

NOC NEWS

NORTH ORANGE COUNTY GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

ALL AMERICAN CLUB
1985, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1992

A member of the
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

Meetings

Day and Location:

With the exception of July, August and December, meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at the La Habra Community Center, 101 W. La Habra Blvd., La Habra.

The La Habra Community Center is located west of Euclid on La Habra Blvd.

For current meeting information, please call (909) 598-2456

North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
Box 653
La Habra, CA 90633-0653



<http://home.inreach.com/o-nocgms>
<http://www.cfmsinc.org>

DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY
February 2004

NORTH ORANGE COUNTY GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

P.O. Box 653

La Habra, California

Regular meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month (excluding July, August and December) at the La Habra Community Center, 101 W. La Habra Blvd., La Habra (west of Euclid).

2004 OFFICERS

President	Don Warthen	(626) 330-8974
First Vice President	Isabella Burns	(626) 288-2896
Second Vice President	Pat Felix	(714) 970-1496
Secretary	Susan Hansen	(562) 865-2040
Treasurer	Don Livezey	(714) 524-6280
Federation Director	Loretta Ogden	(909) 598-2456
Director	Nancy Bird	(562) 947-6896
Director	Angie Harwood	(562) 692-4540
Director	Izzie Burns	(626) 288-2896
Director	Ofelia Warthen	(626) 330-8974
Director	Bill Burns	(626) 288-2896

2004 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Operating Supplies	Virginia Grafton	see above
Budget & Finance	Don Livezey	(714) 524-6280
Bulletin Editors	Don & Loretta Ogden	see above
Displays & Education	Virginia Grafton	(562) 865-2040
Door Prizes	Verle Stadel	(562) 696-1677
Field Trips	Bill & Izzie Burns	see above
Historian	Susan Hansen	see above
Membership	Jane Livezey	(714) 524-6280
Insurance	Don Livezey	(714) 524-6280
Librarian	Pat Felix	(714) 970-1496
Operating Regulations & By-Laws	Don Warthen	see above
Programs	Ofelia Warthen	see above
Publicity	Jane Hendrixon	(562) 691-9595
Refreshments	Nancy Bird	(562) 947-6896
Show Chairmen 2004	??	see above
Assistant Show Chairman	The entire club	

The objective and purpose of the North Orange County Gem and Mineral Society is to disseminate knowledge of mineralogy and the earth sciences and to encourage study in these subjects through means of: the presentation of public exhibitions, lectures, slide programs; field trips for explorations, study and collection of specimens; the preparation, publication and distribution of articles and studies pertaining to mineralogy and the earth sciences; the promotion of scientific research in these fields; the encouragement of interest among young people and the fostering of classes in mineralogy and lapidary arts; and all other means which are appropriate to the accomplishment of the primary objectives set forth.

*Annual Membership Dues: Individual, \$10; Family, \$15; Juniors, \$3.
 Visitors are always welcome at our regular meetings and field trips.
 The North Orange County Gem & Mineral Soc. does not yet have a Junior Division.
 Material contained in this newsletter may be used if credit is given.*

Please send exchange bulletins to:

Don & Loretta Ogden, Co-Editors
 NOC Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
 20904 Trigger Ln.
 Diamond Bar, CA 91765
 909-598-2456
 donogden@aol.com
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NOC GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWS

Vol, 23 No. 2

February 2004

President's Message

By Don Warthen

We have just started the New Year and already must say good-bye to a very dear friend. Walt Messemer passed away January 15th at Whittier Presbyterian Hospital from a ruptured Aneurysm. This came after a long bout with cancer.

At our next meeting we will be talking about the need for change in the By-Laws and a dues increase. If you have any thoughts on this you should try to be there so your opinion can be heard.

We are still developing plans for the new year please let us know what you would like to see the club doing in the next year. We have the show in June, and beading seminar in July, the kids program in August and of course the Christmas party in December. We also want to do some more classes and some field trips. We need to hear from you.

Refreshments

By Nancy Bird

It's Me "Nancy Bird". I will bring the goodies for the February meeting. Thanks to Don and Loretta Ogden for bringing the goodies to the January meeting.

NOC Club Activities

Cab Classes at TBD — 7-10 p.m.
every Tuesday Evening (except Wednesday on Regular Meeting night).

