

## CHAPTER 6: OTHER SAFETY ISSUES

### 6.1 Introduction

This chapter covers safety issues that did not fit the theme of the previous chapters, but that nevertheless require discussion. These are also safety issues that the State does not require to be covered in Safety Elements, but that the City of Glendale considers of sufficient importance as to be included in its Safety Element. Specifically, issues covered herein include terrorism and civil unrest, crime, major accident response, dangerous plants and animals, and disease and vector control. The data used in this study are based entirely on openly published information. No confidential information was sought or obtained, nor was any used.

### 6.2 Terrorism and Civil Unrest

#### 6.2.1 Definitions

Webster's dictionary defines **terrorism** as the "use of force or threats to demoralize, intimidate, and subjugate, especially as a political weapon or policy." Terrorists rely on stealth and surprise to accomplish their means and to cause a feeling of uncertainty and hopelessness. The targets chosen are typically high-profile places that are likely to attract the most public attention, usually as a result of media coverage. This assures that the terrorist group's cause or objective becomes known. This is also why terrorist groups often issue public announcements taking responsibility for their actions. In an effort to cause as much damage as possible, terrorists may use or threaten to use nuclear, biological or chemical substances. These are referred to as Weapons of Mass Destruction, or WMDs.

While a terrorist attack is typically meant to generate as much publicity as possible, the planning and delivery phases of the attack need to be conducted in secrecy. This is the greatest weakness in the world of terrorism. Secrecy obscures terrorist plans from the outside world and introduces an element of uncertainty on the part of the target. This creates a perception of risk. However, to preserve secrecy, terrorist teams generally consist of a limited number of people. Consequently, most terrorist acts may take months, or even years to plan and execute. If a terrorist attack in the planning stages is detected, it loses its cover, forcing the terrorist group to abort its plans. Also, fear of detection may throw terrorists off-balance and cause them to make mistakes and get caught. Therefore, *detection* is the most powerful solution for terrorist attacks and the greatest fear in the terrorists' minds. The ability to detect and intercept a group's plans is the single most important weapon to prevent terrorism. The more that terrorist secrecy is breached, the more effective the counter-terrorism efforts become. *Prevention* is also a key element of a successful counter-terrorism strategy and planning. The other three crucial planning and mitigation elements are *preparedness, response, and recovery*.

**Civil disturbances** typically develop in response to an unpopular policy or act issued or made by the group in power, either the policy makers, or those that enforce these procedures, such as the police. Civil disturbances can also develop in response to perceived or real racial or social inequality, and deep-seated political or religious differences. Civil disturbances can include minor infractions, such as disturbing the peace or assembling illegally, to major offenses such as looting, robbery and possession of stolen property, assault, arson, brandishing of weapons, and even murder. Civil disturbances can become as large as the Los Angeles riots in April 1992, which caused significant destruction of property and loss of life.

#### 6.2.2 Hazard Analysis

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The September 11, 2001 events, more than any other acts before or since, made Americans realize that U.S. soil is not immune to terrorism. Although most terrorist acts to date on American soil have occurred on the East Coast, California has many potential targets. There are several reasons for this: California is the fifth largest economy in the world, home to several economically and politically sensitive assets, and is a symbol of industrial strength and technological prowess with its vast military production, well-known and attended entertainment venues, world-renowned educational institutions, and numerous airports and harbors. The State's border with Mexico is frequently breached and its extensive international sea border makes California even more attractive as a potential terrorist target. Glendale is an integral part of southern California. Therefore, the potential for crime, terrorism and civil unrest need to be assessed within this *regional* context.

The consultant and City staff worked together to identify specific high-risk facilities in Glendale that could be targets of terrorist attack. These facilities, for obvious security reasons, are not identified herein, but the list of the facilities, and their locations, were issued to the Glendale Police Department. The sites were evaluated according to their economic and civic importance – high-occupancy businesses and City facilities that provide critical services were given a high rating and placed on a list of potential targets. Although several potential targets were identified in the City, this study suggests that within a regional context, as part of southern California, Glendale has a relatively low level of risk – other high-profile neighboring communities are at higher risk of being targeted for terrorist or civil unrest acts. Nevertheless, with effective prevention and mitigation strategies in place, Glendale can reduce its risk even further.



### 6.2.3 Hazard Response

The State of California has prepared and published as an addendum to the State Emergency Plan a document entitled *California Terrorism Response Plan*. This document identifies and describes how the State and local governments are to plan for and respond to terrorism incidents. The tasks and responsibilities of emergency management are based on two terms: Crisis Management and Consequence Management. Crisis Management refers to the response to people committing an act of terrorism. Consequence Management refers to the response to the potential or actual effects of terrorism. According to the *California Terrorism Response Plan* (2001), local government has primary responsibility for responding to an incident for the purpose of protecting public health and safety (Consequence Management). All responses to terrorism incidents need to be conducted in accordance with the State's Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS). The Federal government is responsible for the law enforcement aspects of a terrorism incident that relate to identifying, apprehending and neutralizing the terrorists and their weapons (Crisis Management). These tasks are handled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), with assistance from other agencies as necessary. Consequence management support at the Federal level is provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), now part of the Department of Homeland Security.



In the City of Glendale, the Glendale Fire and Police Departments are responsible for responding to terrorist attacks and civil disturbances. The Glendale Police Department maintains the list of assets in the City that are considered potential terrorist and/or civil disturbance targets. The Glendale Police Department has a detailed program specifically designed for crowd control issues that was first implemented in the late 1980s. The tactical response unit, which specializes in civil disorder incidences, is referred to as the Tactical



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Operation Support Squad (TOSS). This unit has been trained to act as a distinct team, responding to civil unrest and unusual events that require a tactical law enforcement presence, such as during earthquakes, catastrophic fires, and flooding conditions. More recently, the Police Department formed a special weapons unit called Special Response Team (SRT). This group is trained to handle unique situations, including acts of terrorism. The Intelligence Unit of the Police Department has been expanded to deal with issues relating to terrorism and organized crime, and the Police Department employs a Crisis Negotiation Team.

In addition to the *TOSS Manual*, there are several other planning documents that have been developed at the City level that outline specific procedures to be followed during civil unrest, and more recently, terrorist attacks. The Special Services Bureau maintains plans dealing with civil unrest. The Strategic Planning Element (SPE) maintains the *First Responder Contingencies and Plans For Regional and Local Area Terrorist Retaliation Attacks Resulting From US War on Terrorism* to counter terrorism. This document was developed after the September 11, 2001 attacks.

If an event exceeds the capabilities of the Glendale Police Department, additional resources are available. The Glendale Police Department participates in the Los Angeles County Mutual Aid Response Plan – if necessary, assistance can be obtained from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office. Mutual aid agreements and appropriate partnerships to address terrorism and disaster preparedness have been developed and are in place. At the State level, the National Guard would be deployed to help if the situation exceeds the capabilities of the local jurisdictions. Anticipating the possibility that the police facilities in the City could be a target, the Glendale Police Department has developed contingency plans that include the use of redundant facilities from which, if necessary, they can continue operating without interruption.

The California Office of Emergency Services (OES) has established the State Standing Committee on Terrorism (SSCOT). This group has the responsibility of: 1) monitoring terrorist trends and activities, 2) determining the potential impact area in the event that a terrorist threat is carried out, 3) planning for the coordinated and comprehensive emergency response to an event, and 4) providing timely guidance to State organizations or agencies responding to a specific threat or event. In the Los Angeles area, 44 members representing several government agencies and disciplines formed the Terrorism Working Group (TWG) in 1996. This group meets regularly to develop plans, procedures and systems related to terrorism issues. As a subgroup of the TWG, the Terrorism Early Warning Group provides intelligence estimates derived from open sources of information.

Consistent with the division of responsibilities as indicated in the *California Terrorism Response Plan*, the Glendale Police Department does not have the responsibility or the internal capabilities to assess terrorist threats locally. Furthermore, the number of implicit or explicit terrorist threats that they receive is not sufficient to justify a staff position or a tracking system at the City. Therefore, any threats received at the local level are forwarded to the California Anti-Terrorism Information Center (CATIC) for assessment. CATIC was established in response to the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks on September 11, 2001, and is under the jurisdiction of the State's Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General. CATIC acts as a clearinghouse for threats received statewide. Threats are evaluated and relevant information is then sent to the appropriate Federal, State and local jurisdictions, including the local police departments, if appropriate. Additional specific

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information on how these various agencies need to operate to maintain continuous communication and to coordinate their activities for effective response is spelled out in two documents prepared by the Office of Emergency Services: *Local Planning Guidance on Terrorism Response* (1998), and the *California Terrorism Response Plan* (2001). Updates to these documents can be expected on a regular basis as new information on how to plan for and respond to terrorism threats and attacks are developed.

### 6.3 Crime

In the last twenty years, significant changes have occurred in California's economic patterns, with a transition from primarily an industrial, blue-collar economy to a more diversified, increasingly technologically oriented one. California is now the undisputed center of innovation and technology in the world, and the export leader in the United States. Glendale, as the third most populous city in Los Angeles County, is representative of the social, cultural and economic diversity that characterizes and energizes southern California. For example, eighty different languages are spoken in Glendale schools; every rung on the socio-economic ladder is represented as well. Glendale is renowned as a financial district and retail center, and home to many entertainment industry studios, companies and theatres, and a well-established industrial park. The City has a variety of restaurants and nightspots, and is also the home of countless local small businesses.

