



*San Gabriel's finest pose in front of the City Hall and jail in the 1930s. City Hall housed the police department and jail until 1962.*

## Keeping You Safe and Sound

 *We will keep our citizens safe by protecting them from environmental hazards, planning for defensible space, and building quality public safety facilities.*

**S**an Gabriel is an older first ring suburb with limited land to expand. The city is predominantly characterized by commercial and residential development with small pockets of industrial areas.

This element identifies and addresses mitigation measures to reduce the risks on the community posed by seismic and geologic hazards, fire, crime, and hazardous waste.

Among the key issues facing the City of San Gabriel regarding public safety and security include:

- **Seismic/Geologic Safety:** Ground shaking is the primary seismic hazard affecting the City of San Gabriel with its proximity to the San Andreas Fault and Sierra Madre fault zone. A surface rupture is not anticipated although the southeastern portion of the city is potentially subject to liquefaction. The City continues to work with outside agencies for any seismic changes or new developments. The City is not located in a flood zone.
- **Fire Safety:** The Fire Department is understaffed; it will need to increase staffing, both in fire protection and emergency medical services, to meet the

increasing needs of the community. With old facilities and a lack of space, the City will also need to upgrade existing buildings and acquire a new facility.

- Policing: San Gabriel suffers from all crimes that occur in a big city environment. Implementing additional crime prevention programs should reduce the number of criminal activities. Programs to ensure business compliance with conditional use permits will help further regulate problems. The Police Department is also in need a new facility to combat challenges of overcrowding and aged structures. As population increases over the next ten years with new residential developments, there may be needs for more staffing.
- Homeland Security: With the recent threat of terrorism on America, San Gabriel is working closely with county and state agencies to increase security measures for the community, especially when state government issues a period of high alert.
- Emergency Preparedness: The City has a Multi-Hazard Functional Plan that establishes tactics to cope with local and regional hazards. The emergency operation center (EOC) was completed in 1989 to be the central command post in the event of a major disaster. Field exercises that mimic major disasters are staged to equip staff in case an incident ever occurs.
- Toxins/Hazards: As of 1988, there are 33 known sites in the City of San Gabriel featured on the Hazardous Waste and Substance Site List, but there is no record of the known or found problem. Through a number of agencies, the City continues to investigate incidents involving toxins/hazardous waste materials.
- Water Contamination: The City has controlled water contamination with the help of The Water Company, whereby only a few contaminated sites remain. The City continues to work with outside agencies to regulate these locations.

**FAST FACT**

*Liquefaction occurs when local geological, geotechnical, and groundwater conditions indicate a potential for permanent ground displacement in the event of seismic activity.*

*U.S. Geological Survey*

## GOALS

### Goal 5.1

#### Minimize the potential for loss of life and property from geologic and seismic hazards.

- Target 5.1.1 Insure that the buildings and structures are adequately retrofitted and maintained for seismic shaking in accordance with State regulations.
  - Action 5.1.1.1 Maintain a database of buildings and structures already retrofitted from past earthquakes and create a list of buildings to be retrofitted from seismic hazards.
  - Action 5.1.1.2 Establish programs to encourage retrofit including reduced permit fees, grants to offset retrofit costs, or loan programs.
  - Action 5.1.1.3 Provide information to the public on ways to reinforce buildings to reduce damage from earthquakes.
- Target 5.1.2 Protect life, safety and essential lifelines; reduce the potential for property damage from liquefaction; and promote the collection of more complete information on liquefaction susceptibility throughout the City.
  - Action 5.1.2.1 Provide public information on awareness of liquefaction effects and ways to minimize property damage from its impacts.
  - Action 5.1.2.2 Collect information every six months from the Department of Interior United States Geological Survey on liquefaction susceptibility and its potential impacts within the San Gabriel Valley.
  - Action 5.1.2.3 Relate land use regulations regarding potential liquefaction zones to the importance or criticality of the use, size of the facility, and relative ease of evacuation of occupants if the building is damaged by liquefaction.

- Target 5.1.3 Protect life safety, substantially reduce the damage from fault rupture, and help ensure orderly evacuation of building occupants following an earthquake.

- Action 5.1.3.1 Promote and maintain the collection of relevant data from the Department of Interior United States Geological Survey, including FEMA maps showing faults within the San Gabriel Valley.
- Action 5.1.3.2 Provide public information via the City's internet home page to community residents and businesses regarding the City's Multihazard Functional Plan that will help improve the orderly evacuation of occupants following an earthquake.

