

Los Altos PREPARES

A Community Emergency Preparedness Initiative

The Power of Partnerships





The Start

- In 2013 the Los Altos Community Foundation (LACF) launched the Los Altos PREPARE Initiative with the objective to:
 - Stimulate emergency preparedness in our community
 - Engage residents
 - Partner with emergency response agencies
 - Collaborate with other stakeholders
- In January 2015 LACF approached City Council about evaluating preparedness activities in Los Altos



The Start

- City Council's 2015 goal of promoting effective government included: *"identify opportunities to enhance collaboration with regards to emergency preparedness"*
- June 23, 2015 Council received a staff report on the status of emergency preparedness and directed staff accordingly
- Next steps identified in report - community focused or administrative in nature



Next Steps – CERT



- SCCFD assumed responsibility for emergency community education and CERT volunteer training
- Current Los Altos CERT members are integrated into the process for the mutual benefit of the city and training personnel
- The new model ensures consistency of training and ongoing training efforts, available to residents within the SCCFD jurisdiction
- SCCFD initiated CERT refresher training program in 2017 for CERTs to keep their knowledge and skills up-to-date





Next Step – Appropriation of \$15K For Emergency Preparedness Related Items


FY 15 & 16 funds were utilized to establish a cache of supplies to be used by trained community volunteers in the event of an emergency.






Next Step – Enhance City Website With Information On Emergency Preparedness


City of Los Altos Emergency Operations Plan (Council Report)



**Upcoming Personal
Emergency
Preparedness
Training**



**Community
Emergency
Response Team
(CERT) Training**




**Emergency Supply
Kits**



**Communication
Plans**



Los Altos PREPARE



**Storm Preparation in
Los Altos**


Immigration Information

Live Scan Fingerprinting

Mobile Apps

Parking

Property & Evidence





Mobile Alerts - Sign-Up Now







Get Text & Email Alerts

Supporting Documents

-  [City of Los Altos Emergency Operations Plan \(Council Report\) \(643 KB\)](#)
-  [City of Los Altos Emergency Preparedness Activities \(651 KB\)](#)

Web Links

-  [AlertSCC - Santa Clara County Emergency Alert System](#)
-  [American Red Cross - Emergency Preparedness](#)
-  [CDC - Emergency Preparedness & Response](#)
-  [FEMA - Ready](#)
-  [Santa Clara County - Essential Emergency Supplies](#)
-  [Santa Clara County - Office of Emergency Services](#)



Next Step – Collaboration with Stakeholders

Stakeholder Team established - met Jan 2017

- City Staff
- SCCFD
- BAT, HAM, CERT
- Public School Districts
- Business Community
- Faith Based Community
- Senior Commission
- Access & Functional Needs

Purpose: To develop a plan and establish goals for Community emergency preparedness

Community Involvement



BATs – take care of their neighborhoods

Hams – set up and operate communication systems



Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) – assist in neighborhoods and be a resource for the City



Community Emergency Response Team

- CERT classes teach residents to prepare for and respond to life-threatening events in their community
- CERT members can mobilize neighborhood resources to:
 - Help BATs organize the neighborhood response
 - Deliver immediate assistance to victims
 - Provide support to the professional first responders
- SCCFD conducts training classes– covering fire safety, light search & rescue, team organization (ICS) and disaster first-aid

HAMS



- Hams have been active in Los Altos and emergency communications for over 50 years
- Provide communications capability between neighborhood communication sites (EIRS) and the City's Emergency Operation Center
- Also provide communications for LASD District office and the high school
- Works with neighboring cities and County OES to ensure seamless communications capabilities



Block Action Team (BAT) Program

- Block Action Teams – neighbors working with neighbors to build a stronger community
- Program to help neighborhoods facilitate self-connections and help each other in times of need
- In an emergency, BATs will organize their neighborhoods and gather information which is shared with the EOC, allowing the city to allocate resources intelligently
- BATs have fun, too – block parties, National Night Out, etc.



