



# Newsletter of the MPC Ready Organization Issue 8 – April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 A.D.A.P.T. Community Meeting (9 a.m.)
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 rEPAct Meeting (9 a.m.)
11 Preparación para desastres y emergencias (2 p.m.)	12	13	14 MPC Ready Working Committees (4:30 p.m.)	15 Terrorism Review Unit (7:30 p.m.)	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 CERT Refresh: ICS Logistics (7:30 p.m.)	23	24 MPC Ready Community Meeting (9 a.m.)
25	26 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting (2-4)	27	28	29	30	

Please send calendar input to editor, [lynne.e.bramlett@gmail.com](mailto:lynne.e.bramlett@gmail.com).

Message from MPC Ready	2	MPC Ready Working Groups	5
FEMA Program to Help with COVID-19 Funeral Expenses	3	Training and Events	6
Financial Preparedness & Recovery Tips	4		

## Message from MPC Ready



Lynne Bramlett, Lead

Dear MPC Ready Community,

Welcome to spring. We look forward to more vaccine rollouts and to an economic recovery from the pandemic. Please stay safe and continue social distancing, mask wearing and hand-washing recommendations.

If you haven't yet, please register for the MPC Ready group on Nextdoor. Please also register for the County of San Mateo's alert notification tool at [SMCAAlert.info](http://SMCAAlert.info).

Our local business community, and residents working in the service sector, has been hit particularly hard from the COVID-19 pandemic. We are mindful that many people in our community struggle daily just to put food on the table. Please shop and eat locally as much as you can. MPC Ready also plans to apply for community grant funding so that we can help more residents to be ready for disasters with supplies and equipment.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) developed a new program to help with COVID-19 funeral expenses. Please see page three for an overview.

When it is your turn, please get vaccinated. Let me know if I can be of any help in getting you to/from your appointment. You can sign up for notifications of the County of San Mateo's large vaccination clinics, and to learn more at <https://www.smchealth.org/post/covid-19-vaccine>

Please save the date for the April 24 MPC Ready Community Meeting. Following brief updates from the MPC Ready working groups, we plan an interactive meeting to obtain YOUR input into "MPC Ready 2.0."

The MPC Ready webmaster, Susan Erhart, keeps the [mpcready.org](http://mpcready.org) website updated with new materials and information. Please reach out if you would like to help.

We also invite you to learn more about becoming a Block and Neighborhood Coordinators. Learn more at [www.mpcready.org](http://www.mpcready.org).

Warmly, Lynne Bramlett at [lynne.e.bramlett@gmail.com](mailto:lynne.e.bramlett@gmail.com) or 650-380-3028.

## New FEMA Program

A new FEMA program will provide assistance for funeral expenses for deaths related to COVID-19.

The expenses must be incurred after January 20, 2020. Unfortunately, this is not a retroactive payment program.

The program will start in April. In the meantime, people who have COVID-19 funeral expenses are encouraged to keep and gather documentation.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought overwhelming grief to many families. To help ease some of the financial burden, the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) has announced a program to help. Starting in April, FEMA will begin to implement COVID-19 funeral assistance.

For the requirements, please visit

<https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance#>

Among the requirements, to be eligible for relief, the death certificate must clearly indicate that COVID-19 was a contributor to the cause of death.

This program is also for direct help to the families/loved ones of the deceased person. Public Assistance is not available for costs of indigent burials or temporary holding of remains.

This assistance is limited to a maximum financial amount of \$9,000 per funeral and a maximum of \$35,500 per application. Some other requirements include:

- The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien (*their words*) who incurred funeral expenses after January 20, 2020 for a death attributed to COVID-19.
- If multiple individuals contributed toward funeral expenses, they should apply under a single application as applicant and co-applicant.
- An applicant may apply for multiple deceased individuals.
- The COVID-19-related death must have occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories and the District of Columbia.

## Financial Preparedness & Recovery Tips

April is Financial Preparedness Month. Financial preparedness starts with having cash on hand in small bills because ATMS and credit cards may not work following a disaster when you need to purchase necessary supplies, fuel or food. As you can, please set aside some cash and then keep adding to the amount. General guidelines recommend at least \$500 per person.

