality of life in Aliso Viejo. Creating effective strategies that reduce the potential for loss of life, injury and property damage associated with natural and human caused hazards is the central objective of the General Plan Safety Element.

PURPOSE OF THE SAFETY ELEMENT

The purpose of the Safety Element is to identify and address potential hazards within or affecting Aliso Viejo. Goals and policies are established in the Element to minimize potential dangers to residents, workers and visitors while identifying actions needed to manage crises such as earthquakes, fires and floods. Continuing education of public officials and residents about potential hazards within the community, emergency preparedness, and evacuation routes are also addressed.

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE SAFETY ELEMENT

The Safety Element is a mandated component of the General Plan as outlined in the State Government Code. The Element must cover the following hazards if they pertain to conditions in the City:

- ❖ Seismically induced conditions including ground shaking, surface rupture, ground failure, tsunami and seiche;
- ❖ Slope instability leading to mudslides and landslides;
- ❖ Subsidence and other geologic hazards;
- ❖ Flooding;
- ❖ Wildland and urban fires; and
- ❖ Evacuation routes, water supply requirements and design standards for new development as they relate to identified fire, seismic, and geologic hazards.

Communities may also add locally significant safety issues to this list. Due to potential safety concerns with nuclear power production, air pollution, criminal activity, and the use, storage and transport of hazardous materials in the City, these issues are also addressed in the Safety Element.

The Safety Element has three sections: 1) this Introduction; 2) Issues, Goals and Policies; and 3) the Safety Plan. In the second section (Issues, Goals and Policies), potential safety issues are identified and discussed, and goals and policies are established to serve as guidelines for reducing risk associated with these issues. The Safety Plan describes how the goals and policies will be achieved and implemented. Specific implementation for the Safety Element is provided in the General Plan Implementation Program located in Appendix A.

RELATED PLANS AND PROGRAMS

Many plans and programs enacted through State and local legislation directly relate to the Safety Element. These plans and programs are administered by agencies with powers to enforce State and local laws.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Guidelines

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was adopted by the State legislature in response to a public mandate for a thorough environmental analysis of projects that might adversely affect the environment. Public safety hazards are recognized as environmental impacts under CEQA. The provisions of the law and environmental review procedures are described in the CEQA Statutes and the CEQA Guidelines. Implementation of CEQA ensures that during the decision making stage of development, City officials and the general public will be able to assess the safety impacts associated with public and private development projects.

Seismic Hazards Mapping Act

Pursuant to the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act, the State Geologist compiles maps identifying seismic hazard zones. Development in seismic hazard areas is subject to policies and criteria established by the State Mining and Geology Board. Additionally, approval of development on a site within a seismic hazard area requires the preparation of a geotechnical report and local agency consideration of the policies and criteria set forth by the State Mining and Geology Board (Public Resources Code Section 2690 et. seq.).

Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act

The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act requires the State Geologist to identify earthquake fault zones along traces of both recently active and potentially active major faults. Cities and counties that contain such zones must inform the public regarding the location of these zones, which are usually one-quarter mile or less in width. Proposed development plans within these earthquake fault zones must be accompanied by a geotechnical report prepared by a qualified geologist describing the likelihood of surface rupture. No known fault zones or seismic zones intersect the Planning Area.

Landslide Hazard Identification Program

The Landslide Hazard Identification Program requires the State Geologist to prepare maps of landslide hazards within urbanizing areas. According to Public Resources Code Section 2687 (a), public agencies are encouraged to use these maps for land use planning and for decisions regarding building, grading and development permits.



San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS)

The San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) is located near the southern boundary of Orange County. The federal and state governments have created three levels of emergency zones surrounding nuclear facilities. The City of Aliso Viejo is within the Public Education Zone (PEZ), which extends approximately 35 miles in radius from SONGS. Within the PEZ, the focus is on education programs coordinated by the State and Southern California Edison to ensure that residents are prepared for any problems associated with the facility.

Orange County Fire Authority Hazardous Materials Area Plan

The Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) Hazardous Materials Area Plan addresses normal day-to-day hazardous materials operations as well as extreme emergencies, in which coordination among a variety of emergency response agencies is required. Local government involvement in a hazardous materials emergency is principally focused on discovery, notification, evaluation, and initiation of immediate on-scene action, along with long-term preparedness measures which are implemented in coordination with local businesses. The Area Plan provides guidance for all local government agencies within the OCFA's jurisdiction in response to a hazardous materials emergency.

