# **PUBLIC SAFETY**

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# **SECTION 7: PUBLIC SAFETY ELEMENT**



#### INTRODUCTION

The Public Safety Element of the Whittier General Plan presents a citywide approach for preventing the creation of hazards in the planning area and for minimizing the potential for injury, damage, and disruption by catastrophes and emergencies. The Element establishes safety standards and programs that protect life and property. Public safety standards include guidelines for activities involving risk to the public, as well as measures to follow when development occurs in areas exposed to natural or manmade hazards. Public safety programs include procedures to follow to eliminate and avoid hazards, emergency response procedures to follow during disasters, and a reconstruction plan for the City after a disaster.

The Public Safety Element addresses both natural and manmade hazards such as earthquakes, flooding, landslides, fire, crime, and hazardous materials/wastes contamination. In dealing with these issues, it is prudent to consider prevention as the first step in hazard mitigation. This may be accomplished by the elimination of the hazard, isolation/avoidance of the hazard, or the regulation of land uses and structures in known hazard areas. When prevention is not possible, the hazard must be planned for. Emergency planning means the formulation of strategies to minimize human injury, property damage, and economic and social disruption. It also addresses measures necessary to return the functions of the City to normal conditions soon after a disaster.

As a state-mandated element, the Public Safety Element fulfills the requirements of Section 65302(g) of the California Government Code and the State Planning and Zoning Law. The Element establishes goals and policies which address public safety issues in the City. The Element also serves as a public safety plan, identifying standards and programs to protect public safety and outlining facilities and services that will serve the emergency needs of the City. The Public Safety Element indicates the location of known hazard areas and available evacuation routes. It indicates peak water supply requirements, minimum road widths, clearances around structures, and other factors affecting safety procedures. Finally, the Element contains a comprehensive risk management program for dealing with different hazards and disasters which may occur in the planning area.

The Public Safety Element Background Report provides the analysis of the public safety issues that need to be considered in future planning in the City. The major issues are summarized below.

The geology of the region largely determines the presence of natural hazards in Whittier. Seismic hazards are created by the Whittier fault and the more than 95 potentially active faults in the Los Angeles region. Other earthquake faults that would affect the City of Whittier include the Elsinore/Chino fault, the Elysian Park Fold and Thrust Belt, Newport-Inglewood, Sierra Madre, Palos Verdes, San Jacinto, San Andreas, and Norwalk faults. Hazards associated with earthquakes include surface rupture, ground failure, slope failure, liquefaction, seismic waves, structural collapse, dam failure



and inundation, and infrastructure damage. The 1987 earthquake in the Whittier Narrows area has given the City recent experience with an earthquake disaster.

- The hillside areas pose landslide, erosion, debris flow, and wildfire hazards. Programs that will be effective in reducing the level of risk must be continued. Flooding and dam inundation are presented by the Whittier Narrows Dam on the northwest and water reservoirs on the hillsides. Affected developments need to be informed of evacuation plans and procedures. The City has had recent experience with slippage of hillside areas.
- Fire, crime, and hazardous material accidents are man-made hazards in the area. The large number of hazardous material users and generators in the City pose risks with accidental release and contamination. Substandard electrical systems, industrial uses, power lines, and gas lines have a potential for fire. Crime incidence and gang violence undermine the safety and security of the community. In Whittier, the majority of crime consists of petty theft, residential burglary, auto theft, and vehicle burglary.
- Emergency services in the City are provided by the Whittier Police Department, the County Fire Department, and local hospitals. Emergency shelters have also been designated. The City has adopted an Emergency Response Plan which needs to be updated regularly to determine the adequacy of emergency services and to improve coordination and response programs. Public awareness programs can aid in reducing injury and property damage during disaster and emergencies by informing and educating citizens of potential hazards before they happen.

These issues and opportunities provide the basis for the goals, policies, and programs in the Public Safety Element.

