

Engage and Empower Youth in Emergency Preparedness

DIVAKAR SAINI

CO- CHAIR FEMA NATIONAL YOUTH PREPAREDNESS COUNCIL

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Who Am I?

EPrep Advocate

FEMA Youth Preparedness Council Member, Region IX

- 2nd year member
- One of 15 youth on the council
- Advocates for Youth Preparedness
- Attended Youth Summit in Washington, DC this summer
- Discussed Preparedness related initiatives with other youth from across the country



My EPrep Activities



City Wide Poster Contest



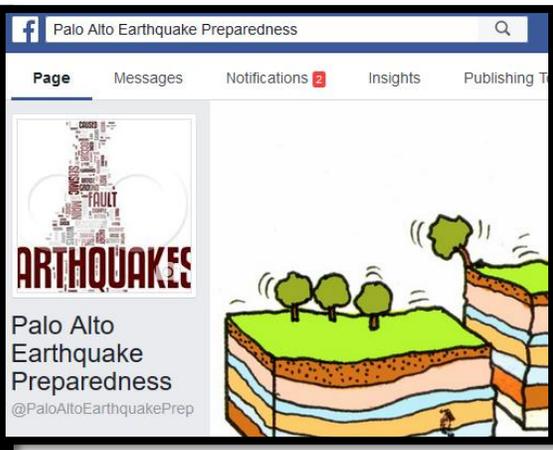
Masters of Disasters For Kids

Gunn High School student Saini promotes National Preparedness Month

by Brenna Malmberg / Palo Alto Weekly

September is National Preparedness Month, and Divakar Saini, a Gunn High School junior, is working to spread the word. Earthquake drills at school sparked his original interest in emergency preparedness, and now he has been active in the topic for two years. He currently serves as his Block Preparedness Coordinator through the City of Palo Alto and helps host an emergency preparation table at the annual Midtown neighborhood social.

Local Newspapers



Community Facebook Page



View in iTunes iPhone App

The Palo Alto Neighborhoods (PAN) have partnered with the City of Palo Alto to form the Block Preparedness Coordinator (BPC) Program to ensure that residents, businesses, and other groups can participate with the City in disaster preparation, response, and recovery. The BPC Program trains volunteers to staff BPC positions for each block and Neighborhood Preparedness Coordinators (NPC) for each neighborhood (including businesses/districts or other groups).

Volunteer @ local BPC Program



Co-Chair FEMA Youth Council

Why Are Youth Important in Emergency Preparedness?

Youth Audience Is a Powerful Constituency

- ❑ Engaging youth is a way to engage the entire family
- ❑ Energy and Resourcefulness of youth is a proven asset during disaster recovery
 - Leads to a decisively more resilient community
- ❑ Engaging youth early helps them be in a lifelong association with EPrep
 - ❑ Prepared youth today = prepared community tomorrow
- ❑ Youth are creative and bring in fresh perspective and ideas on improving outcomes

How To Reach Out To The Youth?

Getting The Message Across To Youth

- ❑ NOT a one-time event, but constant and ongoing efforts to reach out and **engage**
- ❑ Behavioral change = Motivation (attitude)+ Ability + **TRIGGER**
- ❑ Motivators = Community outreach efforts, Adult Mentorship
- ❑ Triggers = Community Events, National Preparedness Month, Quakeville
- ❑ Encourage creative expression!

Example of Community Outreach To Youth

- ❑ Working with School District
 - Integrating of EPrep in some part of school curriculum
 - Use school to parent communication newsletters
 - School assemblies
- ❑ Structured Teen Volunteer Programs
 - Run by local EPrep volunteer organizations
- ❑ Support from City Council
 - Honor and Recognize youth who participate and make a difference
- ❑ Target Youth at Local Community Events
 - Setup tables targeting youth (Flywheel Contests, Freebies is all you need...)



Sample Youth Projects

- ❑ High School Clubs: Movers and Shakers Club
- ❑ EPrep Poster & Essay Contest For Schools
 - A great way to seed key EPrep messages
- ❑ Community Volunteer Activities
 - E.g. Curbside painting
- ❑ Please visit the Fema YPC website to check out some of the projects from my colleagues
- ❑ Ask youth for their ideas about how to improve preparedness initiatives



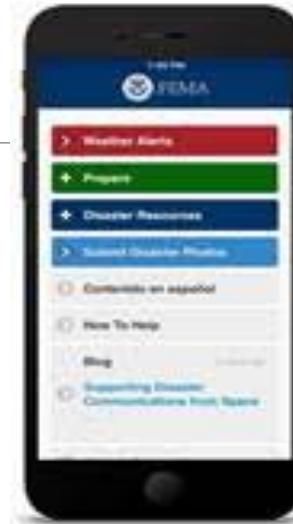
EPrep and Tech

With a show of hands-- how many in the audience know about the FEMA app?

Smartphone APPs help you

- Stay connected to real time events & news
- Provide ability to seek help in dealing with situations
- A lot of apps exist, but recommend
 - FEMA
 - Red Cross

Download now



WEATHER THE STORM
DOWNLOAD THE FEMA APP



ALERTS



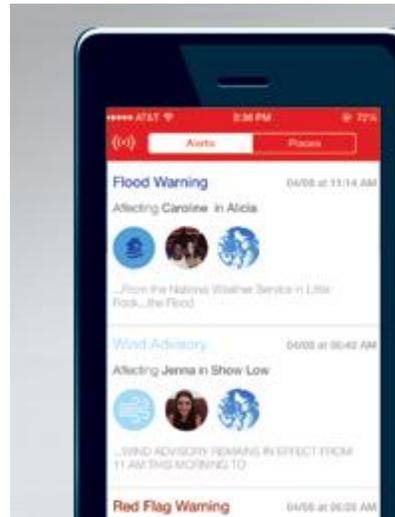
SAFETY TIPS



SHELTERS



PHOTOS



**Red Cross
Emergency App**



Help is in your hands.
Get severe weather and
emergency alerts, along with
the steps on what to do next.

Free download.



Shh.. Secret of Success

Experience of the adult volunteers and EPrep officials +
Energy/Enthusiasm of youth = Success!

Collaboration between all ages leads to more success and
effective community preparedness

(Results in a More Engaged and Resilient community)

Thank You For Wonderful Adults Like You

- ☐ Thank Mr Mark for inviting me to the conference
- ☐ Ms Sharon will development of the talk
- ☐ Mr Randy my CPO for all his support and guidance
- ☐ And to you all for being such supportive great audience