



PATROLLER

OCTOBER 2022

Newsletter for the Patrollers, volunteers, and supporters of Castro Community On Patrol in San Francisco, California, USA.

ESTABLISHED 2006

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S.F.P.D. Officer & Civilian Staff Shortages



The nationwide problem of police recruitment is being felt all too painfully in San Francisco, with a shortage of more than three-hundred Officers right now, and hundreds more becoming eligible for retirement, leaving the department extremely short handed.

This shortfall is made worse by the fact that the City cannot attract enough new Academy recruits to replace those leaving. In fact, while there is a budget for training, and SFPD Officer salaries are among the highest in the country, most Academy classes are not being filled right now.

This puts enormous pressure on those Officers who are in uniform and on patrol, as they are often literally moving as quickly as possible from call to call. The situation is unlikely to resolve any time soon, as fewer people see law enforcement as a positive career prospect due to the tremendous negatives surrounding the profession at this time.

During similar difficult staffing shortages in the past, the neighborhood could rely heavily on the services of the independent San Francisco Patrol Special Police to assist with many low-level and quality of life incidents, but the Police Commission has all but killed that 150 year old program, with only one Patrol Special beat owner remaining on the books.

The Castro, and the city as a whole, faces difficult times ahead as crime and criminals never stand still. Crime prevention efforts through SF Safety Awareness For Everyone, private security companies, and our own Castro Patrol safety efforts are likely to become increasingly important and necessary, until the S.F.P.D. returns to full strength.

Castro Cares Program Sees Some Successes

castro CARES



be a part of the solution

Castro Cares, a program of the Castro CBD, which works in collaboration with the SFPD, the Healthy Streets Operations Center,

and the city's homeless support services.

The program Ambassadors have formed solid relationships with the "regular" unhoused individuals who call the Castro "home." This is an important step towards trust and ultimately helping those who wish to, into longer-term care, housing, and employment.

Castro Business Watch Program Re-Launched



The Castro Business Watch program offers unique collaboration and sharing of information between businesses in the neighborhood.

Alongside a relaunch of the SAFE PLACE program, we are relaunching the CBW by inviting all business owners within the Castro to register with the program. The program is FREE and works in a very similar way to a regular neighborhood watch.

Contact us at INFO@CastroPatrol.org if you would like to join.

SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT

By Deputy Chief Ken Craig, CPS



Chief Ken Craig, Community Patrol Service (L) and Chief Greg Carey, Castro Community On Patrol (R)

EARTHQUAKE TRAINING, PLANNING, AND PREPAREDNESS

At exactly 5:04 PM PST on October 17, 1989 a magnitude 6.9 earthquake struck the San Francisco / Bay Area. The ground shook for approximately 20 seconds and the effects were felt as far away as San Diego and Nevada.

The epicenter of the earthquake was on the San Andreas fault, roughly 56 miles South of San Francisco and 10 miles North East of Santa Cruz, near Mount Loma Prieta in the Santa Cruz mountains. The earthquake is now known as the Loma Prieta quake. The focal depth of the quake was 11 miles and it ruptured the Southernmost 30 miles of the fault that caused the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.

63 people lost their lives, 3, 757 were injured, and 12, 053 people were displaced from their homes due to damage. In the weeks that followed thousands of aftershocks were recorded. Just 150 seconds following the main shock, a magnitude 5.2 shock was recorded. The aftershock zone stretched 25 miles from North of Los Gatos to South of Watsonville.



Damage estimates as a result of the earthquake were as high as \$10 Billion. 18, 306 homes were damaged with 963 were destroyed. 2, 575 businesses were damaged and 147 were destroyed. Some of the most notable and well publicized damage occurred on the San Francisco Bay Bridge (Interstate 880) where a section of the upper roadway fell onto the lower roadway, and in Oakland large sections of the elevated Cypress Structure roadway upper deck collapsed onto the lower deck. Extensive damage was reported in Santa Cruz and a large residential fire covering a few blocks broke out in the Marina District. As devastating as Loma Prieta was, had the earthquake occurred on the Hayward fault line in the East Bay instead, an estimated \$65 Billion in damage and thousands of lives could have been lost.

Many residents of San Francisco were largely unprepared for the devastation of Loma Prieta, despite the history of earthquakes in the San Francisco area specifically, and in California in general. Out of the destruction and challenges of Loma Prieta, the city refined its disaster preparedness planning, and the San Francisco Fire Department created the Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) program to provide essential training, information, and guidance to residents on disaster preparations and recovery.

If you have not taken the FREE San Francisco Fire Department NERT program, we strongly recommend that you do as soon as possible. It is eighteen hours of vitally useful and potentially life-saving information for you, your loved ones, your pets, and for your neighbors and neighborhood. The classes are all taught by serving firefighters, and are well worth the time commitment now, to hopefully avoid huge problems and challenges faced by many disaster survivors who were not prepared.