### PUBLIC SAFETY GOALS AND POLICIES

The goals and policies of the Public Safety Element respond to the different safety concerns that are present in the City. The policies established by the City are grouped together under five specific goals. These goals address overall protection from hazards, the provision of adequate safety services, protection from seismic hazards and the regulation of hazardous materials use and disposal. They are intended to prevent hazardous conditions, to protect residents from harm, and to prepare the City for unavoidable disasters.

# Issue: Protection from Hazards

The protection of life and property from hazards is the major objective of the following goal and supporting policies. Future planning that takes into account the natural and manmade hazards in the City, will improve the level of safety for all residents.



- Goal 1 Promote an environment that is reasonably safe from hazards so that Whittier residents may conduct their daily lives free from fear and apprehension.
  - Policy 1.1 Continue to work for the highest quality of fire, police, and health protection possible for all Whittier residents.
  - Policy 1.2 Continue to cooperate with public agencies and support service providers to develop emergency preparedness programs to reduce injury, loss of life, and property damage.
  - Policy 1.3 Continue to provide fast, efficient, and reliable assistance to disaster victims and to areas where conditions warrant evacuation of people and property.
  - Policy 1.4 Promote emergency preparedness through public education and awareness programs on safety, earthquake preparedness, crime prevention, and fire and hazard prevention.
  - Policy 1.5 Promote the study, adoption, and review of regulations designed to assure appropriate and safe development in hazardous areas.

#### Issue: Seismic Risk and Other Hazards

The presence of the Whittier fault and geologic hazards (landslides, liquefaction, etc.) in the City expose individuals in the area to injury and property damage that may occur with these risks. The City seeks to prevent these hazards, as well as minimize the harm and damage that may result from disaster through sensible land use planning.

- Goal 2 Minimize loss of life, injuries, damage to property, and social and economic dislocation resulting from future regional or local seismic activity.
  - Policy 2.1 Develop land use regulations that will mandate the review, evaluation, and restriction of development in areas where there are recognized hazards.
  - Policy 2.2 Provide for the orderly abatement of structural hazards within the community, consistent with the degree of earthquake risk the community is willing to accept.
  - Policy 2.3 Maintain contingency plans which will help Whittier citizens respond to and recover from an earthquake as quickly and effectively as possible.



# Issue: Safety Services

The City of Whittier provides a number of safety services to promote public health and safety in the City. These services determine the level of safety and the sense of security that residents feel.

- Goal 3 Maintain and enhance safety and emergency services in the City.
  - Policy 3.1 Coordinate fire protection services with the County Fire Department.
  - Policy 3.2 Maintain an adequate emergency response system.
  - Policy 3.3 Assist the police and fire departments in monitoring the safety of all developments in the City.
  - Policy 2.4 Continue to maintain fire safety through building inspections, weed abatement, and other programs.
  - Policy 3.5 Provide adequate fire and police services for new developments in the planning area.
  - Policy 3.6 Periodically review the City's emergency equipment and shelters to ensure that they are adequate to meet the needs of changing land uses and development types.

#### Issue: Hazardous Materials

Hazardous materials present health risks due to contamination, prolonged exposure, or potential explosion. While there are safety precautions for hazardous materials use and disposal, the mishandling or accidental release of these materials can compromise the health and safety of Whittier residents.

- Goal 4 Develop programs to protect residents and businesses from hazardous materials contamination.
  - Policy 4.1 Support the enforcement of state and federal environmental and pollution control laws. The City should work with the Fire Department to require hazardous materials users and generators to prepare procedures for responding to accidental spills and emergencies.
  - Policy 4.2 Promote the proper disposal of hazardous materials and prohibit the disposal of hazardous materials at the Savage Canyon Landfill. Random checks of incoming trucks to the landfill shall be continued. At the same time, develop programs to dispose of small quantities of households hazardous wastes.



- Policy 4.3 Designate routes for trucks carrying hazardous materials and preventing trucks from using residential and local streets.
- Policy 4.4 Work with the County Fire Department and adjacent cities on emergency response plans for hazardous material accidents.