Block Action Team (BAT) Program

BAT Training class covers:

- Limited resources available in a major disaster
- Description of Personal Emergency Preparedness (PEP) Class and upcoming training dates
- How to sign up for Nixle and AlertSCC
- Neighborhood Watch – what it is and how to set up
- Use of the Help/OK Placards
- How to assess damage and prepare Preliminary Safety Assessment Report
- Never to attempt anything they are not trained for

Progress

BATs

- 199 residents trained
- 61 BATs mapped (www.losaltosbat.org)
- 15.5% of Los Altos Households included in a BAT

CERTs

- Program restarted by volunteers in 2014
- 95 active and trained CERTS

Hams

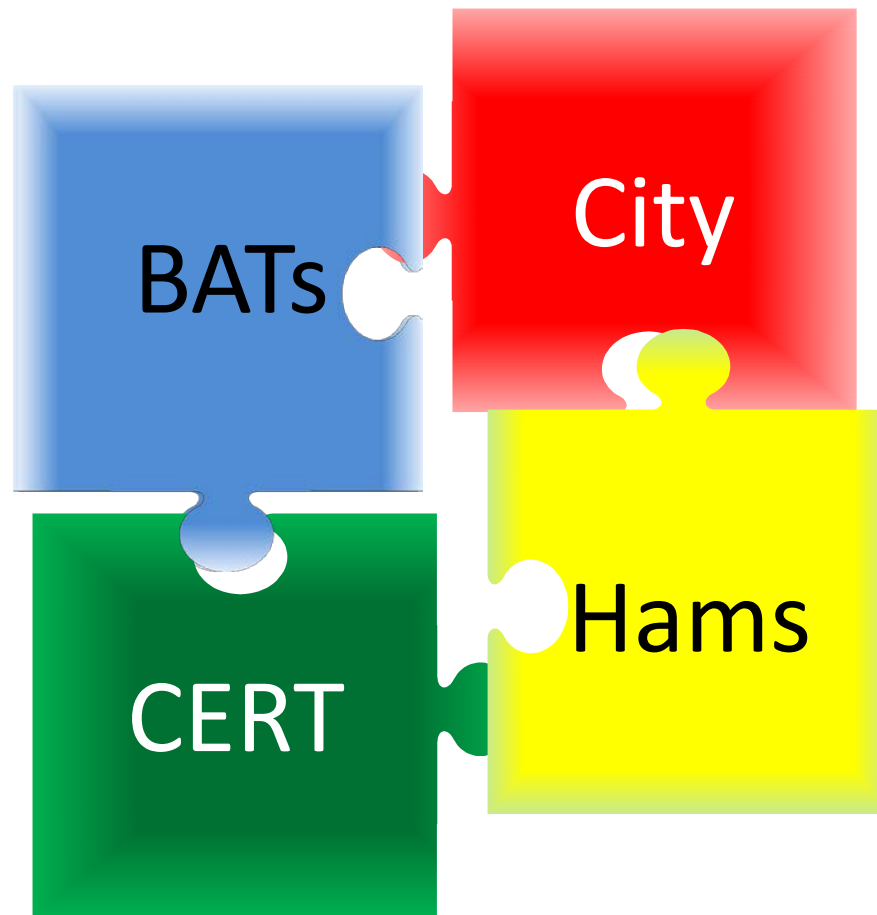
- Collaboration with SCCFD to staff fire department locations during major emergencies
- Built 8 packet radio systems from community donations to be used at Emergency Information Sites

Progress

Drills and Education

- 2015 Community participated in the City's EOC Drill
- 2016 – three neighborhoods had drills – sent info into City's EOC during their annual emergency training
- June 13, 2017 – 60 BAT/Hams/Certs trained in Hands-on CPR, choking and AED taught by SCCFD
- June 17, 2017 – Joint Ham/CERT/BAT drill at Grant Park

Putting it Together During an Emergency/Disaster





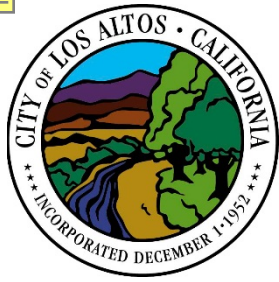
The Challenge During an Emergency/Disaster

- City needs to allocate scarce professional resources (Police, Fire, Medical) where they can do the most good for the public
- Resource Allocations are based on information available, even if it is incomplete
- City resources spend first moments on information gathering