Board Meeting — TBD

Field Trip — Quartzsite POW WOW Jan
Quartzsite. Scribe Meeting Jan. 31
Tucson Show Feb

Deadline for NOC News — Feb 17.

February Meeting

Date: **February 10**

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: La Habra Community Center
101 W. La Habra Blvd.

Program: A video of Tourmaline Mining at the
Stewart Mine

Members in the News

HAPPY BIRTHDAY and have a wonderful day all of you who were born in February.

Frances Toemmler - Feb 2

Chalmer Steed - Feb 3

Clarence Pool - Feb 8

May Richardson - Feb 9

Verle Stadel - Feb 23

Alfred Hermosillo - Feb 26

Al Stadel - Feb 27

Your gemstone is Amethyst

Your flower is Primrose or Violet

Shows and Events

via CFMS Web Page

Jan 31 - Feb 1-2, 2004, Redlands, CA

38th Annual Pacific Micromount Conf.
Southern California Micro-Mineralogists
San Bernardino County Museum
2024 Orange Tree Lane
Beverly Moreau (714) 577-8038
E-mail: bcmoreau@4dnet.com
Web Site: <http://www.mineralsocal.org/micro/>

February 13-22, 2004, Indio, CA

San Geronimo Mineral & Gem Society
Riverside Co. Fair & National Date Festival
Gem & Mineral Bldg. (on the Fairgrounds)
46-350 Arabia Street
Hours: 10-10
Bert Grisham (909) 849-1674

March 6-7 2004, Arcadia, CA

Monrovia Rockhounds, Inc.
The Arboretum of Los Angeles County.
Ayres Hall
301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA 91007
Hours: 9-4:30 both days
Fee to enter The Arboretum
Jo Anna Ritchey (636) 359-1624 /
j.ritchey@verizon.net

March 13-14, 2004 San Marino, CA

Pasadena Lapidary society
San Morino Masonic Center
3130 Huntington Drive
Hours: Sat 10 - 6 Sun 10 - 5
Mariene Kyte (626) 794-0519

April 3-4, 2004 Torrance, CA

South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society
Torrance Recreation Center
3341 Torrance Blvd.
Hours: 10 - 5 Both Days
Omer Goeden (818) 383-9279

April 24-25, 2004, Haciends Heights, CA

Puente Hills Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.
Steinmetz County Park
1545 Stimson Avenue
Hours: 10 - 5 both days
Paula Hess (562) 696-2270
E-mail: rphess@adelphia.net

May 28-30, 2004, Mariposa, CA

CFMS & Mariposa Mineral & Gem Show
Mariposa County Fairgrounds
One hour from Yosemite Park
CA State Mining and Mineral Museum
209) 742-7625

June 19-20, 2004, La Habra, CA

NOC Gem & Mineral Society
Jubilee of Gems
La Habra Community Center
101 W. La Habra Blvd.
Hours: Sat 10-5 sun 10-4
Ofelia Warthen (626) 330-9874
E-mail: warthen@earthlink.net

Feburary 10 Program

by Izzie

Tourmaline Mining at the Stewart Mine

This is a video program that tells the history of this mine and the struggles of the mine owners and the miners. It might create an interest in taking a field trip to one of the Pala Mines. We can discuss that at a later meeting. Sorry! I will miss this meeting as I am in charge of the AFMS Booth at the Tucson GMS Show February 12, 13, 14, and 15. We will be on our way on Monday February 9.

In Memoriam Walt Messemer

Walter Messemer, a long time member and past president, of the North Orange County Gem and Mineral Society, was born in Brooklyn, New York on July 19, 1919, passed away January 15, 2004 in Whittier, California.

He was serving in the US Air Force in New Orleans when World War II broke out. His unit was transferred to Edwards Air Force Base in Lancaster, California. He said "there was just an empty field when we got there and there were no buildings. We had to stay in tents and there was snow on the ground".

It was there, that Walt first played football. He joined the camp team, but as the war went on, they got a couch from NFL and players from the NFL began joining the Air Force Team. Soon Walt was the only player from the original team left. They played all the big college teams as well as the Army and Navy teams (they were undefeated). Walt is the only person to ever play in the Blue Gray Game (and win) that did not go to college.

After the war, Walt played for the Oakland Team in the California league for one year. He was then signed to play Tackle for the New York Giants; he played both offense and defense.