The changes in the local economy have had a profound effect on the crime picture. In the last twenty years, the crime rate in California has decreased drastically to almost one-half the rate of the 1980 peak (see Figure 6-1). Consistent with statewide trends, between 1993 and 2001, Glendale experienced a drastic drop in its crime rate to nearly one-half the values for 1992 (see Figure 6-2). This declining trend appears to be reversing, with preliminary figures for 2002 showing a moderate increase. Nevertheless, when compared to the five surrounding southern California counties and the State, the City of Glendale has one of the lowest crime rates (see Figure 6-3).

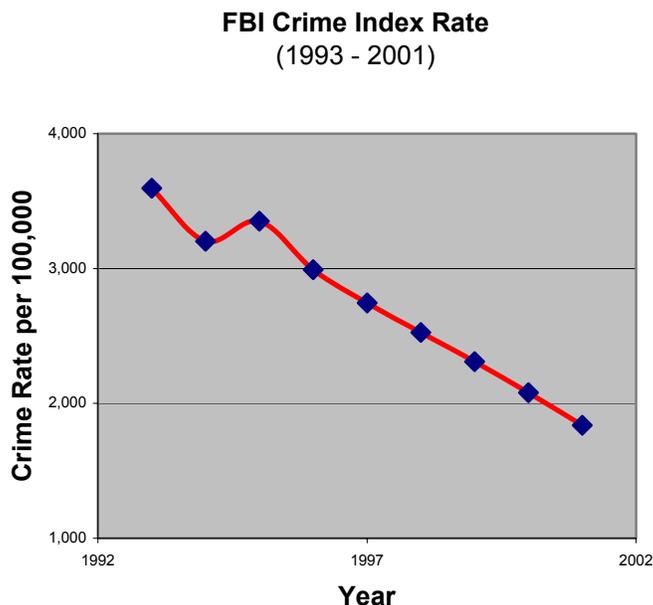
**Figure 6-1: Crime Index in California for the Years 1952-2000  
(by category, per 100,000 population)**



(Source: California Attorney General's Office)

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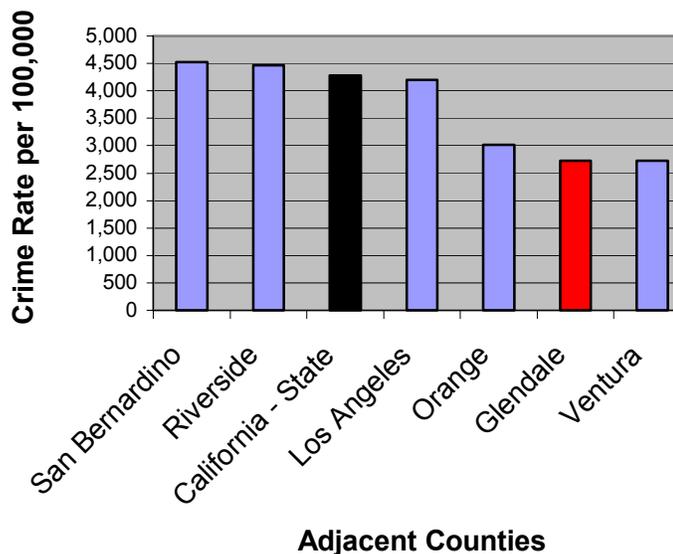
**Figure 6-2: Crime Trends in the City of Glendale for Years 1993-2001**



(Source: Glendale Police Department)

**Figure 6-3: Crime Rate in Glendale vs. Adjacent Counties**

**FBI Crime Index Rate Comparison  
(By County, 1998)**

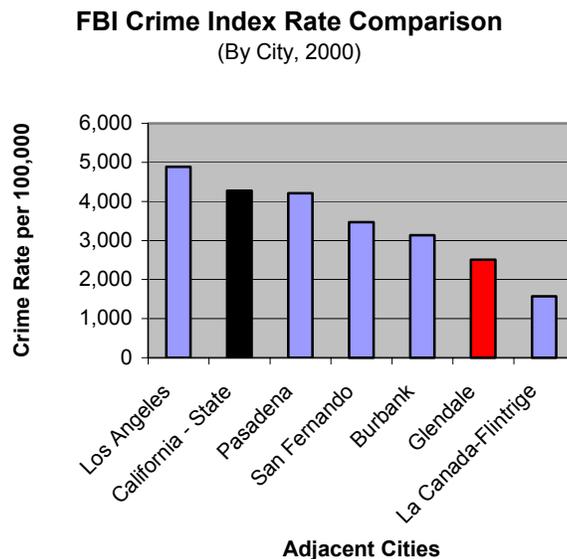


(Source: California Attorney General's Office)

When compared to the five neighboring cities, Glendale has the second lowest crime rate, also significantly lower than its largest neighbor, the City of Los Angeles. This comparison is shown on Figure 6-4. In fact, Glendale is considered one of the safest cities with a population of more than 100,000.

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**Figure 6-4: Crime Rate in Glendale and Neighboring Cities**



(Source: California Attorney General's Office)

Crime rates within Glendale vary significantly, with some census tracts experiencing substantially higher crime rates than the rest. The Crime Index by census tract in the City ranges from a low of 700 crimes for every 100,000 people in the area, to a high of over 7,000 crimes for every 100,000 people. For example, the northern, residential sections of Glendale, with substantially lower population densities, exhibit lower crime rates than the southern census tracts. On the other hand, census tracts with the highest crime rates lie in a relatively small area where critical risk factors, such as higher population density and accessibility, come together. This is the triangular area fully surrounded by the Golden State, Ventura, and Glendale Freeways, in addition to several major arteries, such as the San Fernando Road, cutting across it. Plate 6-1 shows a detailed distribution of crime by census tract within the City.

A revealing crime distribution pattern emerges within this triangular area. Namely, the highest crime areas have two things in common:

1. They are immediately adjacent to the Glendale Galleria; and
2. They have the highest population densities in the City.

There are several factors that can contribute to the crime risk in any city, including Glendale. The crime factors listed below can result in elevated levels of risk when present together in a relatively confined geographic area.

- High Population Density
- Population Instability
- Age Distribution
- Family Conditions
- Economic Conditions
- Housing-Stock Conditions
- Architectural Practices
- Operational Skills and Capabilities of the Local Police Department
- Street Layout and Accessibility
- Organized Crime Potential
- Gang Potential
- Crime Reporting Practices
- Ethnic Tensions
- Commercial and Industrial Enterprises Density, and

**NOTES:**

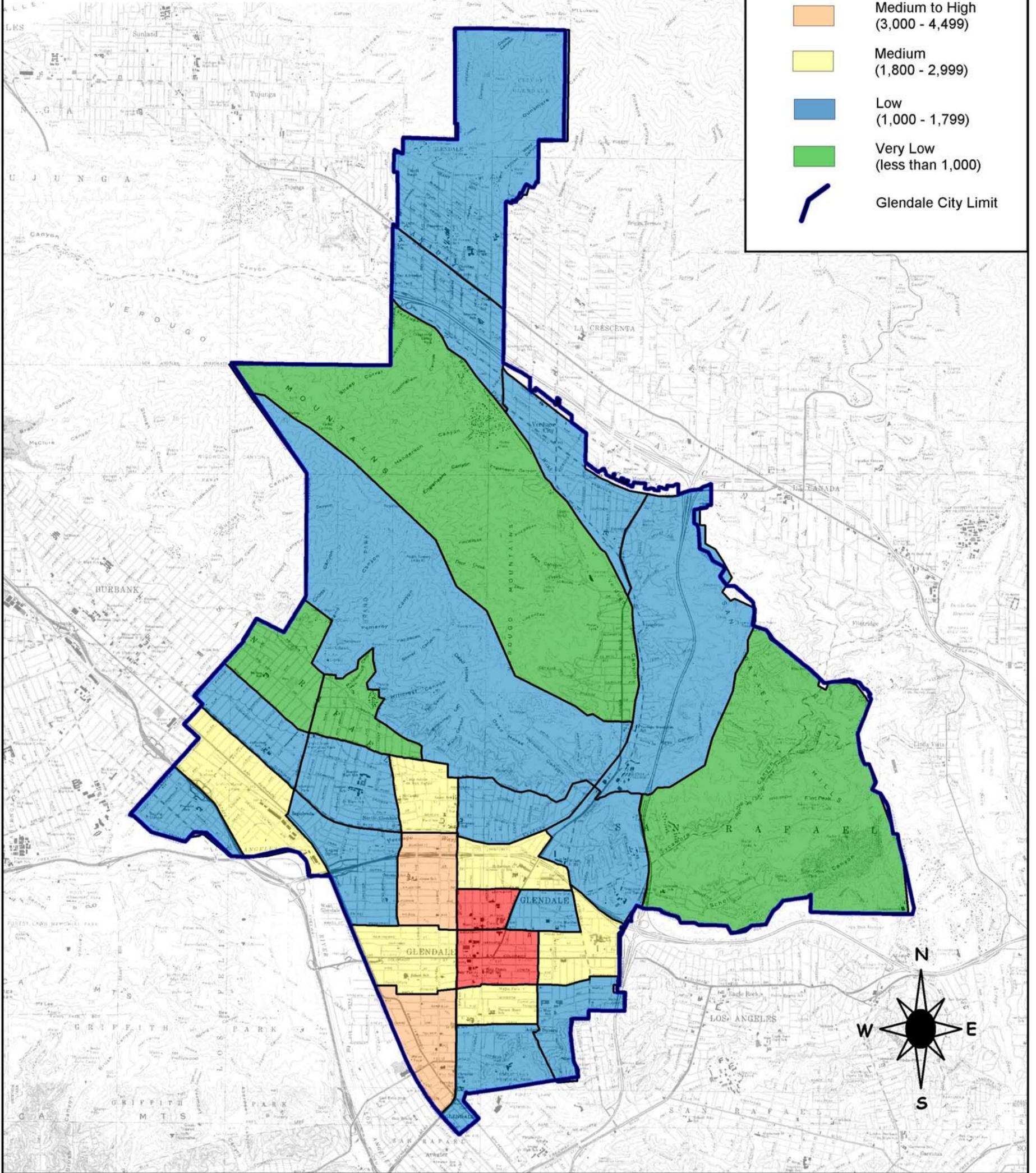
This map is intended for general land use planning only. Information on this map is not sufficient to serve as a substitute for detailed geologic investigations of individual sites, nor does it satisfy the evaluation requirements set forth in geologic hazard regulations.