**Goal 5.2**      **Assure that existing and new development address fire and police protection in a proactive and preventative way.**

- Target 5.2.1 Promote the use of defensible space concepts (site and building lighting, visual observation of open space, secured areas, and so on) in project design to enhance public safety.
  - Action 5.2.1.1 Incorporate an assessment of the impacts of new development on the level of police and fire services provided to the community; an impact fee to provide public safety should be considered for projects that have significant impacts to existing police and fire services.
  - Action 5.2.1.2 Incorporate an analysis of site plan layout in terms of defensible space for new developments in the Design Review Commission process.
- Target 5.2.2 Explore incentives or programs to encourage private landowners to reduce fire and public hazards on their property.
  - Action 5.2.2.1 Require site design features, fire retardant building materials, and adequate

**FAST FACT**

*Throughout the country, at least 80% of fire department service calls are for medical emergencies.*

*San Gabriel Fire Department*

egress systems as conditions for approval of development or improvements to reduce the risk of fire within the City.

- Action 5.2.2.2 Develop new and expand existing education programs dealing with personal safety awareness, such as neighborhood watch and commercial association watch/protection programs.

**Goal 5.3**      **Provide fire protection and emergency medical response that is responsive to citizen's needs.**

- Target 5.3.1 Develop a business plan to provide future fire equipment, remodel or replace fire station(s), and increase staffing.
  - Action 5.3.1.1 Consider implementing a Public Safety Impact Fee on new construction projects to maintain and support the increasing needs for public safety.
  - Action 5.3.1.2 Adopt a long range plan to add one additional paramedic transport unit at Station 52 within two to five years.
- Target 5.3.2 Explore sharing training facilities with neighboring jurisdictions.
  - Action 5.3.2.1 Establish communications and liaison relationships with the Cities of Alhambra, Arcadia, Burbank, Glendale, Monrovia, Monterey Park, Pasadena, San Marino, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena and also with the County of Los Angeles, to promote and implement joint training opportunities.
- Target 5.3.3 Continue coordination with Alameda Corridor East (ACE) to lower the railroad tracks, which would improve emergency medical response.

**Goal 5.4**      **Provide public safety services to ensure a safe and secure environment for people and property.**

- Target 5.4.1 Ensure adequate police and fire staff to provide rapid and timely response to all emergencies and maintain the capability to have minimum average response times.
  - Action 5.4.1.1 Encourage, facilitate, and participate in the establishment of methods of communication between the public safety service providers and the San Gabriel residents to discuss and resolve issues of responsiveness and sensitivity, which may arise.
  - Action 5.4.1.2 Encourage, facilitate, and participate in continued programs for training police and fire personnel to be responsive and sensitive to the needs of San Gabriel while maintaining a high level of service and protection.
  - Action 5.4.1.3 Review existing resources, including staffing, equipment, and facilities every three-five years to ensure that there are sufficient resources to ensure public safety.
- Target 5.4.2 Control and/or intervene in conduct recognized as threatening to life and property.
  - Action 5.4.2.1 Continue to provide and improve on-scene services to restore the peace and prevent further injury to life or property.
  - Action 5.4.2.2 Stimulate and support innovative programs that reduce youth violence through proactive public health approaches.
  - Action 5.4.2.3 Identify evolving crime patterns in geographical areas, particularly those involving career criminals, and implement new methods to further enhance community oriented policing.
- Target 5.4.3 Continue to coordinate law enforcement planning with local, regional, State, and federal agencies for homeland security and against the threat of terrorism.

**FAST FACT**

*Two San Gabriel Police Officers have died in the line of duty – Alvin W. Hayes and Elmer H. Griffin.*

*San Gabriel Police Department*

- Action 5.4.3.1 Develop a Citywide evacuation plan for the possibility of a bio-terrorism attack.
- Action 5.4.3.2 Coordinate with local, regional, and federal agencies on new measures to improve homeland security and methods to address terrorist threats.

**Goal 5.5 Reduce crime through physical planning and community design.**

- Target 5.5.1 Continue to consult the Crime Prevention Division of the Police Department for recommendations on new development projects that will minimize crime.
  - Action 5.5.1.1 Continue to include the Police Department in development project evaluations.
  - Action 5.5.1.2 Implement an inspection and enforcement program to verify conditional use permit compliance.
  - Action 5.5.1.3 Conduct bi-annual reviews for compliance by businesses and residents with conditions of approval that have conditional use permits.
  - Action 5.5.1.4 Provide crime statistics to the Department of Alcohol and Beverage Control for projects requesting alcohol licenses. ☞

**Goal 5.6 Attain a high level of emergency preparedness.**

- Target 5.6.1 Maintain and update the City's Multihazard Functional Plan, as required by State law, to minimize the risk to life and property of seismic and geologic hazards, flooding, hazardous materials and waste, fire, and consequences of a terrorist attack.
  - Action 5.6.1.1 Maintain and activate Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement through California Master Mutual Aid Agreement with Local Area C, Los Angeles County (Region 1), State and Federal when necessary.