After leaving football, Walt worked as a truck driver, mechanic and a shipping foreman. After 30 years, Walt wondered what he'd do when he retired. His boss said, "Why don't you get into gem cutting?" Later, he fondly would tell people stories behind each stone.

Walt joined the Norwalk Gem and Mineral Club and later joined the North Orange County Gem and Mineral Society. He served as President in 1993 and set up classes in his garage where (even while being treated for cancer) he taught lapidary and prepared cabs for the youth classes at Hacienda Heights and La Habra until his death.

Walt leaves three sons and was preceded in life by his wife Betsy.

Tax Reporting Requirements

By Michael Kokinos, Tax Advisor

Internal Revenue Service

For societies that use a calendar year for financial records, Form 990 or 990EZ needs to be filed by May 15 unless gross receipts for 2003 are less than \$25,000. For fiscal year societies, file not later than four months and fifteen days after the end of the fiscal year. If your society is a California corporation, I recommend you obtain Form 990EZ and complete it for possible attachment to the Registry of Charitable Trusts Form RRF-1.

If the Internal Revenue Service sends you a form 990 or 990EZ, you must complete it and mail the original to the Service even if gross receipts are less than \$25,000.

Franchise Tax Board

For calendar year California non-profit corporations, Form 199 needs to be filed by May 15 unless gross receipts for 2003 are less than \$25,000. As long as your gross receipts are less than \$25,000 you needn't file even if Form 199 is sent to you.

Registry of Charitable Trusts

California societies exempt from tax under I.R.C. Section 501(c)(7) are not generally required to report to the Registry of Charitable Trusts. However, unless a society obtains at least 85 percent of its gross receipts from members, exemption under Section 501(c)(7) is not appropriate.

For California societies that use a calendar year for financial records, the Form RRF-1 should be filed by May 15. For societies that use a fiscal year, the Form RRF-1 should be filed not later than four months and fifteen days after the end of the fiscal year.

Societies with gross receipts or assets of \$100,000 or more, the Form 990 or 990EZ, must be attached to the Form RRF-1. A fee of \$25.00 must also be sent with the Form RRF-1.

Some California societies have not been receiving the Form RRF-1 even though it is required. It is recommended that those societies have someone access the Attorney General's website (www.ag.ca.gov/charities) to obtain the necessary instructions and form(s) to apply for registration with the Registry of Charitable Trusts. There is a simplified form for registration of organizations with minor gross receipts and assets. Once the Registry acts on the application for registration, a CT number will be assigned to your organization.

Minutes of the General Meeting January 13, 2004

by Susan Hansen

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by President Don Warthen. The flag salute was led by Don F.

Izzie Burns introduced Jonas, presenting a program on Amber. He had a table full of amber from different locations around the world and in all colors, as well as samples of "fake" amber and amber look-alikes.

Refreshments were served.

Membership: 17 members and 1 guest were present.

Library has new books – Joanne Abramson's "Gift of the Rainbow Serpent", Gems of Afghanistan, and one on Turquoise.

Donation awards drawings were done by Ofelia, Loretta won the white elephant – chocolate with bunny shaped marshmallows, she also got a La Habra pin. Verle not able to be here this month or next.

Minutes from November were in the bulletin, courtesy of Nancy Byrd in Secretary's absence. Minutes approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report by Don L.-Main expense the Christmas Dinner catering and harpist. Main income from Dealer's for 2004 show.

Don W. reported there is a problem with dues, CFMS is raising dues again, another \$.50 per member, same increase as last year. Our newsletter costs 1\$/newsletter to print and mail. There was a proposal by board committee to amend the bylaws to change the dues structure. Discussion followed, the proposal will be published in the newsletter, discussed in Feb and voted on by membership. Don handed out a copy of the proposed changes in the by-laws to be effective 1-1-05. Also a by law change is proposed to add the offices to be elected each year. President, 1st VP, Treasurer and 2 directors would be elected in odd numbered years; 2nd VP, Secretary and 3 directors in even numbered years.

Chair Ofelia reported she signed up with magazines on show announcements will need help on Show publicity.

Kitchen - Loretta

Set up & Take down -

Izzie – Dealers – 4 committed so far.

Demos – Al & Bill

Displays – Ginny, Irene & Oscar

Truck & Workers - Don L.

Joanne, Nancy & Jane – Spinning Wheel

Security – Don E and Forrest so far.