Earth Consultants International (ECI) makes no representations or warranties regarding the accuracy of the data from which these maps were derived. ECI shall not be liable under any circumstances for any direct, indirect, special, incidental, or consequential damages with respect to any claim by any user or third party on account of, or arising from, the use of this map.

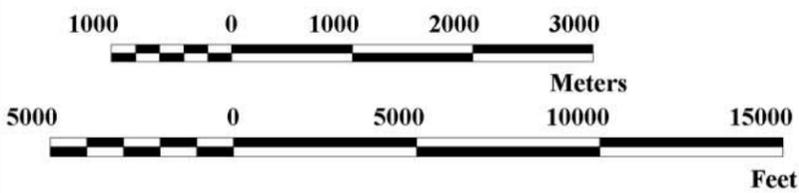
**Explanation**

**Crime Rate per 100,000**

-  High (greater than 4,500)
-  Medium to High (3,000 - 4,499)
-  Medium (1,800 - 2,999)
-  Low (1,000 - 1,799)
-  Very Low (less than 1,000)
-  Glendale City Limit



**Scale: 1:60,000**



Base Map: USGS Topographic Map from Sure!MAPS RASTER  
Sources: US Census Bureau 1990, using population estimates as of 12/31/99. Crime data provided by the Glendale Police Department for the year 1999.



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Date: July, 2003

**Crime Rate per 100,000  
by Census Tract  
Glendale, California**

**Plate  
6-1**

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Crime analysis is conducted by the Glendale Police Department on a continuous basis. Crime statistics are collected daily and scrutinized regularly. Based on these data, the Police Department indicates that property crimes in Glendale far outnumber crimes against persons. The data also show that, as in other commerce centers, white-collar crimes, such as fraud and identity theft, have increased in the last few years in Glendale. Like many diverse communities, Glendale experiences a certain amount of culturally based organized crime. Changes in the frequency, pattern, or type of crime are addressed by the Police Department. For example, the street-gang situation in Glendale is addressed on a daily basis, primarily by the Gang Unit. The Police Department utilizes a variety of programs and affirmative policing, forming partnerships with community groups, businesses, schools and other government agencies, to fight crime. The community as a whole has zero tolerance for criminal activity.

### 6.4 Major Accident Response

When a major accident or terrorist attack occurs, the first few moments are absolutely critical in terms of reducing loss of life and property. First responders must be sufficiently trained to understand the nature and the gravity of the event to minimize the confusion that inevitably follows catastrophic situations. The first responder must then put into motion relevant mitigation plans to further reduce the potential for loss of lives and property damage, and to communicate with the public. According to the State's Standardized Emergency Management System, local agencies have primary authority regarding rescue and treatment of casualties, and making decisions regarding protective actions for the community. This on-scene authority rests with the local emergency services organization and the incident commander.

Depending on the type of accident or terrorist attack, several different agencies and disciplines may be called in to assist with emergency response. Agencies and disciplines that can be expected to be part of an emergency response team include medical, health, fire and rescue, police, public works, and coroner. The challenge is to accomplish the work at hand in the most effective manner, maintaining open lines of communication between the different responding agencies to share and disseminate information, and to coordinate efforts.

In the City of Glendale, emergency response is handled in accordance with SEMS, with individual City agencies and personnel taking on their responsibilities as defined by the City's *Emergency Plan*. This document describes the different levels of emergencies, the local emergency management organization, and the specific responsibilities of each participating agency, government office, and City staff. As required by the State, training and exercises are conducted on a regular basis. 

### 6.5 Dangerous Animals

In the last 20 years or so, there has been an increase in the number of incidences of wild animal encounters all over southern California. This is attributed to our increased encroachment onto the relatively undeveloped areas left in the region, and the highly adaptable nature of some of these animals. In the Verdugo Mountains and San Rafael Hills areas of Glendale, and in the San Gabriel Mountains in the northern portion of the City, the wild animal population includes coyotes, opossums, deer, rabbits, bats, raccoons, squirrels, skunks, rattlesnakes, and possibly mountain lions, bobcats, and bears. Some of these animals, such as coyotes, mountain lions, bobcats, and rattlesnakes, can harm humans or pets, while others, like deer and bats can be carriers of diseases. Some of these animals will be discussed further below.

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The City of Glendale contracts with the Pasadena Humane Society (PHS) for animal control. The PHS provides to citizens, at nominal fees, humane traps that can be used to trap small animals. The PHS also deals with feral cats, stray dogs, and provides vector control services for Glendale ([http://www.phsspca.org/animalcontrol/animal\\_control.htm](http://www.phsspca.org/animalcontrol/animal_control.htm)). 

### 6.5.1 Coyotes

Coyotes (*Canis latrans*) are medium-sized animals that belong to the dog family. Coyotes are known for their distinctive voice consisting of howls, high-pitched yaps and occasional dog-like barks. In the wild, their diet consists mainly of rodents, insects, reptiles, amphibians, fruits, and birds, although a pack of coyotes can tackle a prey as large as an adult deer ([www.countyofsb.org/agcomm/coyote.htm](http://www.countyofsb.org/agcomm/coyote.htm)). Thousands of coyotes are believed to roam the mountains and hillsides of Los Angeles County. Coyotes are highly adaptable and easily become urbanized, surviving on garbage, pet food that is left outside, and even small pets.

Coyote attacks on humans are rare, but they do occur. Typically, between 12 and 15 coyote attacks are reported every year in California, although most of these are not serious. In 1979, however, a coyote attempted to take a 13-month child from an Agoura yard, and in 1981, a 3-year old girl in Glendale was killed in her yard by a coyote (<http://www.losangelesalmanac.com/topics/environment/ev15c.htm>). This is the only known human death in California caused by a coyote. Most often, coyotes are known for attacking pets, usually domestic cats and small dogs. The Los Angeles Zoo has had trouble with coyotes eating the zoo exhibits. For example, in 1987, coyotes killed 53 flamingoes at the zoo, and also victimized the penguins. In 1995, coyotes again killed flamingoes and an Andean Condor at the zoo. As a result of the 1995 attacks, the zoo installed a 6-1/2 mile perimeter fence.

The easy access to water, food and shelter makes urban and suburban areas attractive to coyotes. A study of coyotes in Glendale and Claremont conducted by William Wirtz of Pomona College indicated that a high percentage (78 percent) of the coyotes in Glendale include garbage in their diet, while only about 25 percent of the coyotes in Claremont do so ([http://www.lalc.k12.ca.us/uclasp/urban\\_science/urban\\_bestiary/coyote.htm](http://www.lalc.k12.ca.us/uclasp/urban_science/urban_bestiary/coyote.htm)). The reason for this difference in habits seems to be two-fold: 1) Claremont has a City ordinance that requires residents to use garbage cans that cannot be opened easily, which forces coyotes to look elsewhere for dinner, and 2) in Glendale, some people used to leave food outside for coyotes, which made these animals become more opportunistic, less fearsome of humans, and more likely to roam through residential neighborhoods. As a result, packs of coyotes are often reported in the residential areas of Glendale. The City is contracting with Los Angeles County for a coyote abatement program. 

The Southern California Veterinary Medical Association (as quoted in <http://www.losangelesalmanac.com/topics/Environment/ev15c.htm>) has issued the following guidelines regarding coyotes and pets: 

- In coyote areas, keep small pets indoors and don't let them out at night unsupervised. Most coyote attacks occur at night.
- Obey leash law and don't let pets roam. Roaming pets are more likely to be hit by cars, attacked by coyotes, or poisoned.
- Report coyote encounters to authorities. Coyote sightings and encounters are mapped by agencies. When sightings increase, authorities may issue community alerts.

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- Coyotes eat a wide variety of food. Pick up pet food left outside and take it inside at night to avoid attracting unwanted guests. Remove fallen fruit, especially avocados, from yards. Store trash in containers with tight lids.
- An enclosed backyard does not provide safety for small dogs unless fencing is sufficiently high. Low fencing allows pets to escape and stray animals to enter the yard. Coyotes and cats can scale fences looking for food.
- Clear brush and dense weeds around the yard since these can provide shelter for coyotes and the rodents they hunt.
- If you see a coyote stalking your pet, yell and throw rocks at the coyote. Take your pet indoors.