City of Aliso Viejo Codes

The City has adopted the most recent sections of the California Building Standards Code (Title 24), including the Uniform Building, Mechanical, Fire, Electrical, and Plumbing Codes, which contain structural requirements for both current and new buildings. The codes are designed to ensure structural integrity during seismic and other hazardous events, and to prevent injury, loss of life and substantial property damage. To protect public safety, planned development in Aliso Viejo is subject to these structural codes.

City of Aliso Viejo Emergency Operations Plan

The City of Aliso Viejo Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is designed to incorporate and coordinate all the facilities and personnel of the City into an efficient organization capable of reacting adequately in the face of any disaster; and to conduct such operations as the nature of the disaster deems necessary, whether it be to combat a local emergency or to assist other jurisdictions should they suffer an emergency. The EOP is an integral part of the Safety Element.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER GENERAL PLAN ELEMENTS

State planning law requires the Safety Element to be consistent with other General Plan elements. The Safety Element most closely relates to the Land Use and Circulation Elements.

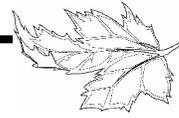
Policies and plans developed in the Safety Element are intended to protect current and planned land uses identified in the Land Use Element from public safety hazards. Potential hazards identified in the Safety Element are addressed through programs established to avoid or mitigate public safety impacts associated

SAFETY ELEMENT



with planned development. The Land Use Element also contains policies to ensure that environmental conditions, including hazards, are considered in all land use decisions.

A well planned and maintained circulation network is an essential public safety concern. Evacuation routes utilizing the City circulation system are also described in the Safety Element. The provision of viable evacuation routes within the City is inextricably linked to the planned circulation system described in the Circulation Element.



ISSUES, GOALS, AND POLICIES

The Safety Element addresses natural conditions and human activities that can potentially threaten public health and safety. Natural hazards in Aliso Viejo include the potential for earthquakes and associated hazards, geologic conditions such as unstable soils and landslides, wildland fire hazards and flooding. Human activity hazards include criminal activity, urban fires, and the use and transport of hazardous materials. Understanding these hazards and preparing to deal with them on both an incident-related and ongoing basis are important objectives for the City.

Safety Element goals, policies and implementation address three issues: (1) reducing risk from natural hazardous conditions; (2) reducing risks from hazards associated with human activities, such as criminal activity, urban fires and hazardous materials; and (3) preparing for emergency situations.

NATURAL HAZARDS

Given that Aliso Viejo is located in a seismically active region, and that flooding, landslides, erosion and wildfires are potential safety concerns, the City has a responsibility to ensure the safety of residents and businesses throughout the community from associated hazards and damage. Tools available to mitigate potential hazards include land use planning, development engineering, and building construction practices.

Seismic and Geologic Hazards



Goal S-1	Minimize risk to the community from seismic activity and geologic conditions including ground shaking, fault rupture, slope stability, liquefaction and landslides.
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- Policy S-1.1 Avoid development in areas susceptible to erosion and sediment loss.
- Policy S-1.2 Investigate specific geologic conditions underlying all new development or redevelopment proposals in areas where potential fault rupture, liquefaction, slope instability or other geological hazards are suspected.
- Policy S-1.3 Participate in federal, State and local earthquake preparedness, slope stabilization, and emergency response education programs.



Wildland Fires



Goal S-2 **Protect the community from wildland fires.**

- Policy S-2.1 Limit construction in areas adjacent to wildlands.
- Policy S-2.2 Require residents and AVCA to plant and maintain fire-resistant slope cover to reduce the risk of brush fire in areas adjacent to Aliso and Wood Canyons, and develop and implement stringent site design and maintenance standards for all areas with high wildland fire potential.
- Policy S-2.3 Ensure adequate fire equipment access and fire suppression resources to all developed and open space areas within the City.
- Policy S-2.4 Cooperate with the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) in efforts to reduce fire risks through controlled burning, fuel removal and public education.