#### Issue: Crime and Violence

Crime and violence represent the greatest threat to personal safety for many City residents. The City of Whittier seeks to reduce the incidence of crime and violence in the City through the provision of adequate police services and programs that deter criminal activity.

- Goal 5: Reduce crime and violence in the City.
  - Policy 5.1 Regularly review police services to determine the adequacy and quality of service.
  - Policy 5.2 Continue to provide programs that deter crime and violence in Whittier and the surrounding area.
  - Policy 5.3 Encourage neighborhood groups to assist the police in crime prevention and law enforcement.
  - Policy 5.4 Develop programs for discouraging crime and gang violence in the city.
  - Policy 5.5 Work with other agencies and jurisdictions to promote safe driving to minimize traffic accidents.

#### IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMS

In order to improve public safety in Whittier, specific measures have been developed to implement the goals and policies in the previous section. Table 7-1 provides a list of implementation measures for each goal and policy. A discussion of each measure is provided in Section 10.

TABLE 7-1 PUBLIC SAFETY IMPLEMENTATION					
Goal	Policy	Implementation Measure			
1. Provision of a safe environment.	1.1 Continue to provide fire, police, and health protection.	Police & Fire Department Review Police Services Fire Protection Services			



TABLE 7-1 PUBLIC SAFETY IMPLEMENTATION (continued)						
Goal	Policy	Implementation Measure				
Provision of a safe environment (continued)	1.2 Cooperate with state and local agencies on emergency preparedness programs.	Plan Check Hillside Standards Disaster Planning Safety Information Programs City Emergency Plan				
	1.3 Continue to provide assistance to disaster victims.	Safety and Emergency Practices on Television Police Services City Emergency Plan				
	1.4 Encourage public education and awareness programs on safety.	Safety and Emergency Practices on Television Newsletter Safety Guidelines Emergency Preparedness Brochures Safety Information Programs				
	1.5 Promote regulations for development in hazardous areas.	Uniform Building Code New Technology Geologic Investigations				
2. Minimize seismic hazards.	2.1 Develop land use regulations for development on hazardous areas.	Plan Check Hillside Standards Seismic Safety Standards				
	2.2 Provide abatement of structural hazards.	Substandard Dwelling Units and Structures Plan Check Storm Drain Facilities				
·	2.3 Maintain contingency plans for earthquake disasters.	Disaster Recovery Program Volunteer Groups Emergency Preparedness Brochures State & Federal Reconstruction Programs				



TABLE 7-1 PUBLIC SAFETY IMPLEMENTATION (continued)					
Goal	Policy	Implementation Measure			
3. Maintenance of safety and emergency services.	3.1 Coordinate with the L.A. County Fire Department.	Fire Protection Services Fire Protection Status Report			
SOI VICES	3.2 Maintain an adequate emergency response system.	Police Services Fire Protection Services Disaster Planning			
	3.3 Assist the police and fire departments in monitoring public safety.	City Emergency Plan Disaster Planning Hydrant Capacity			
	3.4 Maintain fire safety.	Substandard Dwelling Units & Structures Plan Check			
	3.5 Provide adequate fire and police services for new developments.	Police & Fire Department Review Police Services Fire Protection Services			
	3.6 Review emergency equipment and shelters for adequacy.	Communication Systems City Emergency Plan			
4. Protection from hazardous materials contamination.	4.1 Support state and federal environmental and pollution control laws.	Environmental Regulations Inter-agency Coordination			
	4.2 Promote the proper disposal of hazardous materials.	Inventory of Hazardous Material Users Hazardous Waste Segregation Landfill Monitoring Systems Hazardous Waste Management Plan Landfill Reclamation Plan			
	4.3 Designate routes for trucks carrying hazardous materials.	Truck Routes Hazardous Material Transport			
	4.4 Work with the County Fire Department and adjacent cities on emergency response plans for hazardous material accidents.	Environmental Regulations Inter-Agency Coordination Inventory of Hazardous Materials Users			