### 6.5.2 Mountain Lions

Mountain lions (*Felis concolor*; also known as pumas, panthers or cougars) are tawny-colored cats with black-tipped ears and tails. Adult male mountain lions can weigh between 130 and 150 pounds, and stretch 8 feet from their nose to the tip of their tail. Female pumas are generally smaller, usually between 65 and 90 pounds in weight, and about 7 feet long. Mountain lions are powerful hunters that usually hunt alone, and at night. Their preferred prey is deer, but they will also hunt small game and on occasion, unfortunate stray pets. A lion's hunting grounds or home range may vary between 25 and nearly 300 square miles (<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/lion/>; <http://www.basecamp.cncost.com/mntlions.htm>).

Mountain lions are elusive and generally avoid humans. The number of mountain lions in the southern California area is unknown. However, in 1990 Californians approved Proposition 117 banning trophy hunting of the California mountain lion, and making mountain lions a specially protected mammal (<http://www.mountainlion.org/habitat/prop117guide.htm>). As a result of this legislation, the overall mountain lion population in California is thought to be increasing – between 4,000 and 6,000 mountain lions are thought to now live in California. However, in some areas mountain lion populations are thought to be doomed due to habitat loss and fragmentation. This is the case in the Santa Ana and Santa Monica mountains, and in the Chino Hills. In the mountainous areas of Beverly Hills, Studio City, Tarzana, and Chatsworth, naturalists estimate that there are about a dozen mountain lions left (<http://www.losangelesalmanac.com/topics/Environment/ev15c.htm>); their numbers in these areas are also probably decreasing. Mountain lions are also known to live in the San Gabriel Mountains north of Pasadena and Glendale. Information regarding the presence of mountain lions in the Verdugo Mountains, if any, was not readily available. The mountain lion range in southern California is shown on Figure 6-5.

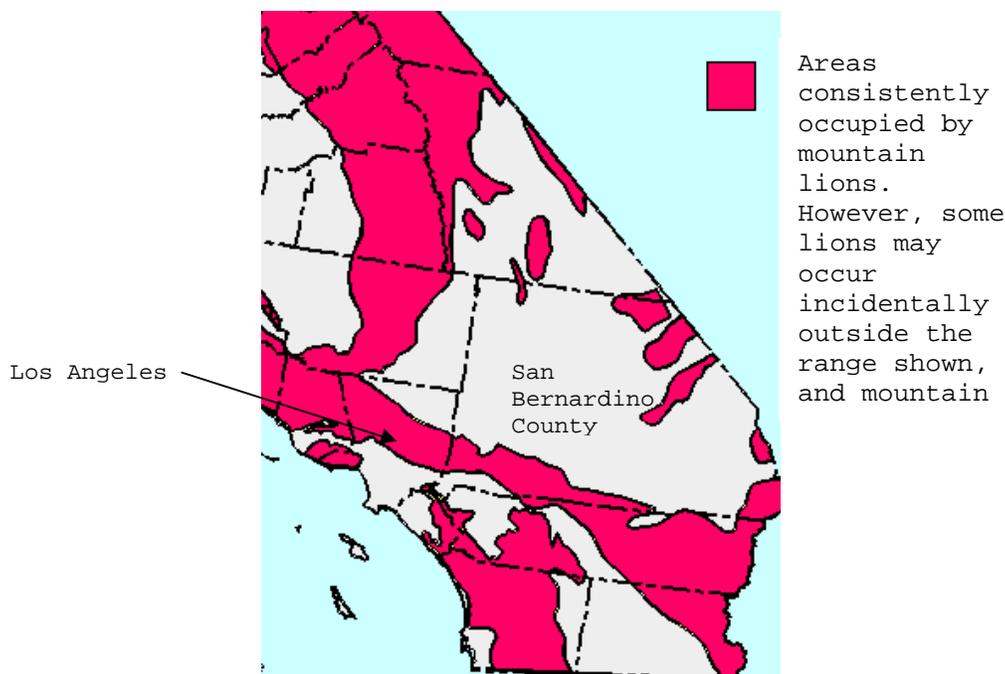
The data indicate that mountain lion sightings in the last ten years have increased. Researchers attribute this to: 1) an increased awareness about mountain lions since the passing of Proposition 117; 2) encroachment of humans, especially hikers and bikers, into mountain lion habitat with an increased potential for sightings; and 3) loss of mountain lion habitat due to urban growth has resulted in an increased density of lions in parks and natural preserves. Researchers have suggested that, however, many of these reports are not correct, and that as many as 80 percent of these sightings are actually deer, bobcats, dogs, or even domestic cats.

Although the actual number of sightings has been questioned, there seems to have been a recent increase in mountain lion attacks. In 1991, Paul Beier, a wildlife ecologist, reported that in the 101 years between January 1890 and December 1990, 53 mountain lion attacks on humans had occurred in all of the United States and Canada, amounting to an average of two

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attacks per year. Between 1990 and 1993, however, eleven attacks were reported; four of these occurred in California. One of the more recent attacks occurred on March 20, 1995, when a cyclist was bitten and cut by a female mountain lion near Mount Lowe, in the San Gabriel Mountains north of Pasadena. The cyclist fought off the lion with rocks. The lion was subsequently tracked and killed by personnel from the California Department of Fish and Game. Most recently, on February 20, 2003, it was reported that a mountain lion crashed into a sliding glass door at a home on Starfall Drive (located in the northern portion of La Crescenta, in the San Gabriel Mountains), while apparently attempting to catch the homeowners' cat that was inside. The lion was reported to be approximately 6 feet long, 3 feet high, and at least 150 pounds. Sheriff's deputies and officials from the Department of Fish and Game tried to capture the lion, but were unsuccessful (<http://www.dailynews.com/Stories/0,1413,200%257E20954%257E1194193,00.html>)

**Figure 6-5: Mountain Lion Range in Southern California**



(Modified from <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/lion/index.html>)

Researchers stress that the probability of being attacked by a mountain lion is very small. Nevertheless, to reduce the possibility of being attacked by a mountain lion while hiking in the local mountains, researchers and experienced hikers suggest the following:

- Hike in groups, but do not take your dog along. Do not hike after dark or early in the morning, before dawn.
- If you encounter a mountain lion, make yourself look as big as possible. If you have children with you, pick them up and put them on your shoulders to look even bigger.
- Aggressively defend your position. Shout and wave your arms or flap your jacket. Do not crouch, and especially, DO NOT run. This is more likely to cause the mountain lion to attack. If the lion attacks, fight back.

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- If camping, do not leave food outside, and do not let pets roam. Do not let children wander alone, especially in brushy or wooded areas. Do not feed the wildlife, as this can attract mountain lions and bears to the area.
- Refer all mountain lion attacks or sightings to the Park Ranger or the local office of the Department of Fish and Game.

If you live in mountain lion country, follow these guidelines:



- Deer-proof your landscape.
- Landscape for safety – remove dense and/or low lying vegetation that could provide good hiding places for mountain lions.
- Install outdoor lighting to keep the perimeter of your house well lit at night, especially along walkways.
- Keep pets and livestock secure.
- Do not feed pets outside.
- Keep a close watch on children when playing outside.

### 6.5.3 Bears

Southern California used to be home to grizzly bears, but these bears were hunted to extinction. The last known grizzly bear in Los Angeles County was shot and killed in either 1897 (Storer and Tevis, 1955) or 1916. In fact, by 1933, bears of any sort were extinct in the mountains of southern California, so in that year, in an attempt to reintroduce bears to the Los Angeles area, rangers from Yosemite National Park introduced 11 American Black Bears (*Ursus americanus*) to the San Gabriel Mountains near Crystal Lake. Since then, black bears have made a comeback, with the black bear population in California estimated at between 16,000 and 24,000. Between about 150 and 500 black bears are now thought to roam in the Los Angeles National Forest.

The black bear is a smaller and much less aggressive cousin of the grizzly. The name black bear is a misnomer, as most black bears west of the Mississippi River are actually cinnamon brown or gray. Black bears also come in many other shades, even white and bluish gray, usually with a patch of white on the chest called a blaze. The males are much larger than females, with males weighing in at between 200 and 600 pounds, and standing nearly six feet tall when upright. Females usually weigh between approximately 100 and 400 pounds. Black bears have non-retractable curved claws that are about one inch long. These claws allow bears to be excellent climbers.

In the wild, bears prefer forests and wooded terrain. Their diet is about 75 percent vegetarian, typically consisting of berries, plants, nuts, roots, fruit, and honey. Bears in parks, however, have learned that people and food go together, and either beg for food, or get into garbage cans and improperly stored food containers. Bears can do a substantial amount of property damage; even more troublesome, bears that become accustomed to people may become bold and aggressive. Bears in the San Gabriel Mountains are known to occasionally come down from the mountains and into developed areas, usually in search of food. As with coyotes, bears are opportunistic, and eat almost anything. Some black bears have actually become famous for their penchant to go dipping in hot tubs in peoples' backyards. The most famous of these was Samson, the "Hot Tub Bear", a local celebrity in the City of Monrovia, who lived his last six years in a made-to-order enclosure, complete with hot tub, at the Orange County Zoo.