Flooding



Goal S-3 **Reduce the potential for flooding along Aliso Creek.**

- Policy S-3.1 Require that new development and redevelopment minimize stormwater and urban runoff into drainage facilities by incorporating on-site design features such as detention basins, water features, or other suitable strategies. Where feasible, support the use of common detention facilities serving more than one development.
- Policy S-3.2 Cooperate and assist efforts by the Orange County Flood Control District to provide well-maintained flood control facilities capable of accommodating, at a minimum, 100-year storm flows consistent with federal requirements.

HUMAN ACTIVITY HAZARDS

Potentially hazardous human activities, such as use of cars and other gasoline powered vehicles, nuclear power production, use of hazardous or toxic materials, and use of combustibles occur in and around Aliso Viejo every day. While these activities have economic and quality of life benefits for residents and businesses, they also increase community risk levels for property damage and loss of life. Residents and businesses are also occasionally exposed to criminal activity and the risk of structural fires.



Air Pollution, Hazardous Materials, and Nuclear Power Production



Goal	Protect the community from hazards associated with air pollution, hazardous materials and nuclear power production.
S-4	

- Policy S-4.1 Participate in and support efforts by responsible federal, State, and County agencies to decrease air pollution emissions occurring within the air basin.

- Policy S-4.2 Minimize risks associated with ground transportation of hazardous materials through Aliso Viejo.

- Policy S-4.3 Provide education and information to City residents regarding proper use, storage and disposal of household hazardous materials.

- Policy S-4.4 Coordinate public education and emergency response activities addressing nuclear power production risks with other local, federal and State agencies.

Criminal Activity and Structural Fires



Goal	Safeguard the community from criminal activity and structural fire hazards.
S-5	

- Policy S-5.1 Promote coordinated efforts on behalf of local, State and federal agencies within the community to reduce the risk of criminal activity and structural fires.

- Policy S-5.2 Continue to implement community-based crime prevention strategies, and promote public awareness of the responsiveness of local law enforcement and ways to reduce criminal activity.

- Policy S-5.3 Apply design techniques and standards that employ adequate street and property lighting, and place an increased emphasis on public areas to reduce potential criminal activity in new development and reuse projects.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

One of the City’s most important functions is to ensure that federal, State and locally-based resources are available to assist residents and businesses to respond to and recover from emergency situations associated with the various hazards described in this Element. Preparing for emergencies is essential to minimize potential disruption, personal injury, and property damage associated with these events. Establishing preventative measures, preparatory responses, and cooperative agreements and plans with other agencies and jurisdictions before an emergency occurs are critical.

SAFETY ELEMENT 



Goal	Maintain a high level of emergency preparedness to protect public health and
S-6	safety in the event of a natural or human-caused disaster.

Policy S-6.1 Prepare and update a local City emergency preparedness plan and participate in multi-jurisdictional planning for and response to emergency situations.



SAFETY PLAN

Like all communities, natural conditions and human activities in Aliso Viejo affect the quality of life and safety of residents. Reducing risks associated with natural hazards and human activities, and preparing for emergency situations is essential to creation and maintenance of an attractive and healthy environment. Public health and private property is protected through prevention and emergency preparedness planning. The City has established goals and policies (listed in the previous section) to safeguard community health from natural and human activity hazards and prepare for emergency situations. The Safety Plan describes the approach for achieving this aim and provides a general outline of action programs. As an extension of the Safety Plan, implementation measures contained in Appendix A of the General Plan describe specific actions that the City will take to protect public safety.

SAFETY POLICY MAP

Figure S-1 on page S-11 presents graphically the City's safety policies and plan. The Safety Policy Map presents the locations of known geologic, flood, and wildland fire hazards, and identifies preferred evacuation routes. As applicable, the Safety Plan refers to the Policy Map for identification of significant locations, conditions, or development requirements.

NATURAL HAZARDS

Seismic Hazards

Southern California has numerous active seismic faults subjecting Aliso Viejo residents to potential earthquake and seismic-related hazards. Seismic activity poses two types of potential hazards for residents and structures, categorized either as primary or secondary hazards. Primary hazards include ground rupture, ground shaking, ground displacement, subsidence and uplift from earth movement. Primary hazards can also induce secondary hazards such as ground failure (lurch cracking, lateral spreading, and slope failure), liquefaction, water waves (seiches), movement on nearby faults (sympathetic fault movement), dam failure, and fires.