TABLE 7-1 PUBLIC SAFETY IMPLEMENTATION (continued)						
Goal	Policy	Implementation Measure				
5. Works towards the reduction of crime and violence in the City.	5.1 Regularly review police services to determine adequacy and quality of service.	Police & Fire Department Review Police Services Accident & Crime Statistics				
the City.	5.2 Continue to provide programs that deter crime and violence in Whittier and the surrounding area.	Police and Fire Department Review Safety Information Programs Neighborhood Watch Groups				
	5.3 Encourage neighborhood groups to assist the police in crime prevention and law enforcement.	Neighborhood Watch Groups				
	5.4 Develop programs for discouraging crime and gang violence in the city.	Neighborhood Watch Groups Disaster Planning				
	5.5 Work with other agencies and jurisdictions to promote safe driving to minimize traffic accidents.	Traffic Safety Programs				

#### PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN

The above goals and policies and supporting implementation programs serve as the foundation for a Public Safety Plan. The Plan provides for maximum protection in the face of any hazard. The priority for public safety, health, and security is the protection of human life. Public safety also involves the protection of property. Property damage is dependent on structural design and the building's capability to withstand natural or manmade disaster. Thus, structural integrity is also a major factor in the prevention of injury, as most people are within one structure or another throughout the day. Another safety issue is the avoidance of social and economic disruption, caused by the destruction of property and human injury or death. The protection of life and property and the prevention of social and economic disruption are the primary objectives of the Safety Plan for the City of Whittier.

## Safety Standards

In order to promote public safety throughout the City, Whittier has developed standards to prevent the creation of hazards in the planning area, to eliminate existing hazards, to protect residents from existing hazards, and to prepare the City for a potential disaster.



- Land Use Standards The City regulates land uses to avoid the creation of hazards or prevent exposure to hazards. This would include the regulation of uses with hazardous materials use and disposal, uses with high fire risks, and uses attracting crime and accidents. Low density development in hazard areas also reduce risk exposure.
- Site Planning Standards The City regulates development in hazardous areas to minimize the exposure of residents to risks. These hazard areas include earthquake faults, landslide areas, steep slopes, and other geologic hazards, dry brush areas, industrial areas, power transmission lines, high pressure gas lines, and flood areas.
- Regulation of Activities The City also provides standards for the conduct of activities which unnecessarily expose residents to hazards. This includes the prevention of congregations or large populations in known hazardous areas, the requirement for spark arresters for off-road vehicles, the preparation of survey and investigation prior to hillside development, and other regulations.
- Changes in Conditions The City alters some conditions to help eliminate existing hazards. The provision of fire breaks, controlled burning, or removal of dry brush reduces wildland fire hazards. The construction of storm drain facilities eliminates flood hazards. The landscaping and creation of manufactured slopes stabilizes the hillsides.
- Building Standards Building standards provide minimum standards for construction. They ensure that all buildings and structures are safe for occupancy and use. The City has adopted building codes, fire safety codes, fire-retardant construction, unreinforced masonry requirements, hillside standards, and earthquake design standards to reduce hazards in the City. The City should develop standards for addressing geologic hazards such as landslides, erosion, liquefaction, debris flow, and surface rupture. Standards for development within one-half mile of the Whittier Fault, inundation areas, wildfire areas, and industrial areas will reduce the potential for injury and damage to development.

# Seismic Safety and Inundation Zone

The Safety Plan recognizes the presence of seismic hazards in the City as identified in the Public Safety Background Report. These hazards include the Whittier fault, potential landslide areas, graded areas, flood hazards, wildfire and urban fire hazards, inundation areas of the Whittier Narrows Dam and major water reservoirs, and hazardous material users (see Exhibit 7-1).