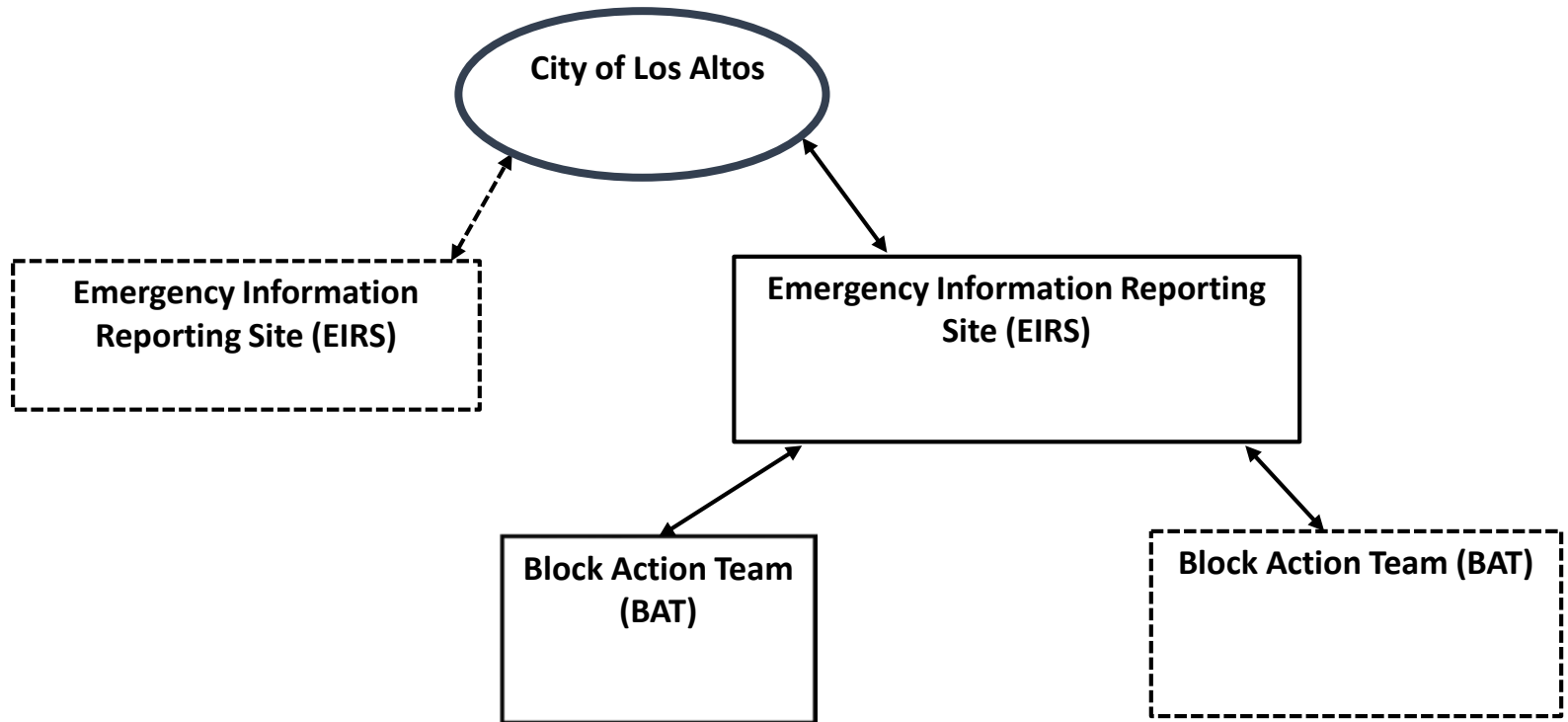


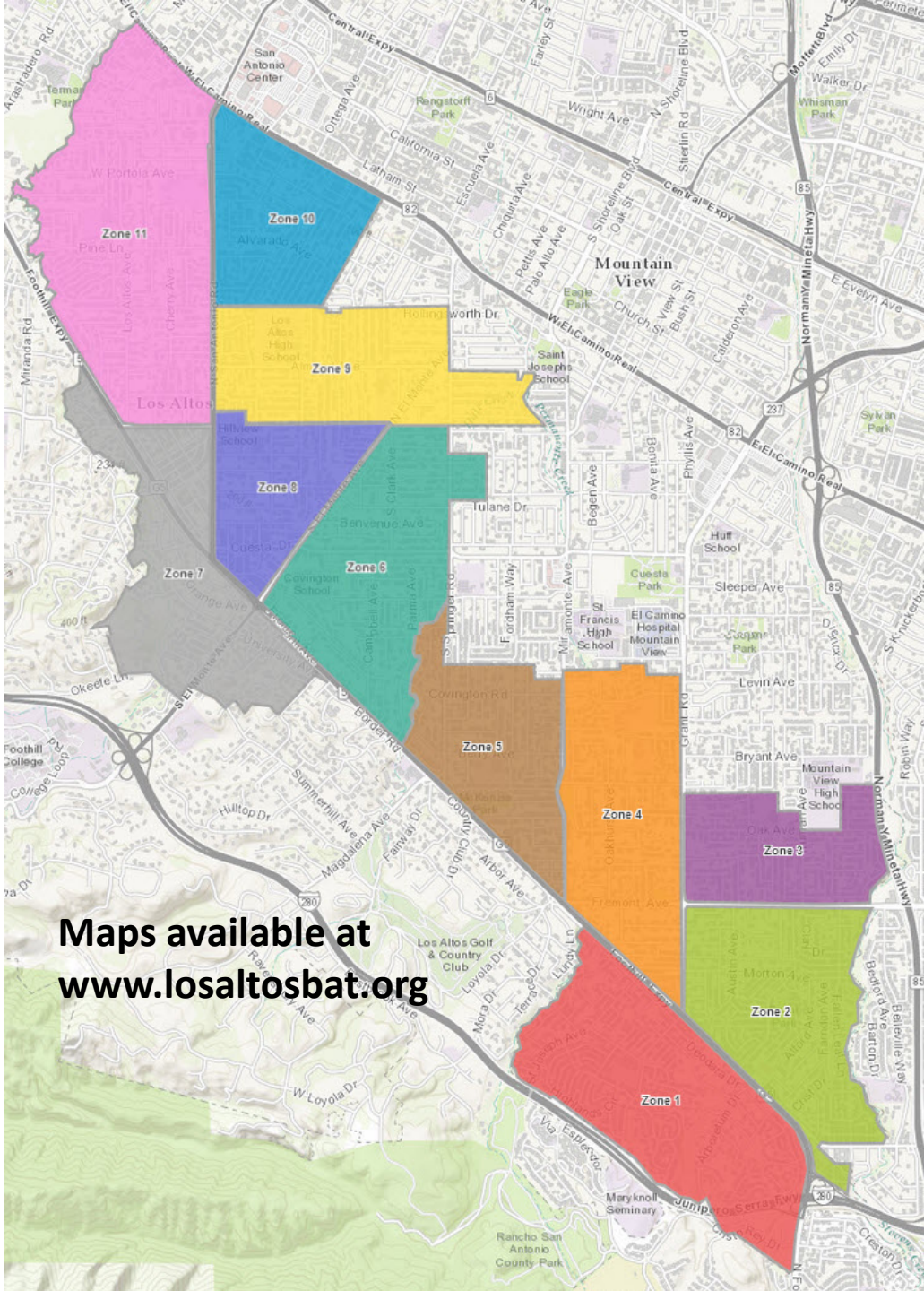
The Vision During an Emergency/Disaster

- BATs perform a “Preliminary Safety Assessment” (PSA) of their neighborhood
- Information is recorded and sent to closest “Emergency Information Reporting Site (EIRS)
- Ham Radio operators will send the information to the City’s Emergency Operation Center (EOC)
- Results:
 - City has more information for decision-making purposes
 - Trained volunteers can share their resources where available

