Although we hope drivers will rise to the occasion as they did last year and avoid the Sepulveda Pass during the I-405 closure September 29 and 30, you might want to prepare for lengthy delays.

On the subject of “prepare,” whether you stay at home or Eat, Shop and Play locally, Countdown to Closure II is a good time to review your emergency preparedness. Even though National Emergency Preparedness Week was last week, the message to prepare your home and car for an earthquake or fire is worthwhile any week.

The City of Los Angeles Emergency Management Department has a thorough 16-page Comprehensive Guide on Family Preparedness. The guide offers specific tips on considering the needs of babies, children, and the elderly.

If your taste runs toward Dalmatians wearing fire hats, the Los Angeles Fire Department has a colorful Emergency Preparedness Booklet (this might take a moment to load). Its 40 pages include a feast of simple diagrams. Particularly valuable for Southern California drivers, the booklet includes a section on building a Portable/Auto Survival Kit.

We hope an ancillary benefit of Countdown to Closure II will be a better prepared Southern California.