

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS
FOLLOWING JANUARY 17, 1994 EARTHQUAKE

JANUARY 17, 1994

EARTHQUAKE - 4:31 a.m.

- 5:00 a.m. - Crews in field assessing damage
- 5:15 a.m. - City staff and amateur radio operators arrived
- 5:15 a.m. - City Yard opened
- 5:35 a.m. - EOC opens in City Hall Council Chambers
- Other agencies, Fire, Sheriff, Gas Co., Red Cross, So. California Edison, arrived at EOC
- 5:45 a.m. - State of emergency declared
- 6:30 a.m. - Streets Division made contact with Sheriff (Traffic Division) and determined Sierra Highway was the only open road in and out of The Santa Clarita Valley, Route 14 and I-5 were closed due to bridge damage.
- Numerous after shocks rock City Hall
- 7:00 a.m. - First aid shelter set up with Fire Dept. at Canyon Country Park
- Interstate 5 Freeway collapsed at junction with Route 14 (Antelope Valley Freeway) and at Gavin Canyon
- Numerous roads and bridges closed
- Temporary detours established with Sheriff, CHP, and Caltrans
- 7:30 a.m. - Detour routes in place but still modifying as more facts were discovered.
- 11:00 a.m. - Streets Division crews began ramping all raised bridges and removing debris in the public right-of-way.
- 8:30 p.m. - Streets Division evaluated bridges and detours to determine which should be closed; those closed were McBean, south of Newhall Ranch Road; and Wiley Canyon, west of Orchard Village.
- Volunteers begin working within hours of the earthquake
- Santa Clarita Transit transports Sheriff's Department to Pitchess Honor Rancho
- Four Corners oil spill occurred, causing oil to spill into the Santa Clara River
- Numerous gas leaks reported
- Warning signs, road closures posted
- Electricity out valley-wide
- All five municipal pools severely damaged by earthquake
- Fire sprinklers on at City Yard -- manually shut off

- Debris removed from major arterials
- Roll up doors jammed at City Yard, crews brace open to get vehicles out
- Schwartz Oil Company contacted and asked to provide fuel for City and emergency vehicles
- Shelters were opened by evening by the City and Red Cross
- Newhall Park becomes campground for displaced families
- Newhall and Saugus shelters open
- Power generators set up at care and shelter facilities
- County Haz-Mat team arrives at EOC
- Santa Clarita Transit evacuates Greenbriar Mobilehomes
- Electricity restored for most of SCV
- Mail service temporarily disrupted and undeliverable to City Hall
- Midnight: Decision made to leave council chambers and set up EOC in City Hall parking lot

Road Status

- Old Road Bridge damaged between Rye Canyon & Magic Mountain Pkwy
- Bouquet northbound closed - gas and water main breaks
- Wiley Canyon road bridge damaged - road closed
- McBean between Magic Mountain Pkwy & Newhall Ranch Road bridge damaged
- Rye Canyon Road closed - utility lines down
- Sierra Highway closed near Beals Cut - land slide

JANUARY 18

- City holds first daily 7 a.m. briefing for employees
- Canopies set up for EOC in City Hall parking lot
- City Manager holds first daily inter-agency meeting
- Canyon High School shelter opens
- Lack of water in homes and businesses caused City to contact outside sources for water
- City begins delivering water to Henry Mayor Newhall memorial Hospital
- Locations for donations officially identified
- Building inspectors from out of town start to come to Santa Clarita's aid
- City Council meeting held. Declaration of Emergency ratified; KBET became official City radio station; Emergency Debris Removal Ordinance passed
- EOC and field operations continue on 24-hour staffing; City staff told they were working 7 days; all leaves cancelled
- Staff completed FEMA report which shows preliminary estimated damage to City

- Approximately 600 Fire personnel and 175 Sheriff personnel pour into SCV
- After shocks continue
- Congressman McKeon and Supervisor Antonovich arrive in Santa Clarita
- EOC Command Station arrives from Palmdale for policy group
- City hotlines established in Orchard Rooms to handle public and press inquiries
- Daily press conferences and regular updates to KBET-1220 ongoing
- City busses up and running providing local transit service
- Temporary patching and ramping begins on bridge approaches and major arterials
- Electricity restored to most SCV residents
- Computers up and running in EOC for damage assessment reports and financial tracking

JANUARY 19

- Building inspections continue
- Fresh drinking water still in short supply; City and Fire Department continue to contact outside sources for water to city
- Texas Baptist food relief unit set up
- Showers open at City facilities
- Santa Clarita Transit begins Metrolink parking lot shuttle
- After shocks continue
- Additional shelters opened, including Senior Center
- Concerns expressed over price-gouging in City
- MetroLink adds extra trains for Santa Clarita lines
- Some water distribution points established
- City begins to sell MetroLink passes
- Major deliveries of National Guard water tankers arrive late on Wednesday
- Tenant meeting for City Hall building tenants held