### Sign up for electronic payments

Electronic payments help keep you safe during pandemics and they protect you more following disasters. If you get federal benefits you can sign up for direct deposit by calling 800-333-1795 or at <https://fiscal.treasury.gov/GoDirect/>

### Government-funded benefits

You may be eligible for government-funded unemployment, healthcare, and food and nutrition benefits to supplement your income or savings.

Visit <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments> to determine if you are eligible for an Economic Impact Payment (EIP).

Visit <https://faq.coronavirus.gov/financial-help/> and <https://www.ssa.gov/coronavirus/> to learn about additional financial resources that you may eligible for.



### Get Insurance

Insurance is the fastest way to recover financially after a disaster. Obtain property (homeowners or renters), health and life insurance if you do not have them. Review your policy to make sure it covers all possible hazards you face. Homeowners insurance does not typically cover flooding. You can visit <https://www.floodsmart.gov/> to learn about flood insurance.

### Learn about Hazards

Visit <https://myhazards.caloes.ca.gov/> to learn steps to reduce personal risk. The County of San Mateo is updating its Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Learn more at: <https://cmo.smcgov.org/multijurisdictional-local-hazard-mitigation-plan>.

## MPC Ready Working Groups

Please join us on Wed, April 14 at 4:30 p.m. for the next meeting of the working groups.  
Registration information at [www.mpcready.org](http://www.mpcready.org).



### **Government Relations**

This group stays informed on relevant matters that pertain to disaster preparedness. Helps inform elected officials, staff and other key individuals on relevant topics. Participates in local planning efforts to increase disaster preparedness and mitigation efforts.

### **Organized Neighborhoods**

This group focuses on developing a phased approach to a comprehensive, but easy-to-follow model of a “well prepared and organized” neighborhood prepared for emergencies and disasters applicable to their respective neighborhoods.

### **Programs**

This group develops events, training and other activities to support and benefit MPC Ready volunteers, and to help the overall community become more disaster prepared and resilient.

### **Membership Marketing**

This group focuses on the communications function for MPC Ready, which includes promotion, publicity, and organizational communications such as its website, newsletters, and social media. The group also helps develop materials, presentations and other resources.

## Training and Events

Date	Topic	More Information	Time
Sat, Apr 3	<b>A.D.A.P.T Community Meeting</b> TOPIC: The first three hours	<a href="https://www.getreadyatherton.org/meeting">https://www.getreadyatherton.org/meeting</a>	9 a.m.
Sat, Apr 10	<b>rEPAct Community Meeting</b>	<a href="http://www.repact.org">www.repact.org</a>	9 a.m.
Sun, Apr 11	<b>Preparación para desastres y emergencias</b> de Sunnyvale Emergency Response Volunteers	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/o/sunnyvale-emergency-response-volunteers-11393586702">https://www.eventbrite.com/o/sunnyvale-emergency-response-volunteers-11393586702</a>	2 p.m.
Wed, Apr 14	<b>MPC Ready Working Groups Meeting</b> Join us for a preview of our work and consider helping.	<a href="http://www.mpcready.org">www.mpcready.org</a>	4:30 p.m.
Thu, Apr 15	<b>Terrorism Review Unit</b> Santa Clara County Fire Department staff will review the Terrorism Unit of CERT training. Hosted by Los Altos PREPARES.	<a href="https://www.losaltosca.gov/police/page/cert-skills-refresh-training">https://www.losaltosca.gov/police/page/cert-skills-refresh-training</a>	6 p.m.
Thu, Apr 22	<b>CERT Refresh: ICS Logistics.</b> Join instructor Marsha Hovey to dive into the Incident Command System (ICS) and review the role of the Logistics Section. An experienced emergency manager, Marsha will discuss what ICS-Logistics Section means for CERTs. Hosted by Los Altos PREPARES.	Please see above.	7:30 p.m.
Sat, Apr 24	<b>MPC Ready Community meeting.</b> TOPIC: MPC Ready 2.0 followed by interactive discussion, and volunteer community building.	<a href="http://www.mpcready.org">www.mpcready.org</a>	9 a.m.
Mon, Apr 26	<b>Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update</b> The public is invited and encouraged to attend the Steering Committee Meetings.	<a href="https://www.menlopark.org/901/Flood-insurance">https://www.menlopark.org/901/Flood-insurance</a>	2 p.m.

**Did you know that the Red Cross offers many different online classes? You can see the list by visiting:**  
<https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/online-safety-classes/all-online-classes>