Although no known active fault exists within Aliso Viejo and there is a very low probability of exposure to primary seismic hazards, due to the City's proximity to active regional faults, secondary hazards pose a threat to the community. The closest active major fault is the Newport-Inglewood Fault, located approximately seven miles northwest of the City. In 1933, the Newport-Inglewood Fault produced a 6.3 magnitude earthquake devastating portions of Long Beach. Ongoing public education is the most effective way to reduce the loss of life, injury, damage to property, and economic and





social dislocation resulting from future earthquakes. The City will continually update development standards and adopt the latest building construction codes to minimize seismic and related geologic hazards.

Geologic Hazards

Two common seismic-related geologic hazards include landslides and liquefaction. Landslides can occur if areas of steep slopes consisting of unstable soils are disturbed by groundshaking and/or heavy rainfall. Liquefaction occurs primarily in areas characterized by recently deposited sands and silts and in areas with high groundwater levels. Especially susceptible areas include sloughs and marshes that have been filled in and covered with development. Portions of the City most susceptible to liquefaction and landslides are identified on the Safety Policy Map (Figure S-1). These areas correspond to a 2001 delineation of liquefaction and landslide zones prepared by the California Geological Survey. State law requires identification of these zones, within which the stability of foundation soils and hill slopes must be evaluated, and countermeasures undertaken in the design and construction of buildings for human occupancy (Public Resources Code, Section 2693(c)).

Ongoing education of community residents about geologic and seismic related hazards will help reduce potential injury, loss of life, and damage to property in the event of a geologic or seismic event. Slope maintenance is an important component of the City's public safety education program. Additionally, Aliso Viejo will continually update development standards and adopt the latest building construction codes to guide future development in areas with known geologic and seismic-related hazards, as identified on the Safety Policy Map (Figure S-1). Pursuant to State law, geologic and/or geotechnical studies are required for proposed new development in areas identified as susceptible to landslides and liquefaction and binding mitigation strategies must be adopted. The City will continually monitor and encourage remediation of unstable areas, particularly in those areas characterized by the presence of crib walls or historical anecdotal evidence of instability. On a site-by-site basis, slope stabilization and maintenance may be required. The City will also adopt a grading ordinance to ensure that grading associated with new development projects is conducted in accordance with appropriate geotechnical engineering standards.

Wildland Fires

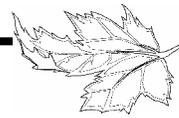


Wildland fires may threaten both developed properties and open spaces in Aliso Viejo, as the City is surrounded by natural vegetation communities, including brush-covered canyons and hillsides. Portions of the City abutting the Aliso and Woods Canyon Wilderness Park are located within the Orange County Fire Authority's (OCFA) Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFSZ), as shown on the Safety Policy Map (Figure S-1). The VHFSZ is defined as an area prone to uncontrollable fires, as designated by the Fire Marshal in



Figure S-1
Safety Policy Map (11x17" Fold out)

Slip Page - Back side of 11x17" Figure



accordance with recognized state-wide evaluation criteria. Although the Land Use Policy Map designates primarily Open Space and Recreation uses in these areas, construction and development standards unique to the VHFSZ would apply to new development, should these designations be changed in the future. These standards are detailed in the Uniform Fire Code and include:

- ❖ Automatic fire sprinkler systems
- ❖ Class A roof coverings
- ❖ Exterior wall surfaces made of one-hour fire rated materials
- ❖ Spark arrestors on chimneys
- ❖ Site landscape fuel modification

Areas west of the City identified as Special Fire Protection Areas (SFPAs) on the Safety Policy Map are subject to the same construction and development requirements. In addition, areas of increased biomass within Aliso and Wood Canyons pose increased wildfire risks.

