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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 24, 2010

**Community Emergency Response Team
Graduates Ready to Help**
Ceremony and Simulation to be Held August 28th

Goleta, CA, August 24, 2010 – The City of Goleta will recognize its first class of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members on Saturday, August 28th at the Goleta Valley Community Center. CERT members are trained to provide critical support to first responders, offer immediate assistance to victims and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site. CERT members can also help with non-emergency projects that help improve the safety of the community.

"I want to thank all the participants for investing the time into this emergency training," said Mayor Eric Onnen. "Their efforts will benefit our community for years to come. Being prepared is our best defense against disaster."

This final class includes a simulation and evaluation exercise which will be held from 8-10:30 a.m. at the Goleta Valley Community Center at 5679 Hollister Avenue. The graduation ceremony in the main auditorium and a barbecue will immediately follow. Attendees and media are encouraged to park behind the community center as the west entrance to the driveway will be blocked off for the simulation.

Thirty-two local residents participated in eight weeks of training which included segments on Disaster Preparedness, Team Organization and Disaster Psychology, Medical Operations, Damage Assessment, Disaster Simulation, Fire Suppression and Light Search and Rescue.

CERT participants include Linda Battala, Steve Beal, David Briggs, Jim Caesar, Lee Coulter, Kirsten Deshler, Ed Easton, Marv Gustafson, Lala Hannah, Yukimi Lemont, George Levinthol, Adam Lewis, Maureen Lewis, Maria Lopez, Amy Mallet, Todd Matson, David McClure, Michael Mills, Richard Nordsieck, Gilbert Perleberg, Barbara Pies, Jesus Rios, Mark Rousseau, Brian Salisbury, Tari

Schnepf, Chris Sprenger, Rubayi Srivastava, Jill Switzer, Dorothy Turner, Mike Wapner and Linda Williams.

Participating presenters for the course were:

Roberta Ainciart, American Red Cross volunteer
Jack Armstrong, retired, Santa Barbara County Fire
Scott Coffman, retired, Carpinteria-Summerland Fire
Bill Cottriel, Nargan Fire and Safety Company
Captain Rob Durtche, Santa Barbara County Fire
Anthony Hudley, Lompoc Fire Department
Gracie Huerta, Disaster Readiness Consultant
Charlie Johnson, Carpinteria-Summerland Fire
Yolanda McGlinchey, City of Santa Barbara
Adam Reichick, Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department

Other cooperating agencies include the Goleta Valley Community Center, the Goleta Valley Senior Center, Medical Reserve Corps, Orfalea Foundation (Aware and Prepare Initiative) and Santa Barbara County Fire Department, Stations 11, 12, and 14.

Additional CERT courses will be offered through the City of Goleta in early 2011. For more information or to register, call 961-7500 or visit www.goletapreparenow.org. The CERT program is part of Goleta Prepare Now! / ¡Goleta Prepárese Hoy!, a program to educate and prepare our community for disaster.

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