



Environmental Committee

Our Mission Statement is:

To prepare, inform and advocate, on behalf of the business and residential community, environmental concerns and emergency preparation and response planning.

Conventional wisdom argues that economic interests and environmental interests run contrary to each other. At the extreme end of either perspective this may be the case. However, when you consider where these two admirable positions converge, a fresh point of view emerges. "Environment" is not merely defined in the traditional sense, which might solely address human interaction with natural elements, such as water, open space, and the preservation of species for instance. Environment is a merging of multiple factors that consider how we live and if we live, in changing circumstances --- at both the individual and community level.

Formed in May of 2000, the committee was organized to provide a forum to exchange ideas and incubate relationships that could assist local businesses in preventing or managing environmental and safety challenges. The Irwindale Chamber of Commerce Environmental Committee is now a robust group of talented members from the public and private sectors, utilities and non-profit organizations committed to fostering a healthy, safe and prepared community. We demonstrate our commitment to our community through the activities and programs we have organized, participated in, sponsored or developed.

If you care about health and safety issues that affect community business or the environment, and would like to join this committee, please complete the form below and send via fax to the Chamber Office at (626) 960-3868.

Name: _____

Business: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

The success of the Irwindale Chamber Environmental Committee is evidenced by our results. Examples of the activities of the group include:

Life With Less Water - In May of 2003 an educational forum was presented which discussed issues related to living in arid conditions like those we have in Southern California. The event was able to draw excellent keynote speakers, impressive technical resources from local utilities, participation from civic leaders in the local community and positive press coverage.

Heartbeat for Irwindale - In February of 2004 the committee provided an all-day opportunity for members of the business and residential communities to take CPR and AED (automated electronic defibrillator) training classes and earn a two-year certificate. The event also raised funds toward the acquisition of AED units for selected City of Irwindale Police Department patrol cars. This successful event in fact provided eight AED units for the community thus supplementing the City's emergency response capabilities.

Homeland Security Forum - In September of 2004 a well-attended forum was presented to provide an interactive forum to communicate what local, regional, county and state agencies are doing to prepare for and respond to natural/man-made/terrorism events in our community and what local businesses and residents can do to plan for and take care of themselves and cooperate with first responders in the event of such incidents. The distinguished program speakers provided quality and depth, and the forum achieved the goal of raising the level of awareness in the community.

Heartbeat for Irwindale II - In February of 2005 the committee, in cooperation with the Irwindale Police Department, presented a *Drug Recognition and Awareness Forum*. This program successfully trained 174 managers and supervisors from the local business community in drug recognition and awareness in their workplaces. Through educational training and static displays, experts from law enforcement provided insight of the signs and symptoms of recognizing impaired behavior and prolonged substance abuse. The presentation addressed the impact of drugs in the workplace, prevention methods, treatment and follow-up issues enabling employers the ability to detect problems and provide solutions.

Homeland Security Forum II - In September of 2005 the City of Irwindale and the Environmental Committee executed Operation Senior Safety, an exercise designed to measure the level of preparedness and community resource participation in a disaster of limited proportion. This exercise was a four-hour emergency drill with real participants in simulated and created situations with the primary focus on the evacuation of the Senior Apartments and Senior Center. The event involved the residents and business community working together on a project of significant community importance. It also created public value and interest in many areas of the community to do a better job in preparing ourselves, as individuals and as a community, in the event of a disaster.

Ongoing educational campaigns include a web page (www.EnviroCommittee.com) and monthly communications in the Irwindale Chamber of Commerce newsletter *Insights*.