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Bears have an acute sense of smell, and are attracted to anything smelly including garbage and ripe fruit. In bear country, people are recommended to follow these guidelines (<http://www.395.com/generalinfo/blackbear.shtml>):

- Deodorize garbage cans with bleach or ammonia.
- Double-bag garbage to help contain odors.
- Separate “wet garbage” and keep it in an air or odor-tight container. Use a garbage disposal whenever possible. Freeze bones, fat and poultry skin until garbage pick-up day.
- Keep barbecue grills clean.
- Pick up fallen fruit, and pick ripe fruit off trees on a daily basis.
- Put away pet food and bird feeders at night.
- Close windows at night on accessible ground floors and decks.
- Don’t leave food in or near a window sill or on a counter near an open window.
- Block access to potential hibernation spaces like crawl spaces under decks and buildings.
- Install bear-proof garbage and compost containers.
- Request bear-proof garbage bins for your neighborhood or apartment complex.

When visiting or hiking in bear country follow these guidelines:

- Make noise while hiking to avoid an encounter with a bear. Keep a close watch on children. If you do see a bear, do not approach it. Give it plenty of room to pass by. Do not pick up or approach a bear cub.
- Do not run from a bear. Instead, stand and face the animal. Make eye contact without staring. If you have small children with you, pick them up.
- Make yourself appear larger, stand up, raise your arms and open your jacket. Yell at the bear, bang pots or use whatever is available to make noise. Bear attacks have been avoided or injuries reduced when the victims fought back.
- If camping, bring the minimum amount of food and toiletries needed. Store food, toiletries and scented items in bear-proof containers. Do not keep food in your tent. Keep a clean camp at all times. Keep cooking utensils clean. Properly dispose of wash water and food waste away from your camping area.
- Report all bear attacks or aggressive bears to the Department of Fish and Game.

### 6.5.4 Raccoons

Raccoons are usually found along water courses or near wooded areas, but are also known to adapt well to suburban areas and parks. Raccoons are primarily nocturnal, and are only occasionally seen during the day. These animals will eat almost anything, and can use their hands to pry off garbage can lids and open pet food containers. Raccoons are also known to use pet doors to go into garages or houses where pet food is available to them. In campgrounds, raccoons are well known for getting into garbage cans and stealing campers’ food.

Raccoons are cute-looking, and therefore people often cannot resist feeding them. However, as discussed above, this has the potential to attract other unwelcomed guests that are less lovable and far more dangerous. Raccoons themselves are very strong, and can inflict severe wounds on pets and people who try to grab them.

### **6.5.5 Ground Squirrels**

California ground squirrels live in open spaces, and are common along roadsides and in fields or well-grazed pastures (Jameson and Peeters, 1988). These animals are diurnal and strictly ground-dwelling. Their diet includes seeds, berries, and leaves of grasses, forbs and wood plants, bulbs, tubers, and carrion.

The burrowing activities and food preferences of ground squirrels can cause substantial problems for ranchers, farmers, and homeowners. Burrowing by ground squirrels can cause significant distress to slopes, with the potential for erosion and even failure. Many species of ground squirrels carry fleas that can transmit the bacterium responsible for plague (see Section 6.7.2 below).

### **6.5.6 Bees, Wasps, Hornets, and Yellow Jackets**

Bees, wasps, hornets, and yellow jackets can and will sting people, especially if provoked. Most bees, except for Africanized honey bees, tend to be more docile than wasps, hornets, or yellow jackets, and do not attack unless threatened or hurt. Furthermore, when a bee stings, its barbed stinger is ripped out of its abdomen along with the venom sac. As a result, the bee dies. Wasps, hornets and yellow jackets, on the other hand, are capable of repeated attacks. Bees can be recognized by their hairy and usually thick bodies, while wasps, hornets, and yellow jackets have more slender, nearly hairless, bodies. Some bees, such as honeybees, live in colonies, while others, like carpenter bees and bumblebees, live in individual nest holes, either in wood or in the ground.

Although their venom can be quite painful, bee, wasp, and hornet stings rarely kill a person unless the individual is allergic to that particular toxin. Avoidance is the best tactic for self-protection. Watch out for flowers or fruit that the bees may be eating. Be careful of meat-eating yellow jackets when cleaning fish or game, or when barbecuing or eating outside. The average person has a relatively minor and temporary reaction to a bee sting and recovers in a few hours, when the pain and headache go away. Those who are allergic to bee venom, however, can have severe reactions, including anaphylactic shock, coma, and death. If antihistamine medicine is not available and a substitute cannot be found, an allergy sufferer in a survival situation is in grave danger. An individual allergic to bee venom needs to be treated immediately.

Glendale is on the watch list for Africanized Honey Bee (AHB) infestation, as is the entire Los Angeles County. Although not an issue at this time, the Los Angeles County considers AHB a potentially serious future problem if it goes unchecked. The Los Angeles County has discontinued the AHB abatement program due to budgetary reasons, but there are efforts to restart it. The County would provide AHB services for Glendale.



### **6.5.7 Spiders**

In the Western United States, the only spider that is known to be poisonous is the black widow spider, a small, dark spider often with hourglass-shaped white, red or orange spots on their abdomens. A black widow spider bite is not fatal, but it can cause a large, painful lesion. Black widow spiders are often found in woodpiles and storage areas, but they can be found everywhere, even inside well-maintained homes. They are generally not aggressive, but will bite if disturbed.

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**6.5.8 Snakes**

There are more than 20 different snake species common to southern California, but of these, only rattlesnakes are venomous. Of the six rattlesnake species in southern California, three are more likely to be found in Los Angeles County, including portions of Glendale. These are the Speckled, Western Diamondback and Southern Pacific rattlesnakes (<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/fieldguide>; <http://health.ucsd.edu/poison/snakes.asp>). These rattlesnakes are common to the rocky hillsides and outcrops common in Glendale. The Southern Pacific and Speckled rattlesnakes are fairly common, nervous species that may aggressively defend their position when encountered. They should not be handled. Many other non-poisonous snake species common to the area are also nervous and will bite if disturbed.

All snake bites should initially be treated as if they are poisonous, even though in nearly 20 percent of rattlesnake bites, the snake does not inject venom (<http://health.ucsd.edu/poison/snakes.asp>). The effect of a poisonous bite depends on the size and health of the victim, location of the bite, the amount of venom injected, and the size and type of snake. The venom of a rattlesnake causes damage to the tissue surrounding the bite, and also affects the blood clotting system. Symptoms associated with rattlesnake venom injection include pain, swelling and discoloration of the bitten area, tingling around the mouth, nausea and vomiting, weakness and dizziness, sweating and/or chills. Death from rattlesnake bites is extremely rare if the victims receive prompt medical treatment, therefore, a rattlesnake bite victim should be transported to a medical facility immediately. It is preferable to transport the victim to a medical facility rather than trying to provide first-aid care in the field. Making incisions in the fang marks, attempting to suck out the venom or applying a tourniquet are all considered ineffective and even dangerous.

**6.6 Dangerous Plants**

Many plants are poisonous or capable of causing highly allergic reactions. Other plants have physical defenses, such as thorns or spines, which can cause injury. There are no identifying characteristics common to all poisonous plants, but as a general rule of thumb, plants with a bitter taste, unusual or strong smell, milky sap, or red seeds or berries may be poisonous. Therefore, it is best is to know the plants common to your area or yard. If contact with a poisonous plant is an issue, those plants should be removed. Poisonous plants should not be placed in compost piles, or in burn piles (as in wood used for firewood or for barbeques), as the fumes from poisonous plants can be highly toxic. The Open Space and Conservation Element of the City of Glendale's General Plan provides an assessment of existing vegetation communities in the Verdugo and San Gabriel Mountains, and in the San Rafael Hills.

Poison oak may be present along hiking trails, in hilly areas, and especially along streams or dry creek beds, and is commonly found in the mountains of Glendale. Poison oak can cause an allergic reaction and skin rash in some individuals; a few people are especially sensitive to poison oak, and seem to develop increased sensitivity every time they come in contact with the plant. Extreme cases require immediate hospitalization. Specially prepared creams that act as a barrier on the skin for protection against poison oak are commercially available and may minimize the potential for development of skin rash if exposure occurs. If you are exposed to poison oak, wash the exposed areas thoroughly with soap and water immediately.

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Oleander, which is common in many homes, and along roads, forming living fences, is poisonous when ingested, although the taste is reportedly so disagreeable that it is difficult to consume enough of it to become sick. Small children, however, may be sensitive to small amounts of this plant.

Young children, usually babies that are crawling, or toddlers, are at most risk of eating poisonous plants, since kids at this stage tend to put many things in their mouth. Therefore, to reduce the likelihood of young children ingesting a poisonous plant, a few basic rules should be followed:



- Known poisonous plants or dangerous plants should be fenced off or removed from the area where children play. There are several common ornamental plants that are poisonous. Many of these plants are identified in Table 6-1.
- Teach toddlers and older children not to eat anything straight from a plant or bush without first checking with an adult.
- Keep the Poison Control Center phone number near the phone, and maintain a bottle of ipecac syrup in your medical aid kit.

Symptoms of poisoning from plants can include:

- skin rashes
- vomiting
- stomach cramps
- irregular heart beat
- burning or stinging around and inside the mouth, and
- convulsions

The type and severity of symptoms will vary according to the type of plant eaten, the amount swallowed and the size of the individual.

If you suspect that a child or an individual has touched or eaten something poisonous, the following first aid measures can help:



- For skin contact - gently wash the skin with clear running water. If a rash develops, consult a doctor.
- For eye contact - irrigate the eye with clear running water for 20 minutes. If burning or stinging develop, consult a doctor, or report to the nearest hospital.
- For swallowed plants - remove any remaining plants and wash out the person's mouth. Monitor the individual. If the person is having difficulty breathing, is unconscious or having convulsions, immediately call 911 and the poison control center. Taking an identifying piece of the plant to the hospital or doctor can be helpful.