Many of these hazards are located in the Puente Hills. The Land Use Plan in the Land Use Element acknowledges the presence of these hazards and has designated low density uses for the hillside areas north and northeast of the City. In order to provide increased protection for development in hazard zones, the following standards should be followed:

- Geologic investigations should be performed for projects within one-half mile of the Whittier fault trace. Buildings should be located away from the fault, as much as possible. Investigations should also be performed for development on potential landslide areas.
- Areas with slopes greater than 20 percent should be subject to engineering design methods to achieve adequate foundation support.
- Exposed slopes should be landscaped immediately after grading, to prevent erosion and mudflow.
- Projects within or near identified flood hazard areas should be constructed to withstand floodwaters at a capacity of the 100-year flood or should include storm drain improvements to eliminate potential flooding.
- Projects planned in areas with dry brush, steep slopes, or limited access should use fireresistive building materials and landscaping and other fire safety measures.
- Residential uses near hazardous material users, high pressure gas lines, high voltage power transmission lines and power distribution plants should be buffered by landscaping, setbacks, or walls.
- Developments within dam and reservoir inundation areas should be notified of evacuation procedures and warning systems.
- Water lines and utilities infrastructure in hazard zones should be designed with a higher safety factor.
- Buildings not built to current code standards and located within hazard zones or existing structures which are susceptible to damage from onsite hazards should be rehabilitated at the earliest time possible.
- The inundation hazards of the Whittier Narrows Dam cannot be controlled within the City. Flooding from City reservoirs can be prevented by the construction of earthquake-resistant dams and reservoirs. Reservoirs should also be located away from the Whittier fault zone.

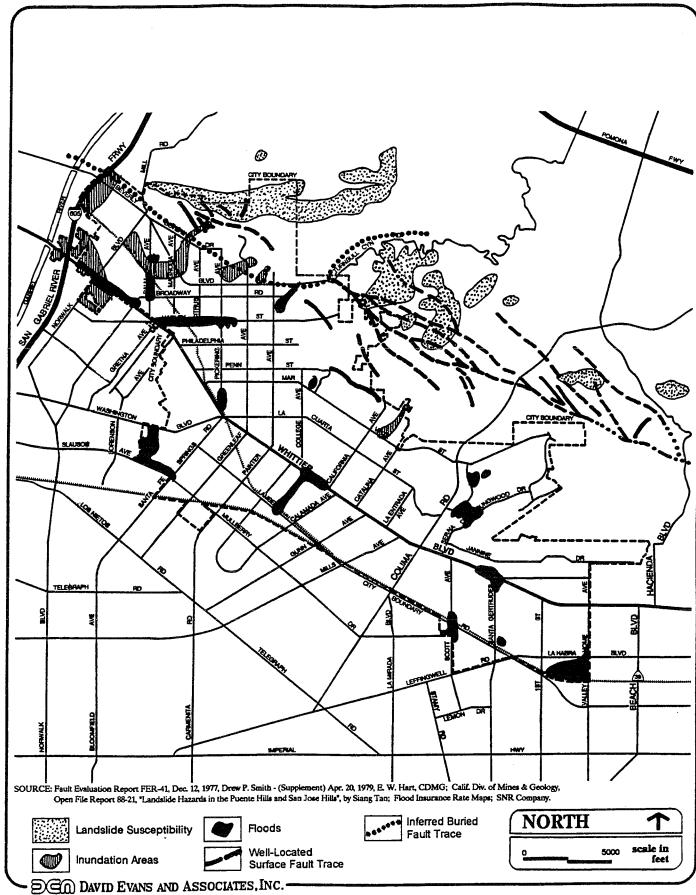




EXHIBIT 7-1 HAZARD ZONES

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#### Fire Hazards

Extreme risk for wildfire is provided by areas with chaparral vegetation on steep slopes (40 to 50 percent slopes) and where there is limited access for fire control equipment. High risks are posed by grasslands and woodlands with somewhat limited access and by slopes of 20 to 40 percent. Low risks are urban areas where fire access is available and the terrain is relatively flat or up to 20 percent slope. Urban fire hazards are presented by industrial areas, hazardous material users, structures with substandard electrical wiring, high voltage power lines, and high pressure gas lines. Fire can also occur in any part of the City due to carelessness and accidents. In order to facilitate firefighting response, the City should have the following standards for areas with extreme to high risk for fire:

