



COUNTY OF MONTEREY
CAO Weekly Report

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SPECIALREPORT



More than 200 participants attended the Environmental Compliance workshop in Salinas.

County Notes

- > It's not too late to kick the habit. The Great American Smokeout (November 17th) urges smokers to make a plan to quit. Helpful information is [here](#).

Health Department, Salinas Collaborate on Safety Training

Increasing emergency preparedness and prevention for area businesses that handle or have hazardous materials or waste onsite safeguards both the workplace and the community.

That was the focus of the 12th Annual Environmental Compliance Workshop, a partnership between the Environmental Health Bureau and the City of Salinas held in September.

This year's theme was emergency response and environmental health, focusing on current environmental issues including the role various fire agencies play during an emergency and in prevention. This workshop is primarily targeted for businesses such as auto repair shops, gas stations and government agencies.

Speakers outlined what to expect if there is an emergency and how to prevent one. Representatives from PG&E described their response procedures during electrical and natural gas releases, Office of Emergency Services staff described their role in county-wide disasters and Environmental Health Bureau staff discussed underground storage tank regulations as well as the impact of technology on these shared professional fields.

Environmental Health Specialist Sandra Tauriac, who headed up the workshop organizing team, says it was also important to carve out time to remind these businesses of the importance of preparing and submitting an emergency response plan.



Ric Encarnacion, Assistant Director of Environmental Health (left) stands with workshop speakers (pictured left to right) Dorothy Priolo, Monterey County Regional Fire District Deputy Fire Marshall; Cory Welch, Environmental Health Specialist and Dick Bower, Office of Emergency Services.

“We shared with businesses what they can expect in an emergency situation, but it’s also important to remind them that emergency responders also need to know what to expect,” says Tauriac. “These businesses are required to submit their emergency response plan electronically to a state database. That plan includes their inventory which will help responders know what they are up against.”

The workshop was offered free of charge to businesses, government agencies and the public.



Library, Community Celebrate Castro Plaza

The Monterey County Free Libraries' (MCFL) Castroville Branch has been around more than 100 years. Its latest home at Castro Plaza is much younger than that, and recently celebrated its first decade of service.

Castro Plaza is the community center of Castroville and is home to the Andy Ausonio/Castroville Branch of MCFL as well as the North Monterey County Unified School District's Family Resource

Center and the District 2 County Supervisor's office. Money to build Castro Plaza came from state redevelopment funds, the County and generous contributions from the Ausonio family.



To mark the tenth anniversary of the completion of the plaza and new library branch, MCFL, North Monterey County Unified School District and the Friends of the Andy Ausonio Library held a community party last month.

The free community event was open to all and offered fun and festive activities including the Wheelie Mobilee, crafts, games, free books for children under age five, refreshments and a cake cutting.

The official ceremony featured speakers including District 2 Supervisor John Phillips, retired District 2 Supervisor Lou Calcagno, County Librarian Jayanti Addleman and North Monterey County Unified School District Superintendent Kari Yeater.

It was a beautiful day for a celebration (above) as participants stroll through the plaza (above). Inside the library, patrons browse the latest selections (right).

Did you know that the Castroville Library has a long and nomadic history? It opened on November 21, 1914 in the home and store of Mr. C.R. Witcher and was run by Mrs. Witcher until October 1924. The library then moved to the Castroville Post Office from 1926 to 1942 and again to the Gambetta Hardware Store where it stayed from 1943 to 1954.



Jumping forward to 1984, the library was moved to a leased store front in the Castroville Station Shopping Center. There it remained for 22 years until 2006, when the beautiful Andy Ausonio/Castroville Branch Library was built as part of the Castro Plaza project.

NMC Launches Concussion Awareness Outreach in Area Schools

Brain Smart is the name of Natividad Medical Center's newly launched community education series on head trauma. NMC has been reaching out to high school athletic departments throughout the county on the inherent dangers of concussions, their often-subtle symptoms and the process for returning to play.



Natividad physicians involved in the program say they are seeing a tremendous interest in the concussion issue. As part of this program, doctors gave presentations at many local schools' Winter Sports meetings. There were lots of questions from parents and physicians handed out hundreds of pieces of informative, bilingual literature about concussion and head trauma. Thanks to this effort, schools are already interested in bringing the presentation back for Spring Sports meetings.

The hospital hopes to see this momentum continue, since studies are showing that concussion rates in youth sports are up 500 percent according to health studies.

A concussion is a traumatic brain injury that can have long-lasting consequences if left untreated. An estimated 1.5 million concussions occur each year in children, but roughly half are never reported to healthcare providers. As the only Level II Trauma Center in the county, Natividad Medical Center is well positioned to address the need for information concerning concussions, which are often overlooked or misunderstood.

"Natividad is committed to providing community education that leads to recognition, earlier treatment and ultimately reduces the number of life-threatening trauma incidents," said Debi Siljander, MD, Sports Medicine Physician at NMC. "Brain Smart is a platform to educate local athletes, parents and coaches about the dangers of undiagnosed concussions in sports. The vast majority of concussions don't involve loss of consciousness, and it's crucial that if injuries do happen, players take time to let their brain heal. A second concussion before the first one heals doubles recovery time for teen athletes and worsens short-term mental function."



Dr. Debi Siljander.

NMC is hoping media partnerships will also help get the word out. Brain Smart is being featured this week in a [three-part news series](#) and video public service announcements will air throughout the month.

If you'd like to find out more about the program or share a link to concussion information with others, go to <http://natividadbrainsmart.com/>