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**Table 6-1: Poisonous Plants Common in Ornamental Gardens**

[Table 6-1 is not meant to be all-inclusive.

For additional information regarding poisonous plants in the local area, refer to the local poison control service or agricultural extension office.]

<b>Plant Name</b>	<b>Poisonous Parts</b>	<b>Symptoms</b>
<b>Aconite</b> (Monkshood; Friar's Cap; Garden Wolfsbane)	Roots; leaves; seeds	Nausea; vomiting; slow pulse; burning sensation in the mouth, throat and skin; collapse; nervous excitement.
<b>Autumn Crocus</b> (Star of Bethlehem)	Bulbs	Vomiting and nervous excitement.
<b>Baneberry</b>	Roots; sap; berries	Vomiting; rapid pulse; diarrhea.
<b>Berberis</b>	Berries	Nausea; vomiting; diarrhea.
<b>Broom</b>	All parts are poisonous, but only in large amounts	Burning sensation in the mouth; nausea, vomiting; diarrhea.
<b>Castor Oil Plant, Castor Bean, Rosary Pea</b>	Seeds	Fatal. A single seed has caused death. One or two seeds are near the lethal dose for adults.
<b>Cherry</b> (both wild and cultivated)	Pits, if broken and swallowed; twigs, foliage	Headache; difficulty in breathing; vomiting; lack of coordination; dilation of the pupils; unconsciousness. Can be fatal. Contains a compound that releases cyanide when eaten.
<b>Daffodil, Narcissus, Hyacinth</b>	Bulbs	Nausea; vomiting; diarrhea. May be fatal.
<b>Daphne</b>	Bark; leaves; berries	Burning sensation in the mouth and stomach; severe cramps. A few berries can kill a child.
<b>Deadly Nightshade</b> (Belladonna)	Roots; leaves; seeds	Dry mouth; dilation of the pupils; irregular heartbeat; nausea; vomiting; coma.
<b>Dieffenbachia</b> (Dumb Cane, Elephant Ear)	All parts	Intense burning and irritation of the mouth and tongue. Death can occur if the tongue swells so much that it blocks the air passage.
<b>Elderberry</b>	Leaves; bark.	Headache; difficulty in breathing; nausea; vomiting; lack of coordination; dilation of the pupils; unconsciousness.
<b>Foxglove / Digitalis</b>	Leaves; seeds	Dizziness; nausea; vomiting; slow pulse; irregular heartbeat and pulse, digestive upset, mental confusion. May be fatal.
<b>Hellebore</b>	Roots; leaves; seeds	Salivation; abdominal pain; clammy skin; coma.
<b>Hemlock</b>	All parts	Burning sensation in the mouth; slow pulse; paralysis; coma; fatal.
<b>Holly</b>	Berries	Nausea; vomiting; diarrhea; drowsiness.
<b>Hydrangea</b>	All parts are poisonous	Headache; difficulty in breathing; vomiting; lack of coordination; dilation of the pupils; unconsciousness.
<b>Iris</b>	Underground stems	Severe, but not usually serious digestive upset.
<b>Jasmine</b>	Berries	Fatal. Digestive disturbance and nervous symptoms.
<b>Laburnum</b>	All parts are poisonous	Burning sensation in mouth; nausea; continual vomiting; diarrhea; collapse; delirium; convulsions; coma.
<b>Lantana</b> (Lantana Camara, Red Sage)	Unripe berries and leaves	Vomiting and diarrhea, dilated pupils, respiratory distress. Affects lungs, kidneys, heart and nervous system. Dermatitis can occur. Can be fatal.

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<b>Plant Name</b>	<b>Poisonous Parts</b>	<b>Symptoms</b>
<b>Larkspur</b>	Leaves, seeds, young plant	Tingling sensation in mouth; agitation, severe depression; digestive upset. May be fatal.
<b>Lily of the Valley (May Lily)</b>	Roots, leaves, flowers, fruit	Irregular pulse and heartbeat, nausea, vomiting, dizziness; mental confusion.
<b>Lupin</b>	Seeds	Difficulty in breathing; paralysis, convulsions.
<b>Mistletoe</b>	All parts, but mostly berries	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, slow pulse. Both children and adults have died from eating berries.
<b>Oleander</b>	Leaves, branches	Extremely poisonous. Affects the heart, severe digestive upset. Can be fatal.
<b>Rhododendron, Laurels, Azaleas</b>	All parts	Burning of the mouth, numbness and tingling, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, depression, difficulty breathing, prostration and coma. Can be fatal.
<b>Rhubarb</b>	Leaf blade	Fatal if large amounts of raw or cooked leaves can cause convulsions, and coma.
<b>Wisteria</b>	Seeds, pods	Mild to severe digestive upset.
<b>Yew</b>	All parts of plant are poisonous; foliage more toxic than berries	Abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, difficulty breathing. Can be fatal. Death can occur suddenly without warning symptoms.

## **6.7 Disease and Vector Control**

Viruses, bacteria, fungus, parasites and other living organisms can cause diseases in human beings and domesticated animals. Diseases transmitted from animals to humans are common. Therefore, contact with unfamiliar insects, plants, and animals should be generally avoided, unless trained to do so. Some arthropods and insects have the potential to transmit a variety of diseases. For example, ticks are known to be carriers of Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, babesiosis, and encephalitis. Mosquitoes can transmit malaria and encephalitis. Infectious and parasitic diseases can also result from exposure to contaminated water, sewage, insects, or infected people. Some of these conditions of relevance in the United States include Lyme disease, plague, encephalitis, and rabies. These diseases will be discussed further below.

Sale of illegal animals is also a concern. Several Salmonella incidences linked to reptiles, such as iguanas and turtles, have been reported in Los Angeles County. The United States has a ban on pet turtles less than four inches in length.

### **6.7.1 Lyme Disease**

Lyme disease was first recognized in the United States in 1975, after several children were diagnosed with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis in and near Lyme, Connecticut. Scientists assigned to the case discovered that the disease is caused by a corkscrew-shaped bacterium called *Borrelia burgdorferi* that is passed to humans through the bite from a tick. The bacterium is carried by the deer tick in the eastern and central United States, and by the Western black-legged tick on the Pacific Coast. Since 1975, reports of Lyme disease have increased dramatically, and the disease has become an important public-health problem in some areas of the United States – in 1999, 16,273 cases of Lyme disease were reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, with more than 90 percent of all cases reported in the Northeast, mid-Atlantic and upper Midwest states. Few cases are actually reported in California, and these are typically in the northern part of the state. The risk of Lyme disease transmission in most of California is considered low (see Figure 6-6).



The first sign of Lyme disease is often a circular or “bulls-eye” like rash at the site of the tick bite. This rash often first appears several weeks after being bitten. The rash then usually

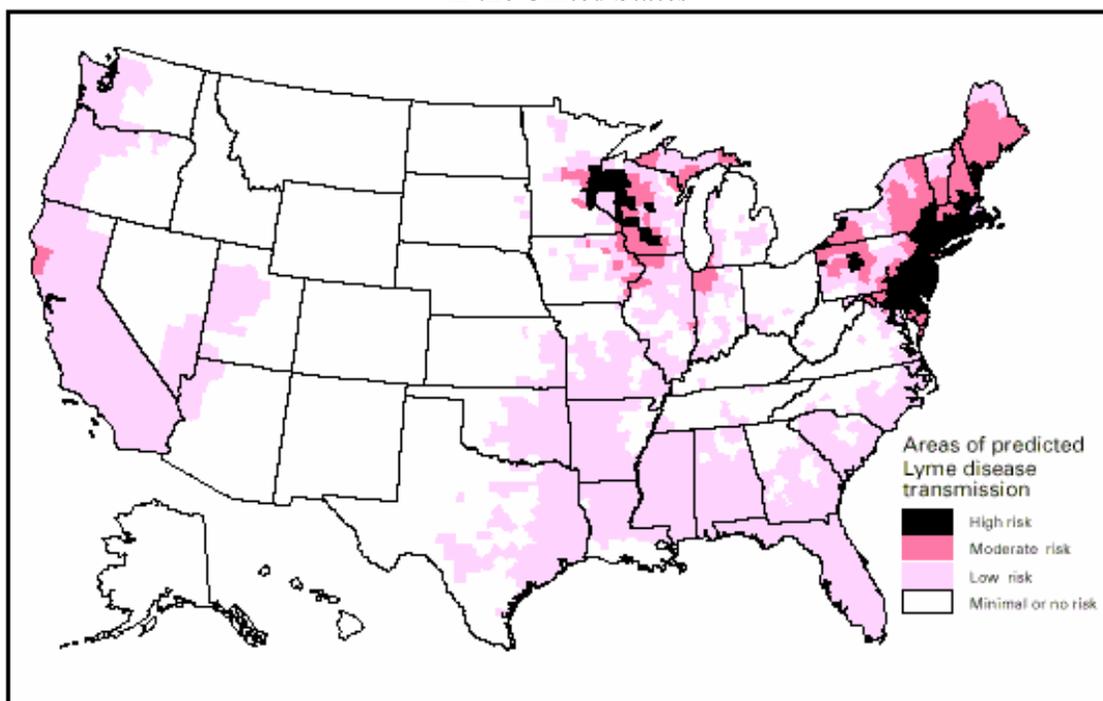
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progresses to other parts of the body. The disease can be easily cured at this stage with antibiotics, so it is important to pay attention to these symptoms and request medical assistance. If left untreated, Lyme disease can be extremely debilitating, causing pain and swelling of the joints, chronic arthritis, and in some people, neurological damage. There is a Lyme-disease vaccine (LYMERix) that is available for people who live in endemic areas or that are at high risk of contracting the disease.