- There should be sufficient access for emergency vehicles and for the evacuation of residents in all areas of the City.
- Two or more access routes should be provided for all developments.
- All roadways to wildfire areas should be marked and addresses should be posted in plain view.
- Roadways should also allow two-way traffic with room for on-street parking.
- Water supply should be adequate and have sufficient pressure for fire suppression in the event of fire.

#### Critical Facilities

A critical facility is one that provides emergency services (fire and police, utilities, communication systems) or serves people who are injured or displaced during a disaster (hospitals, emergency shelters, schools). In order to allow these services to be functional during a disaster, building standards for critical facilities should exceed those required for other structures. Also, these facilities should be located away from identified hazards areas such as the Whittier fault, steep slopes, flood areas, and landslide areas. The following standards should be followed for critical facilities:

- Critical facilities should not be located within one mile of the Whittier Fault.
- Facilities should be designed for earthquake resistance and to remain fully operational in the event of an earthquake on the Whittier fault.
- Critical facilities should not be located on areas with high potential for landslide, erosion, liquefaction, flooding, or wildfire.



- Facilities should be equipped to function independent of other critical facilities. Emergency back-up facilities should be provided.
- The City should review the stability of existing critical facilities to ensure that they would be able to function during a disaster. As with the rehabilitation of hazardous buildings, critical facilities should be given greater attention and stricter standards.

# Access Roadways

The provision of adequate roadway widths will facilitate emergency response during a disaster. The City supports fire access standards that have been established by the County Fire Department to ensure access for firefighting equipment to all areas of the City. These standards are provided in the Background Report and will continue to be adhered to through the implementation of the General Plan.

# Fireflow Standards

The water system must be capable of supplying adequate quantities of water for firefighting purposes. This is in addition to the daily supply for domestic demand in the area. Adequate reservoir capacity is determined by the availability of water for peak day supply plus fireflow requirements. Generally, peak day supply is twice the average day demand and total fireflow requirements are estimated by the population of the area. For Whittier, required fireflow is approximately 8,200 gallons per minute for at least 10 hours, or emergency reservoir capacity of five million gallons. The City's water department will continue to regularly review the system's adequacy and reliability to meet daily and emergency demands.

To ensure emergency water supply throughout the City, new construction is required to meet specific fireflow standards. Fireflows for individual structures are calculated according to size of the structure (floor area), type of construction (wood, non-combustible, fire-resistive), building height, availability of sprinkler systems, distance between buildings, and type of occupancy. Guidelines for estimating the required fireflow are available at the County Fire Department. The Department's Fire Prevention Bureau determines the minimum flows for new construction based on building plans. Developers are responsible for providing adequate fireflows. This process ensures that hydrant capacity is available to meet fire emergency needs of all developments.

# Response Times

To minimize the injury and damage that may be caused by accidents and disasters, the City of Whittier has established the following standards for response times:

- Emergency calls should have a response time of three minutes or less in urban areas.
- Non-emergency calls should have a response time of 5 to 30 minutes.



The three-minute standard is used for life and death situations where injury has caused heart failure or stoppage of breathing. It takes three minutes to cause permanent brain damage for persons who have stopped breathing or whose hearts have stopped pumping. With first aid or emergency assistance within this time frame, more lives can be saved. Shorter response times also prevent continued human injury and property destruction that may occur during a natural or manmade disaster.

# Prevention - Safety Programs

The first approach to reducing or eliminating risks to public health and safety is to avoid the creation of hazards and conditions that present a risk. The creation of hazards may be avoided by controls in land uses, development locations, activities, alteration of conditions, and building standards. Prevention programs involve the implementation of the Safety Standards discussed earlier.

