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NEWS RELEASE

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Elected Officials from Orange County Joined to Build 300 Emergency Kits at ReadyOC Build-a-Kit Event

Community Leaders Including Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez and Sheriff Mike Carona Build Emergency Kits to Help Get Orange County Prepared

ANAHEIM, Calif. (April 28, 2007) – The inaugural ReadyOC (www.ReadyOC.org) Build-a-Kit event, which featured 15 elected officials, including Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, Sheriff Mike Carona and officials from eight cities, successfully built 300 emergency kits in 30 minutes, putting the finishing touches on the last kits as the 30-minute countdown clock went to zero. Using the American Red Cross' Super CPR Saturday at Angel Stadium of Anaheim as a backdrop, city mayors, council members, county supervisors, members of the state assembly, among others, joined in building emergency kits for families and organizations in need. The elected officials will be distributing the emergency kits to their local communities.

The goal of the ReadyOC Build-a-Kit event was to raise awareness for the need for all residents and businesses in Orange County to have an emergency kit for any natural or man-made disaster. The elected officials took the lead by demonstrating how fun, yet important, it is for everyone to make an emergency kit. The emergency kits built today were 'starter kits', which contain the basic elements of what go into a standard kit. Partners of the ReadyOC campaign donated the supply kit provisions.

The emergency kits built today included the following donated provisions:

- Kit bag – **Targus Group International**
- Water/Energy bars – **Nestlé**
- Batteries – **House of Batteries**
- Flashlight – **Living Fresh**
- Gloves – **The Cordova Company**
- First-Aid – **Swift First-Aid**
- Blankets – **MayDay Industries**

"The need to prepare for all types of emergencies, both man-made and natural, starts with community leaders," said Sheriff Mike Carona of the Orange County Sheriff's Department. "That's why it was important that the elected officials from all levels of government came here today to build emergency kits."

"This is a great event, not just because we're getting one step closer to preparing for an emergency, but because the kits that we built today will go to a family or organization that would otherwise be unable to afford one," said Claudia Alvarez, Councilwoman for the city of Santa Ana. "It's nice to be a part of an event where we're actually coming away with real, tangible items to help the community, especially for a cause that requires us to have a sense of urgency and vigilance."

ReadyOC is the first county-wide public education campaign funded by the Department of Homeland Security through the cities of Anaheim and Santa Ana, the Orange County Sheriff's Department and 18 Orange County government agencies and cities. ReadyOC (www.ReadyOC.org) and ListoOC (www.ListoOC.org), its Spanish-language equivalent, reaches out to Orange County's residents and businesses through participation in community events; a business program that encourages local employers to disseminate materials and educate their employees; and a youth outreach program that teaches students how to prepare their schools and families.

About ReadyOC

The ReadyOC campaign (www.readyoc.org) is a county-wide educational campaign funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Urban Area Security Initiative that informs residents and businesses about the importance of preparing for any kind of natural, health or man-made threat. Working together, everyone can make a difference in creating awareness, motivating preparedness and encouraging involvement. Be prepared. Be aware. Be Involved.

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