- Target 5.6.2 Prepare and disseminate information about emergency preparedness.
  - Action 5.6.2.1 Prepare and disseminate public information regarding seismic risks, measures to protect life and property before and during an earthquake, and emergency procedures to follow after a disaster.
- Target 5.6.3 Coordinate and participate in regular emergency drills with emergency organizations, including City and County Fire, Police, Emergency Medical Services, and Public Works.
  - Action 5.6.3.1 Conduct bi-annual major disaster preparedness drills to equip staff for emergency situations.
- Target 5.6.4 Ensure that public buildings that are important to protecting health and safety in the community remain operative during emergencies.
  - Action 5.6.4.1 Establish backup generators and utilities for hospitals and public buildings.
  - Action 5.6.4.2 Provide structural evaluation of buildings potentially damaged during an emergency disaster that would be used as incident command centers and disaster treatment facilities.

**Goal 5.7      Reduce potential harm and damage from environmental hazards.**

- Target 5.7.1 Establish a framework to monitor methane gas exposure and minimize the risks associated with any gas leakage and exposure.
  - Action 5.7.1.1 Evaluate subsurface geologic conditions to identify general areas where impermeable features could trap and/or concentrate any gas emissions.
  - Action 5.7.1.2 Prepare Geographic Information Systems (GIS) coverage for the sites included in the list of hazardous waste and substances site to maintain and monitor. ↻
  - Action 5.7.1.3 Require that special mitigation measures be incorporated in both new and

existing development where methane gas is detected.

- Action 5.7.1.4 Disseminate information to the community on the potential risk of methane gas leakage and available mitigation measures.
- Target 5.7.2 Monitor the status of sub-surface gasoline tanks to prevent adverse impacts due to deterioration and leakage



*An aerial view of the San Andreas fault in the Carrizo Plain, Central California (Photo by Robert E. Wallace)*

- Action 5.7.2.1 Maintain an inventory of all subsurface gasoline tanks in the City.
- Action 5.7.2.2 Cooperate with the State and gasoline station owners and operators in monitoring the condition of sub-surface gasoline tanks, tracking leaks, and requiring the prompt removal of hazardous tanks.
- Target 5.7.3 Reduce the generation of solid wastes, including hazardous waste and recycle those materials that are used, to slow the filling of local and regional landfills, in accord with the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989.



- Action 5.7.3.1 Continue to maintain hazardous waste regulations in the City's Zoning Ordinance.
- Action 5.7.3.2 Encourage builders to incorporate interior and exterior storage areas at new or remodeled public and private development projects to make recycling activities more convenient.
- Target 5.7.4 Comply with all applicable regulations and provisions for the storage, use and handling of hazardous substances as established by federal (EPA), State (RWQCB, Cal OSHA, CAL EPA) and local (County of Los Angeles, City of San Gabriel) regulations.
  - Action 5.7.4.1 Establish an ordinance specifying routes for transporting hazardous materials.
- Target 5.7.5 Promote opportunities for aquifer recharge to minimize groundwater hazards by encouraging developers to minimize paved areas in new developments and requiring these areas to be interspersed with landscaping.
  - Action 5.7.5.1 Encourage, where feasible, use of turf block, decomposed granite, or similar permeable surfaces rather than conventional pavement.

**Implementation Measures:**

The implementation of the goals, targets, and actions identified in this Safety Element will be accomplished by taking the following steps and creating a community based task force within the first year of plan adoption to help implement these polices: ☞

**Police and Fire Services:**

- Continue to participate with Local Area C, Los Angeles County (Region 1) under the Mutual Aid Agreement for the provision of emergency fire protection services and evaluate the feasibility of adopting a similar agreement for police services.
- Within one year from adoption of this Plan, Community Development Department staff shall meet with Fire and Police Department to develop

a citywide evacuation plan in the event of a bio-terrorist attack.

**Funding:**

- Adopt a new impact fee during budget year 2005-2006 for development projects that affect existing fire and police services.
- Solicit state and federal funds to support the City's public safety facilities and programs, as such revenues are available.

**Education:**

- Prepare information on public safety, crime prevention, emergency preparedness and response, and environmental hazards on the City's website, newspaper articles, and brochures within three years of plan adoption.

**Seismic:**

- Earthquake prediction response plans should be developed, including procedures for protecting occupants of hazardous buildings, appropriate warning announcements and public education procedures, and other short-term preparations.
- Cooperation of the business community should be enlisted for public education and mutual assistance through the Chamber of Commerce. Businesses should develop their own disaster response plans and have provisions for food, water, first aid and shelter of employees who may not be able to return home for several days following a major earthquake.

**Crime Prevention:**

- Within a year from adoption of this Plan, assess resources for a task force to review conditional use permit compliance.
- Continue to support existing and expanded Neighborhood Watch programs. Establish a structure for a similar program for commercial areas of the city. This could be effectuated through the Chamber of Commerce or other community organization.

Environmental Hazards:

- Within the next five years, conduct additional studies (soils and geological borings, materials sampling, and evaluation of sub-surface trapped air) to determine the presence of natural gas entrapment and potential leakage in the city. This should be a comprehensive City-funded (or in cooperation with other agencies) geological investigation of all city areas where there may be potential risk. Where problems are identified, the city shall formulate a mitigation program, which may include both public and private improvements.