Hazards may also be reduced through abatement programs. Abatement may involve the rehabilitation of existing hazardous buildings to correct construction deficiencies. Hazardous buildings include buildings which may collapse during an earthquake or are highly susceptible to fire, flooding or geologic hazards. They include buildings constructed before the adoption and enforcement of current codes requiring earthquake resistant construction design, electrical system regulations, and fire prevention standards. Buildings constructed of unreinforced masonry, and those which have exterior parapets with ornamentation, or walls not anchored to floors, roofs or foundations are also susceptible to groundshaking hazards. Other hazardous buildings have sheeting on roof or floors which are not designed to handle lateral loads or have large wall openings that cannot withstands torsional forces. Structures that are not properly designed to resist lateral forces and those of non-ductile concrete frame construction are also hazardous. Buildings improperly designed to mitigate the geologic hazards on site and older buildings with deteriorating structural components can also pose hazards. These buildings present risks to their occupants and users and should be rehabilitated or removed.

Aside from fire resistant construction, fire hazard abatement in the City includes the creation of fire breaks, special fire resistant construction, brush removal, off-road vehicle inspection, prohibition of off-road vehicles in high hazard zones, and water reuse programs.

Existing flood zones in the City may be eliminated through the construction of adequate storm drain lines and catch basins. The principal avenue of hazard reduction lies in the enforcement of design and construction of dams to accommodate any probable seismic force and secondary hazards that may occur at a project site. The second method would be the strengthening of the existing community emergency preparedness program to efficiently evacuate areas within inundation boundaries.

Crime prevention is also an important concern in the City. The Whittier Police Department is continuously implementing ways to deter crime and violence in the City including public



awareness programs, security systems, patrol beats, problem-oriented policing, and a host of other activities. By reducing the occurrence of crime, the City can be made a safer place.

## Safety Programs - Protection

When hazards cannot be avoided, the second approach to public safety is the protection of residents from the harm presented by existing hazards. This may be effectively done by public awareness programs which encourage individuals to be responsible for protecting themselves and their property from hazardous conditions or situations. Knowledge and individual volition are often major factors in decreasing human injury, property damage and disruption.

Print media, television, and radio are effective tools to inform the general public of safety guidelines and measures. Schools also serve as an avenue to teach children at an early age of the various safety practices and procedures. An aggressive public awareness program may include open house displays and fire fighting demonstrations. These have proven particularly effective in impressing younger children and the general public with the force and dynamics of fire.

Earthquake preparedness in Whittier is promoted through public information programs dealing with safety procedures, the availability of emergency facilities, first aid seminars, earthquake kits and guidelines, and emergency drills. Other public information campaigns could include fire safety, evacuation procedures, flood protection, hazardous material use and disposal, and wildfire and erosion control.

Hazard protection is not limited to individual actions. It is a continuous effort in the City. There are hazards that cannot be predicted, prevented, or abated. Firefighters and police officers are always available to provide protection for all individuals. This includes services for emergency situations, 24-hour patrol for security, traffic safety and crime prevention, and monitoring of existing hazards in the area. Timely and proper response to critical situations protects residents and promotes public safety in the City. Developments are also inspected annually for fire safety and stability. By monitoring developments in all areas of the City, hazardous conditions are corrected before they cause harm and injury.

# Safety Programs - Preparedness

The third approach for promoting public safety is emergency preparedness. By preparing the City for response to a disaster, injury and property damage may be minimized during such events. This calls for the development of an emergency preparedness program that ensures adequate facilities and manpower to handle any disaster in the City. While injury and property damage cannot be prevented once a disaster occurs, the City can minimize these by providing adequate emergency resources to respond at the earliest time possible. Mutual aid agreements with adjacent cities and service providers supplement the City's emergency facilities and capabilities.