Banner – need someone pick up, change dates, and deliver to city yard. (Check on stencils).

Greeters – Pat and Kathy E.

Name of the show will be Jubilee of Gems, Izzie made up some flyers for dealers that wanted some early ones to go out at Quartzsite and Tucson.

We need some new committees for the club.

Field Trips: - Quartzsite Show Jan 28th – Feb 1. They will have some field trips locally.

Stoddard Wells FT for 3rd Weekend in March, Map will be in Newsletter, put on by Victorville Club. Field trip Sat. AM for tri-colored marble is a 4wd only area, can probably ride with someone if don't have 4wd. There is Verdi Antique on hilltop that have to climb to, & Black Jade at top. May be a problem with race that same weekend from Victorville to Las Vegas – automatic cars, don't know yet if they will go through Stoddard Wells area.

Christmas Party was nice, if want to have it here again we need to get reservations in early. It was decided to go ahead and get reservation.

Class last weekend – kids and parents were a good group. We only had 2 machines there. Bill & Iz got materials and did class and "field trip" outside to collect rocks and make collections.

CFMS – Loretta announced CFMS newsletter article on insurance – Don printed it in our newsletter. Loretta will be doing Education through Sharing for Feb. Show will be May 28-30 in Mariposa.

Program for Feb – will be in bulletin. Iz will be at Tucson working at the AFMS booth in Feb.

Don announced that Walt Messmer is still in Whittier Presbyterian Hospital. Has been moved several times to different rooms.

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

NOC By-Law Changes

by the Bylaws Committee: Don Warthen, Izzie Burns & Jane Livezey

The following changes to our By-Laws have been recommended to take effect on January 1, 2005.

This recommendation will be read at our regular meeting on February 10, 2004. There will be time for a discussion and then we will vote on the recommendation.

Effective January 1, 2005 the following article of the "North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society" By-laws will be changed to read:

ARTICLE IV SECTION 1

- A. Individual Membership dues shall be \$15.00 per year. Initiation fee \$5.00.**
- B. Family Membership dues shall be \$20.00 per year. Initiation fee \$10.00.**
- C. Student Membership dues shall be \$10.00 per year. Initiation fee \$5.00. A student shall be defined as an Individual Member 8 to 25 years of age who is currently attending school.**
- D. Public liability insurance fees are included in membership dues.**
- E. Honorary membership, conferred as an honor.**
- F. Annual dues are payable January 1 of each year.**

ARTICLE V SECTION 4:

- B. The offices of President, First Vice-President, Treasurer and two Directors shall start their terms on odd numbered years.**
- C. The offices of Second Vice-President, Secretary and three Directors shall start their terms on even numbered years.**

Information on the Dues Structure in Colorado

by Roger Loest via E-mail

We belong to 2 clubs here in Colorado. One club in Colorado Springs and one in Lake George.

Colorado Springs is a large club:

Family \$25.00
Individual \$15.00
Juniors \$5.00

Lake George is a small club:

Family \$25.00
Individual \$15.00
Juniors - no juniors at this time for dues.

Just wanted to pass this info on to you for your January 13th meeting

Dues Are Due!

Please remember your dues are due the first of the year. Send them to

Don Livezey
1722 Virginia Pl.
Placentia, CA92870

A Reminder to All Clubs Hosting Shows in 2004

By Fred Ott, Insurance Chairperson

Please remember to submit a fully-completed "Request for Certificate of Insurance/Additional Insured Endorsement" at least 3 weeks prior to your show, even if your club has already paid the "special event" premium for liability coverage for that show. The "Request" form includes important information that is needed by the Federation's insurance agent/broker in order to issue the document.

Go to the Insurance Forms page on the CFMS web site <http://www.cfmsinc.org> or ask your Federation director for a copy of the "Request" form.

Thanks!
Fred Ott, Insurance Chairperson

How About a Bus Trip to Mariposa for the Show?

By Bill Gissler, Santa Clara VG&MS

How about if your club and another club hired a bus to take club members and guests to the show? The Santa Clara Valley and Peninsula clubs are considering this. Or make it a two day trip, stay over in Mariposa and then visit Yosemite. Make your arrangements early as this is Memorial Weekend.

Dues Are Due!

