



TOWN OF LOS GATOS

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOS GATOS AND RED CROSS OFFER FIRST AID TRAINING IN WAKE OF TRAGIC ACCIDENT *Previously Trained Local Man Saved 6 Year Old Girl's Life and Hand*

Oct. 27, 2008 (Los Gatos) – The Town of Los Gatos and the American Red Cross Santa Clara Valley Chapter announced today a special series of Standard First Aid classes being offered at half price for Los Gatos residents as part of the Town's "Los Gatos Prepared" emergency preparedness program. The series of classes follow a tragic accident in September when a 6-year old girl's hand was severed and then successfully reattached following first aid provided by a previously trained local resident.

On Tuesday, Sept. 9th, 6-year old Erica Rix lost her hand when it was severed by a jump rope that had become entangled in a car axle. Los Gatos resident Jim Bailey was following behind and quickly applied a tourniquet and other first aid that has been credited with saving Rix's life and hand. Bailey had previously received Red Cross first aid training. Other local volunteers contacted 911 and diverted traffic around the accident until emergency police, fire and medical personnel were on the scene.

Los Gatos Mayor Barbara Spector said, "This accident and the quick response by local residents shows that all of us can be heroes if we are prepared and trained."

Councilwoman Diane McNutt added, "Los Gatos is stepping up to offer first aid classes right here in town to encourage all our residents to be prepared and trained."

The Town is offering four 9-hour Saturday trainings in first aid, automatic external defibrillation (AED) and cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for adults, children and infants during November and December. The Town is also offering two 4-hour evening trainings in just first aid. All of the training will be provided at the Los Gatos Civic Center. Los Gatos residents will pay only half of the \$80 cost for the full day training and half of the \$50 cost for the evening training. Full details are attached.

Barbara Larson, CEO of the American Red Cross Santa Clara Valley Chapter, said "The Red Cross believes everyone has the power to save a life. Learning basic first aid and CPR/Automated External Defibrillator (AED) can quite possibly mean the difference between life and death for someone suffering from Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) or other medical emergency."



She added, "The Red Cross offers thorough and flexible training programs, which help you prepare for emergencies and life-threatening situations. Courses are available for administering help to infants, children and adults, as well as, for fulfilling training requirements for workplaces, and for professional rescuers. By learning simple rescue skills, you can go from a helpless bystander to a person with the ability to take control help someone during an emergency."

"Los Gatos Prepared" is the annual emergency and disaster preparedness program offered by the Town of Los Gatos through the Police Department. Its goal is to ensure that all Town residents are self sufficient for 72 hours following a disaster. Los Gatos has also trained over 300 community disaster workers through its Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Other ongoing activities include public education, volunteer training, and emergency preparedness for all Town staff.

Cc: Town Council
Los Gatos Weekly Times
San Jose Mercury News
Executive Team