JANUARY 20

- City Newsletter starts for residents; distribution by Fire Department
- Hundreds of building inspection requests pour into City
- FEMA Disaster Assistance office opens at Canyon Country Park for residents
- Governor Wilson, Congressman McKeon, Mayor Pederson tour DAC and meet with residents
- More water distribution points established

- Mayor Pederson and City Manager brief Congressman McKeon on scope of damage throughout Santa Clarita.
- Gas restored to 60% of Valley residents
- After shocks continue
- Seattle King County Disaster Medical Action Team sets up at County Civic Center
- Crisis intervention provided for City staff and at Red Cross shelters
- Salvation Army comes to SCV to provide mobile feedings, clothing distribution in Newhall, COC and mobile home parks
- Daily Cash Balance and investment decision made based on bank logs provided by TransWorld Bank, which were delivered by courier
- Unable to use computer systems to perform cash flow analysis.
- Processed and issued payroll on regularly scheduled pay date. Memo included with paychecks informing staff that adjustments would be made at a later date to reflect actual hours.

JANUARY 21

- Concern for rain leads to securing a trailer for equipment
- Santa Clarita Transit transports National Guard
- Building inspection requests continue to pour into City
- Gas company stops taking "turn on " orders and begins neighborhood sweeps
- Water on for most SCV residents; Valencia Water continues to be an issue in some parts of the Valley
- City gathers mobilehome representatives for a meeting at City Hall to discuss needs
- City completing 800 building inspections per day
- FEMA and OES damage inspectors visited City Hall and public facilities with major damage
- Received disaster debris information packet from the Council for International Disaster Debris Management
- Accounts Payable processed and vendors paid. Invoices processed up to January 17, date mail was interrupted.
- Mail service to City Hall resumes

JANUARY 22

- Santa Clarita Transit begins FEMA DAC shuttles
- Fire Department makes plastic, nails and lathe available at all fire stations to protect residences from the rain
- State opens mobilehome assistance office at Cordova Mobile Home park

- Auxiliary lot east of MetroLink burned by Fire Department to clear area for parking for MetroLink station - City streets crew grades new parking lot
- Spanish/English flyers distributed at Newhall park, telling of FEMA office and free shuttles
- Santa Clarita Transit begins emergency medical team shuttle
- City requests advance funds from FEMA for disaster assistance
- California Conservation Corp arrives to coordinate water distribution at 18 sites
- Solid Waste information flyer distributed to public

JANUARY 23

- Auxiliary lot east of MetroLink striped for additional MetroLink parking

JANUARY 24

- Second trailer arrives; Finance and Building and Safety set up there
- All but three valley public schools open to 80% attendance
- Large tent secured
- Haz-Mat team completes 950 inspections to homes and businesses
- A site was secured for recycling of disaster-related debris collected by trash haulers
- City submits "Notice of Interest" to FEMA to begin reimbursement process
- Consolidation of care shelters begins

JANUARY 25

- City Hall declared unusable for 60 days; repairs ongoing; tenants informed of status in tenant meeting
- City holds all-employee meeting

JANUARY 26

- Demolition of SFU at 23918 Via Onda
- Hart High, Placerita Jr. High open
- Construction of Canyon Country MetroLink announced
- Employee stress counseling starts
- L.A. County Haz-Mat leaves EOC
- Signed contracts with local waste haulers for the collection of disaster debris
- Temporary disaster debris location was opened on NLF & Co. property near the 125 and I-5 interchange

JANUARY 27

- I-5 north- and south-bound opened to two lanes each direction; traffic detour at Calgrove
- City meets with FEMA and OES to discuss mobilehome restoration program concept
- California Conservation Corps began removing debris from the City

JANUARY 28

- City staff meets with insurance adjuster and agent
- City receives first cash advance from FEMA (\$2 million)
- Accounts payable processed and paid in normal manner
- Boil order for Newhall County Water District lifted

JANUARY 29

- Staff packs City Hall in preparation to move to temporary City Hall
- Half of youth sports programs resume

JANUARY 30

- Staff packs City Hall in preparation to move to temporary City Hall
- Contract Parks, Recreation & Community Services classes resume

JANUARY 31

- 150 Conservation crew members move into City Yard
- Move starts to temporary City Hall

FEBRUARY 1

- Most of City Hall moves to temporary location, 21444 Golden Triangle

FEBRUARY 2

- Meeting with mobilehome owners and insurance representative at temporary City Hall

FEBRUARY 3

- California Conservation Corps starts fireplace and brick removal; City picks up CCC contract from OES
- Santa Clarita Transit begins commuter bus service to Warner Center and Chatsworth
- Mayor Pederson meets with U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Ron Brown

FEBRUARY 4

- Boil order for Valencia and Santa Clarita Water companies lifted
- Ken Pulskamp, Assistant City Manager, designated as Local Hazard Mitigation Officer
- City receives second cash advance from FEMA (\$5 million)
- City Hall all-employee meeting

FEBRUARY 5

- Last day of bottled water distribution