The adequacy of emergency services for the City will be evaluated and planned for in the City's Emergency Plan. The City's Emergency Plan includes the provision of emergency medical facilities, temporary shelter, communications equipment, and emergency water and food supplies. Water supply should be adequate to meet domestic needs and fire fighting needs during peak demand. Fire and police services should be available to prevent extensive injury and property damage. This includes increased staffing and equipment, greater coordination, and alternatives or contingency plans. Also, emergency shelters in the City have to be reviewed for adequacy and accessibility to all residents of the City. These shelters provide temporary care and reception areas during a disaster, and may provide first aid, public information, board and lodging, and general coordination activities.

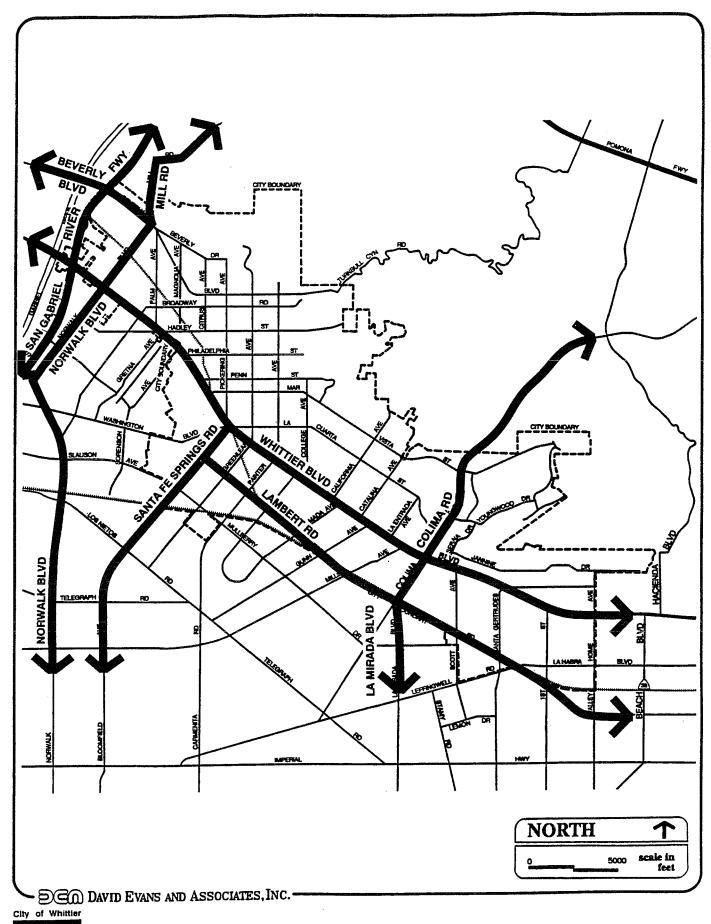
During disasters, evacuation may be necessary for all residents. Residents will be informed of evacuation procedures for fire, floods, earthquake, hazardous material spills, or other disaster. Designated evacuation routes in the City include Whittier Boulevard, Colima Road, Norwalk Boulevard, Beverly Boulevard, Lambert Road, and Santa Fe Springs Road. These roads are arterial roadways that lead out of Whittier and into adjacent communities. Exhibit 7-2 shows the excavation routes in the City.

Evacuation procedures will largely depend on the type, location, and degree of disaster. Particular attention should be given to immobile and dependent populations (elderly, sick, handicapped, and children) during evacuation.

Hazardous material incidents, crime, and accidents are handled as disasters. Emergency services respond to these situations in much the same way as they respond to earthquake events, fire, or floods. Special contamination prevention or spill containment measures are provided by County Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Team. The Police Department provides crowd control and evacuation coordination.

The City of Whittier will develop a reconstruction program to return the community to normal operations after a disaster. The City should establish programs for the reconstruction of infrastructure, City facilities and services, and the shortening of social and economic disruption to residents. This will include short-term debris clean up, traffic control, temporary housing, and other similar activities, as well as assistance to injured residents, rebuilding and repair work on damaged structures, and social, economic, and physical recovery efforts.

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City of Whittier

**EXHIBIT 7-2 EVACUATION ROUTES** 

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