Please remember your dues are due the first of the year. Send them to

**Don Livezey
1722 Virginia Pl.
Placentia, CA92870**

CFMS Show Update Mariposa May 28-30 2004

By Colleen McGann, 2nd VP

The Show committee is lining up a lot of exciting activities for the 2004 CFMS and Mariposa Mineral and Gem Show. We will offer two field trips during the show.

Friday's trip will be to the Mariposite Quarry in Coulterville, northern Mariposa County, and also to our favorite local serpentine locality where you will be able to collect serpentine, jade, and other minerals. There will be a minimal fee to collect at the Mariposite quarry.

On Saturday, we plan to offer a trip to one of Mariposa's historic gold mines. This tour will be guided by a local historian who will fill you in on the history of the mine and Mariposa's place in the Gold Rush story.

Our Speaker Chairman has been busy organizing a variety of speakers to satisfy every interest. Four speakers will give informative presentations during the show. Si and Ann Frazier will give a presentation on agates. John Clinkenbeard will share his knowledge about gold in California. After listening to Fred Devito discuss mineral collecting in California, you won't want to miss Greg Bedrock explain your rights to collect on government land.

Come join us in May. There is plenty of camping available at the Mariposa County Fairgrounds, or make your reservation at one of Mariposa's motels. A complete list of lodging is on the CFMS website along with reservation forms for the show. Or see your Federation Director for the forms.

2004 CFMS Supplementary Rules

by Bural LaRue, Rules committee Chair

CFMS Supplementary rules for 2004 are now available on the CFMS web site (<http://www.cfmsinc.org>) or from your Federation Director.

Marbles

By Jud Milburn via The Sliawmish Roktawk 96

Marbles are, without doubt, among the oldest - if not the oldest - plaything in human culture. Clay and stone marbles are found in Indian graves all over America. The ancient Chinese worked agate and jade into marbles. Glass and clay marbles have been found in Egyptian tombs. The Romans introduced them into England.

In modern times the production of marbles centered during the 19th century in the Austrian Alps and Southern Germany; stone, agate, alabaster, onyx and glass were the common materials used. Imitations in the US and elsewhere followed. Hand methods of making marbles tended to disappear when marble machines were invented about 1900.

Chalk marbles were used by poor boys of the 18th and 19th centuries because they were cheap, being rough molded and dried. They are generally gray-white or yellow-white, made of compacted calcium carbonate with varying amounts of silica, feldspar, and/or other material impurities. The basic calcium carbonate is derived chiefly from fossil seashells. Blackboard chalk is made of refined calcium carbonate.

Clay marbles were very inexpensive and common in the 19th century. They are found in great numbers on civil War battlegrounds, lost by soldiers who whiled away spare time playing games with them. They were rough-shaped from wet clay, mostly hydrated silica of aluminum, and fired in kilns; some were left in natural colors, and others were redyed solid, mottled, spotted or marked with lines. Ohio was one center of their production.

Stone marbles were made in great numbers in the German provinces of Saxony and Thuringen in the 19th century. They were rounded mechanically by being rubbed between larger heavy plates of stone and wood. The common stone material was quarried out of local deposits of calcareous limestone. Most of them show the layers of sedimentary deposits.

Agates are among the most beautiful of marbles, showing solid or banded colors of red, brown, white and green chalcedony. This semiprecious material is fine grained and takes a high polish. Some agates, depending on the luck of the cut, show white or yellow spots at one or both ends. These were called "bull's

eye" agates. They were made mostly in Germany. Like all "earth" marbles, pottery marbles, or Benningtons, were crude and irregular. They are distinguished by small "eyes" over their surfaces caused by bubbles forming on the colored glaze of brown, blue, green, or mottle. The marble's base is clay, mostly hydrated silicate of aluminum. They were thought to be made by the Bennington Pottery Co., but most of them were made in Germany in the 19th century. They are being reproduced today. They were known as "Bennies."

China marbles are made of mostly porcelain or pure white clay, the material of which fine dishes, cups and saucers were made, hence, the name "china." China marbles are found in several forms: unglazed marked, glazed plain and glazed marked. The various marks were hand-painted - a series of lines or parallel bands in colors of black, blue, red or green, bull's eyes, and floral designs. They were often called "chinas" and were made in the last century.

Swirls, among the most beautiful marbles, were hand-blown glass and have a pontil at both ends. The large ones were not for boys' games, but for decoration. Most of them were made in Germany. The glass consists of silicon dioxide, boric oxide, aluminum oxide, etc.. Each marble was originally a segment of glass cane which had been built up of colored rods ended in clear or colored glass. One end of the cane was heated, one segment twisted in a spherical shape, then broken off. The pontils were ground down when the marble had cooled.