OCFA has established a Wildland Taskforce to educate residents living near wildlands on ways they can protect themselves from potential wildfire threats. The importance of creating and maintaining a defensible space around homes to minimize potential threats is stressed in this education program. Defensible space describes a bare or sparsely planted area around a home or building that is clear of dry grass, brush, and dead leaves, which acts as a fire break and gives firefighters a safe place to stand while protecting properties from approaching flames. Permitted vegetation surrounding many homes within the VHFSZ is specified by a property's particular fuel modification plan. The fuel modification plan outlines a home's defensible space, including what types of plants should be planted, and how they should be spaced. For homes with fuel modification plans, records are kept by the Aliso Viejo Community Association (AVCA) or OCFA.

AVCA also maintains landscaping along most of Aliso Viejo's roadways and slopes, and is encouraged to plant fire resistant slope cover to reduce fire risks to local structures. In addition, alternative emergency water sources can be important in the event of a severe wildland fire. For this reason, the City will work with AVCA and private entities to identify alternative emergency water sources, such as private swimming pools. The City also supports research and development of new technologies to prevent and suppress fires (e.g. foam treatments for new construction and other means).

Following General Plan adoption, the City will develop a zoning ordinance that will codify development restrictions and landscape maintenance requirements (on a project-by-project basis) in areas within and near the VHFSZ, or require these properties to conform to standards outlined by the OCFA.

The City will continue to coordinate with OCFA to raise public awareness of fire safety issues including wildland fire prevention, where to take pets during fire-related evacuations, and the benefits of fire resistant slope cover. Proposals for new development will be submitted to OCFA for review to ensure site plans provide adequate access for Authority personnel in case of wildland or structural fire. Because OCFA is under contract with the City of Aliso Viejo, the City will ensure the Authority continues to provide an adequate level of service to meet community fire safety needs.



To increase public awareness of wildfire hazards and improve the quality of information available to residents and decision-makers, the City will also work with AVCA and OCFA to carefully investigate the status of fuel modification plans applicable to properties within the City and issue an educational notice to residents and property owners of lots with established fuel modification zones. Parcels subject to fuel modification plans will be encoded in the City's Geographic Information System (GIS), and notices will describe the types of vegetation permitted and restricted within the modification zone. The Safety Policy Map

should be amended in the future to incorporate this information.

Flooding

Floods also have the potential to cause extensive property damage and injury to community residents. The Aliso Creek and Wood Canyon Channels are the primary north to south regional drainage systems passing through the City. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for Orange County show that portions of Aliso Viejo are within established Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) corresponding to the 100-year floodplain. These areas, corresponding to the Aliso Creek and Wood Canyon Channels, are depicted on the Safety Policy Map (Figure S-1).

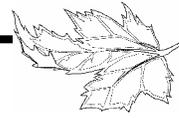
The City's Zoning Ordinance or any Specific Plan developed after adoption of this General Plan will contain on-site stormwater retention requirements for all new development to offset or reduce the amount of stormwater created as the area of impermeable surfaces increases. Although the majority of these areas are designated for future Open Space or Recreation use, FEMA development requirements will be incorporated within the zoning ordinance through establishment of a flood hazard overlay zone corresponding to the location of SFHAs.

The City will continue to coordinate with the Orange County Flood Control District which is responsible for maintenance and monitoring of regional flood control facilities. In addition, the City will continue to support the Orange County Fire Authority and its Swift Water Rescue Teams, which are equipped to respond to flooding crisis situations. The City will also enroll in the National Flood Insurance Program.

HUMAN ACTIVITY HAZARDS

Air Pollution

Air pollution can be a health hazard, particularly for the elderly, the young, and the infirm. Aliso Viejo is located within the South Coast Air Basin, a non-attainment area for State and federal ozone standards and state PM_{10} standards. Motor vehicles are the major source of regional emissions throughout the air basin and within the City. No major point source emitters, such as heavy industrial uses, are located within Aliso Viejo and the City reduces the risks posed by air pollution by working with responsible federal, State, and county agencies to decrease air pollution emissions occurring within this portion of the air basin. The



City also requires that potential air pollution impacts on sensitive receptors, such as nursing homes, schools, and residences, be analyzed during the environmental review of projects. Implementation and interpretation of General Plan policies should be consistent with the South Coast Air Quality Management Plan.

Hazardous Materials

Some commercial or business sites within the City store and use flammable materials and chemicals, which are hazardous if used inappropriately. However, these sites are few in number and are adequately regulated by local, county, state, and federal laws. The San Joaquin Hills Transportation Corridor (SR-73) also traverses Aliso Viejo, creating the potential for a transportation-related hazardous materials emergency.