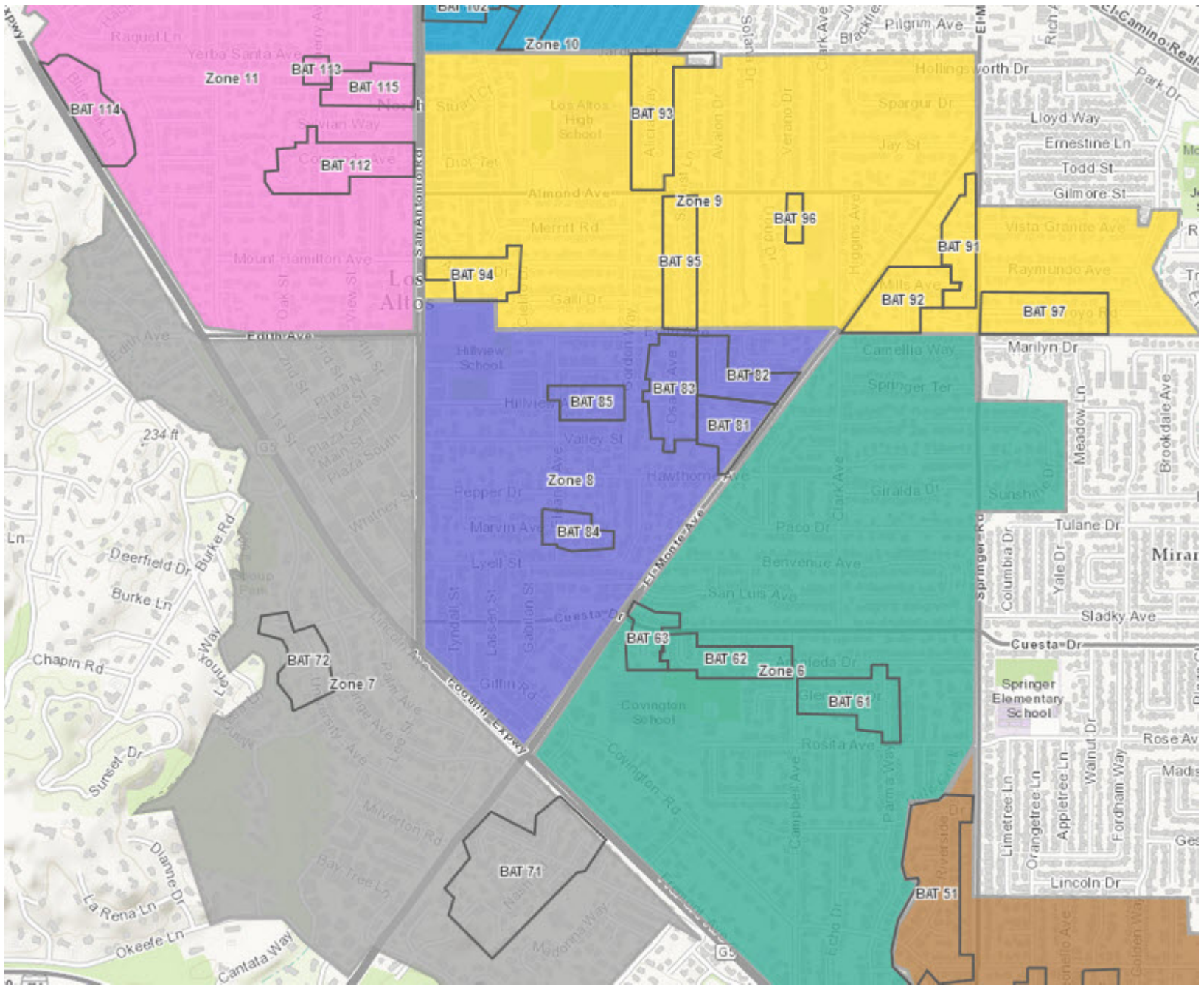


How it Fits Together During and Emergency/Disaster





Maps available at
www.losaltosbat.org





Summary

- Getting and staying prepared is a “process” not an “event”
- It is not “if” but “when” we will have a major earthquake in the Bay Area



Going Forward - Community

- **Prepare Yourself and Family**
 - Attend a Personal Emergency Preparedness (PEP) Class
 - Available monthly through Santa Clara County Fire
- **Get Connected**
 - Sign up for Nixle, AlertSCC, NextDoor.com
- **Organize Your Neighborhood**
 - Start a Block Action Team & NW in your neighborhood
- **Help Others**
 - Add CERT and Ham radio to your resume



Going Forward – Our Ask to Council

- Fund a part-time staff position to advance the City-Community emergency preparedness efforts
- Continue funding additional purchases of key emergency supplies
- Initiate a Neighborhood Grant Program to encourage emergency preparedness and connectivity
- Further develop the Stakeholder Team involvement and actions