Sulphides are unusual marbles made in Germany between 1860 and 1920. They are of clear glass with a center figure made of china, clay, gypsum, kaolin, or similar material. The white figure is surrounded by air, which gives it a silvery appearance.

The first glass marble made by machines competed with the attractive agates and were called "imitation agates" or acro agates. The colors were dark red, brown, green, blue, and purple mixed with small streaks of white. There were also plain white, mixed with clear glass. These first appeared in the 1890's.

Milk glass was a popular substance for Victorian bowls, water glasses, kerosene lamps, etc., so it is not surprising that it was used for marbles. Milk glass is an opaque or translucent white glass made from silicon dioxide or boric dioxide mixed with stannic oxide. They are still manufactured.

Opalescent glass marbles are a refinement of milk glass. These marbles are trans-opals. They come in various colors, mostly varying intensities of white.

Don't Take a Holiday from Safety

By Chuck McKie, CFMS Safety Chairman 2004

As temperatures fall and visions of sugarplums dance in the heads of many, the American Red Cross urges families not to take a "holiday" from safety. Christmas trees and candles, symbols of the joyous season, can also prove dangerous, and supplemental home heating equipment such as space heaters are a major cause of fire. According to the National Fire Protection Association, a home fire is reported to a fire department in the United States every 1 minute, and someone dies in a home fire every 2 hours. In addition, cold weather is a contributor to seasonal emergencies because it can cause illnesses such as frostbite and hypothermia.

"Many of the fires and cold weather-related emergencies that occur during this time of the year can be avoided," says Connie Harvey, Red Cross national health and safety expert. "As always with emergencies such as these, prevention and preparedness are key."

Harvey offers the following tips to help keep families safe this season:

Dress appropriately before going outdoors. "The air temperature does not have to be below freezing for someone to experience cold emergencies such as hypothermia and frostbite. Wind speed can create dangerously cold conditions even when the temperature is not that low," she points out.

Recognize the symptoms of cold weather illnesses such as hypothermia and frostbite. Symptoms of hypothermia include confusion, dizziness, exhaustion and severe shivering. Warning signs of frostbite include gray, white or yellow skin discoloration. "Both are serious, so if any of these conditions are present, seek medical attention immediately," Harvey says.

Keep Christmas trees fresh. Place your tree away from heat sources and exits; water it daily. Make sure your artificial tree is fire-retardant.

Be careful with candles and decorate only with flame-retardant or non-combustible materials - Keep candles away from combustible materials. Don't leave children unattended in a room with lit candles. Keep candles, matches and lighters out of the reach of children. Never display lighted candles in windows or near exits.

Inspect fireplaces and wood stoves. Have your chimney connections and flues inspected by a professional and cleaned if necessary prior to the start of the heating season. "Burn only wood-never burn paper, including discarded gift wrap, or pine boughs, and if you plan to hang stockings on your fireplace, do not use the fireplace for fires," cautions Harvey.

Check smoke alarms - Make sure alarms are working properly and that new batteries are installed.

Be aware of overuse of electrical outlets - Don't overload your electrical outlets. Be careful of extension cords that present hazardous walkways.

Have one or more working fire extinguishers in your home - Get training from the fire department in how to use them.

Be sure your car is prepared. "Before hitting the road, let someone know your route, final destination and expected arrival time," says Harvey. It is also a good idea to have a disaster supplies kit for the car that includes: a flashlight with fresh batteries, battery-powered radio and extra batteries, blankets or sleeping bags, booster cables, a fire extinguisher, bottled water and non-perishable high-energy foods (granola bars, raisins and peanut butter), a compass, road maps, shovel, tire repair kit and pump, flares, extra clothing, a sack of sand or cat litter (for tire traction), tow rope, knife and first aid kit with a manual.

Enroll in a first aid, CPR and AED course. Although these tips can help prevent an emergency, it is also important to be prepared should an emergency situation arise. To enroll in a first aid, CPR or AED course, contact your local American Red Cross.

Learn more about how to prepare for winter weather. Read *Are You Ready for a Winter Storm?* via The American Red Cross

Contact your local Red Cross Chapter for courses available in your area.