### 6.7.2 Plague

Plague is an infectious disease of animals and humans caused by the bacterium *Yersinia pestis*. These bacteria are often carried by fleas that live on rats, mice, squirrels and other rodents, on deer, and even domestic animals. In the Western United States, the California ground squirrel and its fleas are the most common source of plague. Some recent cases of plague developed from contact with domestic cats and dogs that brought plague-infected fleas into the home. The disease is transmitted from animal to animal, and from animal to human by the bites of fleas infected with the bacterium. Although occurring less frequently, infection can also occur as a result of direct contact with tissue or body fluids of a plague-infected animal, or by inhaling droplets expelled by coughing. Plague can be transmitted from human to human.

**Figure 6-6: Approximate Distribution of Predicted Lyme Disease Risk in the United States**



The actual risk in any given area may differ from that shown here, and the risk may change from year to year. More detailed information is best obtained from State and local health authorities.

[Figure obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/>.

Plague was responsible for the death of millions of people in the Middle Ages, and outbreaks of this disease still occur in some rural communities and cities all around the world. In the

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United States, the last urban epidemic of plague occurred in Los Angeles in 1924-1925 (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/plague/index.htm>). Since then, human plague in the United States has occurred as scattered cases in primarily rural areas, with ten to 15 cases reported annually. Human plague in the United States most often occurs in northern New Mexico, northern Arizona, southern Colorado, California, southern Oregon and western Nevada. The 1998 world distribution of plague is shown on Figure 6-7. Plague is considered a plausible threat if used as a biological weapon. Several countries, including the United States and the Soviet Union, reportedly developed techniques to disseminate plague as an aerosol, with the potential to infect hundreds of thousands if spread over a large urban area (<http://jama.ama-assn.org/issues/v283n17/ffull/jst90013.html>). ★

Onset of plague usually occurs two to six days after a person is exposed. Plague is often, but not always, characterized by a very painful, usually swollen, and often hot-to-the-touch lymph node called a bubo. Other symptoms include fever, and extreme exhaustion. The fever, headache and general illness may be present for a day or so before the onset of the swollen lymph nodes. The disease spreads rapidly, so prompt diagnosis and treatment with antibiotics is critical for survival. As soon as a diagnosis of suspected plague is made, the patient should be isolated, and local and State health departments should be notified.

**Figure 6-7: World Distribution of Plague, 1998**



(From <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/plague/index.htm>)

Attempts to eliminate wild rodent plague are costly and futile. Therefore, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/plague/index.htm>) recommends environmental management and public health education as the two main preventive measures directed at reducing the threat of infection in humans in high-risk areas. Environmental management consists primarily of controlling rodent populations in both urban and rural areas; monitoring for human plague cases, and for plague in rodents; and the use of insecticides to control rodent fleas. In the Western United States, where plague is widespread in wild rodents, the following prevention measures should be considered: ←

- Eliminating food and shelter for rodents in and around homes, work places, and recreation areas by making buildings rodent-proof, and by removing brush, rock piles, junk, and food sources (such as pet food), from properties.
- Surveying for plague activity in rodent populations by public health workers or by citizens reporting to local health departments if sick or dead rodents found.

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- Using appropriate and licensed insecticides to kill fleas during wild animal plague outbreaks to reduce the risk to humans.
- Treating pets (dogs and cats) for fleas in a regular and consistent manner.

**6.7.3 Arboviral Encephalitides**

Arboviruses are viruses that are transmitted between susceptible vertebrate hosts by blood-feeding arthropods, including mosquitoes and ticks. Many of the viruses that cause encephalitis have a variety of different vertebrate hosts, and some are transmitted by more than one vector. There are five main agents of encephalitis in the United States: Eastern equine encephalitis, Western equine encephalitis, St. Louis encephalitis, La Crosse encephalitis, and West Nile encephalitis. All of these are transmitted by mosquitoes. Another virus called Powassan that is transmitted by ticks is responsible for some cases of encephalitis in the northern United States. Of the five mosquito-borne cases above, the Western equine encephalitis, the St. Louis encephalitis, and the West Nile Encephalitis are known to occur in California. The Western equine encephalitis virus was first isolated in 1930 in California from the brain of a horse with the disease. This virus still remains an important cause of encephalitis in horses and humans in North America. Humans infected with this virus are either asymptomatic, or exhibit mild, non-specific symptoms that include a sudden onset of fever, headache, nausea, vomiting, anorexia, and malaise. Advanced cases may experience altered mental status, weakness and signs of meningeal irritation. Children, especially infants less than one year old, are affected more severely than adults. The mortality rate for this disease is about three percent.

St. Louis encephalitis is the most-common mosquito-transmitted human pathogen in the United States. The virus is known to be distributed throughout the lower 48 states, but periodic epidemics of this disease have occurred only in the Midwest and Southeast. An average of about 193 cases are reported every year, but less than one percent of the viral infections are clinically apparent, so the actual number of infected people is probably much larger. Symptoms range from a mild fever and headache to meningoencephalitis, with an overall case to fatality ratio of between five and 15 percent. Children are usually affected less than adults, but those kids that do get the disease have a higher rate of encephalitis. The elderly have the highest risk of severe disease and death.

The virus responsible for West Nile encephalitis is, among others, closely related to the St. Louis encephalitis virus. West Nile encephalitis (WNE) was first isolated in the West Nile Province of Uganda in 1937. Epidemics of this virus-caused disease, impacting both humans and horses, have occurred in Israel, Europe and South Africa in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. The first outbreak of this disease in the United States occurred in New York City and neighboring counties in August and September of 1999. It is unknown how this virus was introduced in the United States, but international travel by infected persons or import of infected birds is suspected. The virus is typically transmitted to humans, birds, and other mammals by mosquito bites. Infected birds are the reservoir hosts – an infected bird is bitten by a mosquito and the virus is passed on to the mosquito as a blood-meal. The mosquito then bites another bird, animal or human, passing on the virus. At least 138 species of birds have been found to carry the West Nile virus. The bird hosts are only infectious for one to four days after exposure, after which they develop life-long immunity, become ill, or die. Although an unusually large number of dead birds is considered a sign that West Nile virus is present in an area, most infected birds actually do survive.



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The rabies virus affects the central nervous system. Early symptoms of rabies in humans are nonspecific, consisting of fever, headache, and general malaise. As the disease progresses, neurological symptoms appear. These may include insomnia, anxiety, confusion, slight or partial paralysis, excitation, hallucinations, agitation, hypersalivation, difficulty swallowing, and fear of water (hydrophobia). Death usually occurs within days of the onset of symptoms. The acute period of the disease typically ends after two to ten days. Once the clinical signs of rabies appear, the disease is nearly always fatal (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/rabies/Introduction/intro.htm>).

There is no treatment for rabies once the symptoms of the disease appear. Therefore, people who are bit by rabid or potentially rabid animals need to obtain medical help immediately. The rabies vaccine regimen provides immunity to rabies when administered shortly after exposure. Vaccines can also be administered for protection before an exposure occurs. Approximately 40,000 people in the United States receive post-exposure treatment annually.

The Pasadena Humane Society (PHS) considers rabies in wild animals a high-risk problem. The PHS keeps a close tab on rabbits and bats as carriers of the disease. 

### 6.7.5 *Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome*

An outbreak of an unexplained illness was first noticed in May 1993 in the Four Corners region, where several young Native Americans died as a result of this condition. The symptoms included fever, muscle aches, headache, and cough, progressing rapidly to severe lung disease that simulated acute respiratory distress syndrome. Laboratory findings by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showed that the illness is caused by a previously unknown virus that has since been isolated and named Sin Nombre Virus (SNV), and the condition is called hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS). Symptoms include, from most frequent to less frequent, fever, chills, headache, muscular pain, nausea and vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea, cough, shortness of breath, dizziness, joint pain, back or chest pain, and sweats. Coughing does not usually start before approximately the seventh day. Once the pulmonary phase begins, the disease progresses rapidly, requiring hospitalization. The disease can be treated successfully with antibiotics.

Available data indicate that the common deer mouse is the main host, but the virus can also be found in pinion mice, brush mice, and western chipmunks. Human infection may occur when infective saliva or excreta are inhaled as aerosols produced directly from the animal. Transmission may also occur when dried materials contaminated by rodent excreta are disturbed, directly introduced into broken skin, introduced into the eyes, or possibly ingested in contaminated food or water. Persons can also be infected after being bitten by rodents.

As of January 2003, 331 cases of HPS have been reported in the United States, in 31 states. Thirty-five of those cases occurred in California. 

## 6.8 Summary of Findings

With the September 11, 2001 events, the threat of terrorism on United States' soil has become real for most people. California is considered a significant potential terrorist target given its worldwide recognition as an economic, cultural and technological power. Since Glendale is an integral part of southern California, its potential as a terrorist target needs to be considered. A regional analysis suggests, however, that other neighboring communities have a higher terrorist risk. Nevertheless, the Glendale Police Department has modified and developed a variety of programs and procedures to deal

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effectively with civil unrest and terrorist attacks. These programs should be continued and improved upon as new data and procedures designed to deal with these issues become available or are developed and proven to be of significant value. This includes holding annual or bi-annual practice scenarios that involve all divisions of city government responsible for responding to this type of emergency.