OCTOBER IS EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS / AWARENESS MONTH at Castro Patrol.

We **strongly encourage you** to check out the San Francisco Fire Department, Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) website pages and sign up for the next available training. <https://sf-fire.org/nert>

We **strongly encourage you** to chat with your loved ones and build a FAMILY DISASTER PLAN and identify a reunification location should "the big one" hit someday.

We **strongly encourage you** to build your own "earthquake survival kit" which should include enough food, water, and medications to last you for a minimum of 7 days.

It is truly only a matter of time before San Francisco is rocked by another large earthquake on a 6+ or 7+ magnitude. If you train, pre-plan, and have resources available, you have a much better chance of surviving through the weeks in the aftermath of the disaster.

WHO / WHEN / WHERE / HOW

LIFE THREATENING OR CRIME IN PROGRESS ?

Call 9-1-1

In any situation where life is at imminent risk, or where a crime is in progress right now, call 9-1-1 for an immediate emergency response.

NO IMMEDIATE THREAT TO LIFE OR PROPERTY?

Call 415-553-0123

In situations which are less critical or immediate but where a Police or Fire response may still be required, use the non-emergency number above.

San Francisco District Supervisor's Office

Supervisor Raphael Mandelman
District 8,
Call 415-554-6968
MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org

San Francisco District Supervisors represent you and can assist in many areas of concern that involve formal Government agencies or departments. If their office cannot assist you directly, they will help to put you in contact with resources that can assist.

San Francisco District Attorney's Office

350 Rhode Island Street
North Building, Suite 400N, 94103
Call 628-652-4000
DistrictAttorney@sfgov.org

The DA's office prosecutes crime in San Francisco and offers various services for victims of crime.

VICTIM SERVICES: 628-652-4100
HATE CRIME HOTLINE: 628-652-4311

San Francisco Official Resources

San Francisco Federal Bureau of Investigation
415-553-7400

San Francisco Police Department Mission Station
415-558-5400 SFPDMissionStation@sfgov.org

San Francisco Police Department Park Station
415-242-3000 SFPDParkStation@sfgov.org

SFFD Street Crisis Response Team
Call 911 for people in severe mental distress

SFFD Street Wellness Response Team
415-553-0123 for homeless related non-criminal issues

San Francisco City Services
3-1-1 to report "things" i.e. human waste, trash, etc.

San Francisco Safety Awareness For Everyone
415-416-6436 <https://sfsafe.org>

Mental Health Services For Everyone
9-8-8

Community Resources

Castro Community Benefits District Services
415-500-1181 ExecDirector@castrocbd.org
Cleaning Services: 415-471-7536

Castro Cares Community Ambassadors Program
Call or Text 415-471-7536

Castro Community On Patrol
415-ASK-CCOP INFO@CastroPatrol.org

STRUT San Francisco
415-581-1600 (Sexual health services, PrEP, HIV testing)

Trevor Project
212-695-8650 (LGBTQQI+ youth in need of support)

PG&E – Gas Leak / Downed Power Line
1-800-743-5000 or 9-1-1

3 HOURS A MONTH MAKES A HUGE DIFFERENCE



CASTRO COMMUNITY ON PATROL NEEDS YOU

GIVE US JUST THREE HOURS A MONTH AS A PATROL VOLUNTEER, TO MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

Castro Community On Patrol (CCOP), a program of San Francisco Safety Awareness For Everyone (SF-SAFE), seeks new volunteers to help patrol the Castro neighborhood on a monthly basis.

CCOP has successfully patrolled the Castro neighborhood for over 15 years, deploying teams of three unpaid volunteer Patrollers for a 3-hour shift which they select themselves.

Our patrols offer assistance, information, guidance, and support to the residents, businesses, and visitors of the Castro, interacting with thousands of people every year. We are “First Reporters” by calling in Medical, Fire, or Law Enforcement professionals when needed, and we will offer assistance when safe to do so until the professionals arrive.

CCOP also assists other community groups to make their events successful, and we are often a part of the developing history of the LGBTQQI+ community. In the past we’ve assisted at PROP8 rallies, Pulse Nightclub memorials, Harvey Milk annual events, and many others. We also assist at regular community events by providing safety teams to events such as the Sisters Easter in the Park, SF PRIDE safety events, Castro Street Fair, CBD Music in the Plaza, SFAF Santa Skivvies Run, PRC Holiday Dinner and many more.

Our volunteers are mostly members of the LGBTQQI+ community, but we are open and welcoming to ALL who want to donate just three hours a month to help keep the Castro neighborhood a little safer. We provide full training, and you will deploy with experienced Senior Volunteers. Patrolling is fun, you get to meet lots of people, and you can feel good about helping out the community.

JOIN US TODAY, AND HELP US BUILD A BETTER TOMORROW

WWW.CASTROPATROL.ORG

“SAFETY is a COMMUNITY EFFORT”