The Hazardous Materials Services Section (HMSS) of the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) serves Aliso Viejo and has the following responsibilities:

- ❖ Collecting information from all businesses in Aliso Viejo that handle or store hazardous materials above certain threshold quantities. Reporting requirements include chemical names, quantities, storage locations, and uses.
- ❖ Identifying “Extremely Hazardous Substances” (EHS), as designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- ❖ Compiling all data into an automated data base. Providing information to first responders (firefighters, etc.) before and during emergencies.
- ❖ Administering the “Community Right to Know” program and responding to all requests from the public for hazardous materials information in coordination with the California Office of Emergency Services (OES).

OCFA has developed a Hazardous Materials Area Plan for coordinated response to chemical emergencies. The Area Plan addresses normal day-to-day hazardous materials operations as well as extreme emergencies, in which coordination among a variety of emergency response agencies is required. Aliso Viejo’s responsibility in the event of a hazardous materials emergency is primarily focused on discovery, notification, evaluation, and initiation of immediate on-scene action. In addition, the City is to develop long-term preparedness measures that are implemented in coordination with local businesses.

Common household items such as medical wastes (syringes, etc.), latex and oil based paint, antifreeze, batteries, used motor oil, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and some hobby supplies are considered household hazardous wastes and cannot be disposed of along with other residential trash. If not disposed of properly, these hazardous waste materials can contaminate ground water, pollute the ocean, and kill beneficial bacteria needed to treat sewage. Orange County has one of the most extensive and efficient household hazardous waste collection programs in California. Four permanent collection facilities are located throughout the County, including a



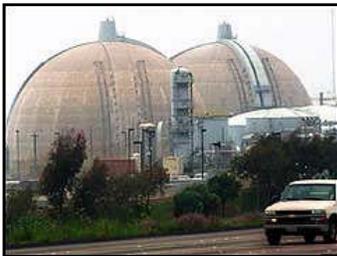


regional facility located in Irvine.

The City will continue to educate the public regarding proper disposal of household hazardous waste and other safety concerns related to improper use and storage of hazardous materials. In addition, the City cooperates with responsible federal, state, and county agencies to minimize risk from the use and transportation of hazardous materials through the community. The City will evaluate risks and explore the possibility of restricting transport of certain types of wastes through the City.

Nuclear Power Production

The San Onofre Nuclear Generating System (SONGS) is located near the Camp Pendleton U.S. Marine Corps Base in San Diego County. SONGS operations are regulated by FEMA and the California OES. An Interjurisdictional Planning Committee (IPC), comprised of several local jurisdictions, has been established to coordinate local emergency response plans.



SONGS releases small quantities of radioactive gas into the air and liquids into the Pacific Ocean. These releases are monitored by SONGS personnel. According to SONGS, radiation exposure due to the material releases is less than the typical exposure from natural background radiation. The two most likely sources of radiation contamination are incidents involving transport of radioactive materials, and uncontrolled releases at the plant site.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has identified the area surrounding every nuclear generating station as an Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ). The State of California has defined the area outside, and adjacent to the EPZ as a Public Education Zone (PEZ). Aliso Viejo is located within the PEZ for San Onofre. For areas located within this zone, the focus is on education programs coordinated by the State and Southern California Edison to ensure that residents are prepared for any problems associated with the facility. Aliso Viejo's Emergency Operations Plan facilitates these public education programs consistent with the City's proximity to the nuclear power facility.

Criminal Activities

Residents, businesses, and visitors in Aliso Viejo may be occasionally exposed to criminal activity. In the first year of incorporation, the Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD), which provides police services to the City, reported that Aliso Viejo had one of the lowest crime rates in the County. Sheriff's personnel assigned to the City's Police Services Department are responsible for general patrol, traffic enforcement, traffic collision, criminal investigation, and other law enforcement related tasks. Deputies utilize various methods of patrol in the community including: car patrol, motorcycle patrol, equestrian patrol, and bicycle patrol. In 2002, the City averaged approximately 35 to 55 calls to 911 per day.