In accordance with the California Terrorism Response Plan, the City's Police and Fire Departments have primary responsibility for protecting the public health and safety (Consequence Management) should a terrorist attack or civil disturbance event occur in the City. If an event exceeds the capabilities of the Glendale Police Department, additional local resources at the county, State and national levels are available through mutual aid agreements and partnerships with various organizations. The Federal Government, through local offices of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), is responsible for identifying, apprehending, and neutralizing the terrorists and their weapons (Crisis Management). Any terrorist threats received at the local or State level are assessed by the California Anti-Terrorism Information Center. Threats are evaluated and relevant information is then sent to the appropriate agencies at all levels, as deemed necessary.

Crime in California has decreased drastically in the last twenty years, to levels nearly one-half the rate of the 1980 peak. Consistent with statewide trends, crime in Glendale has also decreased, with levels in 2001 nearly one-half the rate of 1992. The data suggest however, that in 2002 there was a moderate increase in the crime rate in Glendale. Nevertheless, Glendale has one of the lowest crime rates in the southern California area, and is one of the safest California cities with a population of more than 100,000. Crime rates within Glendale, as in most other cities, vary significantly by census tract. The highest crime rates in Glendale are reported in the area adjacent to the Glendale Galleria and in those census tracts with the highest population densities in the City. Property crimes in Glendale far outnumber crimes against persons. Police statistics also show that white-collar crimes, such as fraud and identity theft have increased in the last few years. The Glendale Police Department utilizes a variety of programs to fight crime. The community as a whole has zero tolerance for criminal activity. The City's Police Department should continue to monitor their case load to identify any shifts in the types, numbers or locations of crimes in the City. This would allow the Police Department to respond to these changes effectively and thereby continue to provide the quality of service that the community expects.

Major accident response in the City of Glendale is handled in accordance with the State's Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), which defines the specific responsibilities of the various City agencies and City staff in the event of an emergency. This document identifies and describes the procedures to be taken by the local emergency management organization, including communication among the various response teams. Training and exercises are conducted regularly in accordance with State requirements. The City's Emergency Plan should be reviewed annually or bi-annually to ensure that the information contained therein, such as telephone numbers, and personnel assignments are correct and current.

The City of Glendale includes and abuts some of the last fairly undeveloped territory available in Los Angeles County, where the wild animal population includes coyotes, opossums, deer, rabbits, bats, raccoons, squirrels, skunks, rattlesnakes, mountain lions, bobcats and bears. This provides Glendale residents with the opportunity to sight in their own backyard coyotes, rattlesnakes and other wild animals; several of these animals may also be seen along the various nature trails that criss-cross the local mountains. Although most wild animals avoid contact with humans, residents and hikers have the responsibility of limiting contact with these animals, many of which can be carriers of disease or can be dangerous if they feel threatened.

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Coyotes are very common in this area of Los Angeles County. These animals are highly adaptable and easily become urbanized, surviving on garbage, pet food left outside, fruit and vegetables in orchards and gardens, and even small pets. Packs of coyotes are known to roam some of Glendale's neighborhoods, in part because residents used to leave food outside for these animals. Using garbage cans that cannot be opened easily, and removing food left outside for coyotes can help dissuade coyotes from roaming the area. The City may consider providing residents in and near the hillside areas with trash receptacles that cannot be easily opened or knocked over. Although unusual, coyote attacks do occur. The only known human death in California caused by a coyote occurred in Glendale in 1981, when a 3-year old girl was killed in her yard by a coyote. Therefore, residents in the hillside areas of the City are cautioned about leaving unsupervised small children and pets in their yards. New residents could be provided with brochures that describe the local fauna, including potential hazards. These flyers could be issued during the process of, for example, signing up for utilities with the appropriate local utility providers. Information about how to live peacefully with the local animal population could also be provided on the City's web page.

Mountain lions are known to live in the San Gabriel Mountains north of the City. These animals are elusive and generally avoid humans, but two mountain lion encounters have been reported in the local mountains since 1995. Although the probability of being attacked by a mountain lion is remote, there are several actions that hikers, cyclists and residents can take to reduce their exposure. The local San Gabriel Mountains are also home to American Black Bears, a misnomer since most bears in this area are cinnamon brown or gray in color. Bears are also generally elusive in the wild, but do adapt well to living near humans. Most of the recommendations suggested to reduce the potential encounter with a mountain lion also apply to an encounter with a black bear. Informational flyers at the entrance to trailheads that describe the potentially dangerous animals and plants that may be encountered in the local hillsides and mountains, including tips on how to evade or fight off an attack can be used to educate the individuals that chose to hike or bike in the area.

Of the six rattlesnake species known to live in California, three are known to be found in Los Angeles County, generally in rocky hillsides and rock outcrops such as those common in Glendale. The Southern Pacific and Speckled rattlesnakes are known to aggressively defend their position when encountered. These snakes should not be handled, and is best to give them a wide berth if found in the wild. Many other non-poisonous snakes are common to the area, and some of these will also bite if disturbed. All snake bites should be treated initially as if they are poisonous. The best course of action is to transport the victim immediately to a health care facility. Making incisions in the fang marks, attempting to suck out the venom or applying a tourniquet are all considered ineffective and even dangerous measures.

Bites from bees, wasps, hornets, yellow jackets and black widow spiders can be very painful but are not fatal, unless the individual is allergic to that particular toxin. Avoidance is the best tactic for self-protection. Watch out for bees, wasps and yellow jackets when preparing food or eating outside, and be careful when moving or working around woodpiles and storage areas where black widow spiders are commonly found. Individuals with known allergic reactions to bee venom should have antihistamine medicine readily available, especially when outdoors. If a person allergic to bee venom is bitten, and antihistamine medication is not available, the victim should be transported immediately to a medical facility for treatment. Glendale is on the watch list for Africanized Honey Bee (AHB) infestation, but AHBs are not considered a major threat at this time. The City should monitor for any reports of AHBs in the Los Angeles County, and if there are an increased number of cases, should consider establishing an AHB abatement program.

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Raccoons, ground squirrels, rabbits, deer and bats can be carriers of diseases, such as rabies and plague. Only one to two human deaths due to rabies occur in the United States every year; these are usually people who did not seek medical attention because they were unaware that they had been bitten. If detected early, rabies can be treated, but once the clinical signs of rabies appear, the disease is nearly fatal. Ground squirrels and their fleas are the most common source of plague in the western United States, although flea-infested domestic cats and dogs have also been known to transmit this disease. Today, plague can be treated and cured with antibiotics, provided that it is diagnosed promptly. Vaccinating domestic animals and treating them to control flea infestations are effective means of controlling rabies and plague. The City should continue to encourage residents to have their pets vaccinated for rabies and provide information about the benefits of flea control as a method for preventing the spread of dangerous diseases.

Deer are typically the hosts to ticks that carry and transmit Lyme disease, a debilitating condition that causes pain and swelling of the joints, chronic arthritis and even neurological damage. If the disease is diagnosed early, it can be cured with antibiotics. In southern California, Lyme disease is not common.

The three different kinds of mosquito-transmitted encephalitis known to occur in the western United States are the Western equine, St. Louis and West Nile encephalitis, but overall only a few encephalitis cases in humans have been reported in California. Most people exposed to any of these viruses do not develop any illness, or report only minor symptoms, such as mild fever, headache and body aches. Young children, seniors and people with compromised immune systems are more likely to be severely impacted, developing encephalitis or meningitis. Local and national agencies keep track of bird mortalities and reports of encephalitis cases diagnosed in the area, and issue public alerts as needed. The City should continue to monitor for unusual numbers of dead rodents or birds and report these sightings to the appropriate County agencies, especially during the summer, when these viral illnesses are more common.

Deer mice, pinion mice, brush mice and western chipmunks are the main hosts to the virus that causes hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS), a condition that can result in severe respiratory distress in advanced cases. The disease can be treated successfully with antibiotics. This disease was first reported in the Four Corners region of the Southwest in 1993; by 2003, 331 cases of HPS have been reported in the United States. Thirty-five of those cases occurred in California. Good housekeeping to deter the presence of rodents in and around residences, sheds and gardens can help decrease the potential for people to become in contact with rodents or their excreta, which are the main mode of human infection. The City should continue to enforce those sections of the City Code regarding rodent control (City Code Sections 8.48.010 et seq.).

Many landscaping and native plants are poisonous or capable of causing highly allergic reactions. Toddlers and infants are at most risk of eating poisonous plants since young kids tend to put things into their mouths. In households with young children, poisonous plants should be removed or fenced to reduce the potential for accidental poisoning. A list of common poisonous plants is provided in this report; additional information can be obtained from local poison control centers or a local agricultural extension office. Some people are sensitive to poison oak, a plant common in the mountains of Glendale. Sensitivity is generally manifested as a skin rash; in extreme cases, people who have come in contact with poison oak leaves or roots may require hospitalization. Oleander, common along many roads and used as a living fence in many parts of southern California, is poisonous if ingested. Poisonous plants should never be placed in compost piles or used for burning, such as wood used for firewood or barbecues.

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CITY of GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA**

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