One way to minimize the risk associated with criminal activity is to review development proposals for sensitivity to Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles. CPTED principles are rooted on the premise that the effective design and use of the physical environment can lead to a



reduction in the incidence and fear of crime, thereby improving quality of life. The Police Services Department reviews site and design plans for significant projects to ensure the risks associated with criminal activity are minimized before a project is constructed.

The City will continue to coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions and agencies to provide an adequate level of police services within the community. Exemplifying the possibilities of interagency coordination, in 2002, the City of Aliso Viejo partnered with the City of Laguna Woods to add a motorcycle deputy to service both cities in an effort to enhance traffic safety.

Aliso Viejo has active Neighborhood Watch and Community Oriented Policing programs. The neighborhood and business watch programs are organized by a Police Services Department crime prevention specialist.

AVCA also promotes numerous activities for City youth that assist in the reduction of juvenile crime. AVCA sponsors the Aliso Viejo Youth Commission, which consists of middle and high school teens that meet regularly to discuss current events, plan and promote teen activities, and gather volunteers to serve at various events in and around the community. In addition, AVCA sponsors several other activities for youth including swim lessons, summer camps, tennis lessons, and a Music Together program.

Aliso Viejo's approach to public safety is unique and customized to the City's special needs. The City continues to look for creative ways to meet safety needs as the community evolves. To do this, the City reviews the level of police services provided through the Orange County Sheriff's Department on an annual basis and coordinates with the Department to ensure that safety needs of the community are met.



Structural Fires

In addition to the threat posed by wildland fires, Aliso Viejo residents are exposed to various structural fire hazards within the City. OCFA provides fire services to the City of Aliso Viejo. The Authority's staffing commitment to Aliso Viejo (as of 2003) includes three engine companies, one truck company, one paramedic unit, and a Battalion Chief. The OCFA response goal is for the first engine to reach the emergency scene within five minutes 80 percent of the time and a paramedic to reach the scene within eight minutes 90 percent of the time. OCFA has consistently met or exceeded this goal. In addition, OCFA has an Inspection Services Section that conducts fire safety inspections, and enforces applicable fire codes and ordinances in Aliso Viejo.

The City of Aliso Viejo ensures the continued protection of the health, safety, and general welfare of citizens by educating the public about fire hazards and reducing risks associated with fire hazards. The City reviews funding levels for fire services on an annual basis to ensure an adequate level of service and facilities are provided. In addition, the City ensures adequate street widths and clearance for emergency access is maintained when reviewing development proposals.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Local emergency preparedness plans serve as extensions of the California Emergency Plan and the Emergency Resource Management Plan. The purpose of having a statewide Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) is to respond to emergency situation with a coordinated system of emergency service providers and facilities.

The City of Aliso Viejo has developed an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) consistent with the SEMS outlining the City's response to extraordinary emergency situations associated with natural disasters, technological incidents, and national security emergencies. The EOP is not intended to address normal day-to-day emergencies or the well-established and routine procedures used in coping with such emergencies. Instead, the operational concepts reflected in the EOP focus on potential large-scale disasters that can generate unique situations requiring unusual emergency responses. The threats identified in the plan include: major earthquake, hazardous materials incident, flooding, transportation incident, civil unrest, terrorism/homeland security, and national security emergency. The EOP also establishes evacuation routes, identifies emergency shelter facilities, and water supplies in coordination with the Moulton Niguel and El Toro Water Districts. Evacuation routes and staging areas, which may also function as potential emergency shelters, are identified on the Safety Policy Map (Figure S-2).

The City's ability to respond effectively to natural and human caused emergencies will improve by educating residents and businesses regarding appropriate actions to safeguard life and property during and immediately after emergencies. To accomplish this, the City will continually educate the public on the need to adequately prepare for emergencies and to gain a familiarity with City emergency plans and evacuation routes. The EOP will also be made easily available to the public. A public educated in emergency preparedness is more likely to know how to prevent injury and property damage during and after emergency episodes and also know how to find help.



The City's Geographic Information System will be equipped to manage emergency and disaster-related information, facilitating a more efficient and coordinated response to any emergency. In the event of an emergency, the City will activate an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at City Hall. The City will also continue to evaluate the need and potential sites for an alternative EOC site.