



Building Resilient Communities

April 2021

Issue No. 109



Spring is Upon Us!

Temperatures are warming, birds fill our backyards with song, and flowers show signs of re-awakening with their blooms in hues of every color. As we emerge from the remnants of winter, I feel a renewed energy rising and a shift of perspective to one of deep gratitude and hope. Spring is truly a time of awakening, rebirth, rejuvenation, and renewal.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Why Vaccinate?	Page 2
Resources & Training	Page 2
Partner Highlight	Page 2
Financial Capability Month	Page 3
Earthquake Preparedness	Page 3
BRC Team Member Highlight	Page 4
Ark of Safety Youth Program	Page 4
Other Ways to Support BRC	Page 5

With the shift in seasons there are changes in daily schedules and longer days of sunlight, the need to turn our attention to annual safety maintenance and being prepared for fluctuating weather patterns that bring potential wildfires and floods. During spring it is more important than ever to be aware and know how to stay safe. BRC is here to help you prepare.

BRC's new strategic plan deepens and broadens our commitment. We envision a world where communities are filled with hope, overcome adverse conditions, are prepared for disasters, and recover from disruptive experiences. Empowerment through education and resources and faith. These are the pillars of our success. Your faith in BRC makes us work harder, go farther, help more.

As spring evokes warmth, inspiration, and growth, may you experience the essence of the goodness of this special time as well as good health, strength, and safety.

Thank you for your continued support!
Debra

When are you eligible for your COVID-19 vaccine?

Vaccinate ALL 58
Together we can end the pandemic.

Phase 1A: All healthcare workers and nursing home residents.

Phase 1B: Anybody 65+, agriculture, and emergency service workers.

As of March 15th: People aged 16-64 at higher risk for serious COVID-19 illness.

April 1st: Anybody 50+

April 15th: All Californians (ages 16+)



Why Get Vaccinated?

Do it for yourself and others. When you're vaccinated against COVID-19, you protect yourself from a deadly disease. And you stop it before it can get to your friends, your family, your elders, and the people who work hard to keep our communities safe and open.

Vaccination is one of the most important steps in ending the pandemic. Each person that gets vaccinated brings us closer to a post-pandemic world. More benefits of vaccination

- Your chances of being hospitalized with COVID-19 become almost zero
- You will not pass the disease to the elderly or those with medical conditions, who could get very sick or die
- COVID-19 cases will drop, and schools and businesses will reopen.
- We can all get back to the things we love

Still have questions? Visit California's COVID-19 Vaccines webpage or call the COVID-19 Hotline at (833) 422-4255. Starting April 15, ALL Californians over the age of 16 will be eligible for the #COVID19 #vaccine.

Need Resources or Training?



Take the first steps towards preparedness with BRC's new [Learning Center](#) resources. The **Are You Ready webinars** help individuals and families prepare for any type of an emergency or disaster. Check out our new [Learning Center](#) page and resources including at-the-ready webinars. Topics include the critical steps for preparedness, disaster preparedness planning at home, work and at play, identifying appropriate emergency supplies and equipment, creating an emergency kit, additional available training your emergency preparedness and helping in the community before and after a disaster. Start your preparedness training today!



Partnering to Build Hope and Preparedness

More than a community partner, [AmPac Business Capital](#) is a beacon of light to hundreds of small businesses like BRC. The devastating economic impact of COVID-19 propelled countless small businesses, including many in underserved communities, into a crushing tailspin. AmPac's commitment to connect faith and business aligned perfectly with the mission and needs of BRC.

Thank you, [AmPac Business Capital](#), for serving as a beacon light and hope for BRC and many small businesses. You have lifted us up and provided a financial gateway of stability that ensures BRC's continued success.

Financial Capability Month!



April marks **National Financial Capability month** by emphasizing how personal financial planning helps us to prepare for disasters both big and small. While many of us are still in the throes of recovering from the economic impacts associated with the devastating COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to remember the financial challenges of rebuilding after experiencing an un-anticipated disaster.

National Financial Capability month suggests the best way to prepare for a natural disaster is knowing the risks of where you live and saving for the unexpected. Download your Emergency Financial First Aid Tool Kit [here!](#)

Here are a few tips to help you start, and strengthen, your emergency savings fund and budgeting:

- Create a rainy-day savings fund setting aside money for unexpected costs
- Check your insurance coverage to be sure you will have the necessary financial resources to help you repair, rebuild or replace whatever is damaged.
- Have all your important documents and digital copies you need to protect yourself after a disaster in retrievable, safe place.



Prepare Your Community - Resource Corner

Earthquake Preparedness Month

Know Your Risk, Make a Kit, Have a Plan!

The Southern California region is renowned as "Earthquake Country". Over three years ago, research from UC Irvine identified that the San Andreas Fault has caused a major earthquake approximately every 137 years during the last 700 years. Despite this obvious risk, the vast majority of California residents are poorly prepared.

Many people believe that the government will be able to provide these basic necessities after a major earthquake. However, history shows that in the initial response phase to a natural disaster of this magnitude, our local governments will be focused on the security and safety of our communities. It is vital that families plan and prepare to be on their own for as long as two weeks days. If we all do our part, we can build a strong and resilient community together.

Dan Coleman, BRC Training Coordinator and Trainer

1. Stay Informed		Get alerts to know what to do. Go to www.CalAlerts.org to sign up for disaster alerts
2. Make a Plan		Make a plan to protect people. www.ready.gov/plan
3. Pack a Go Bag		Pack a Go-Bag with things you need. https://bit.ly/3hgyqeH
4. Build a Stay Box		Prepare for at least 10 days when you can't leave. https://bit.ly/3hgyqeH
5. Get Involved		Help Friends and Neighbors https://bit.ly/2NugW0E



MEET BRC TEAM MEMBER

Meet **Norma Spencer** - the driving force to BRC’s community outreach program. As a child Norma was witness to her parent’s deep commitment to community and their teachings to work hard, keep their word and do all things with excellence in mind. Her volunteerism began at age 15 as a Candy Striper in a local hospital leading her to her first career as an Administrative Assistant in a private hospital. When Norma moved to the Inland Empire, she worked the next 24 years for the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools’ (SBCSS) Human Resources Division.

While attending a disaster preparedness event provided by Debra Williams in 2012, Norma was excited to learn that she had launched a faith-based nonprofit agency focused on teaching safety. “Our paths continued to cross over the

next few years, ” said Norma of her connection with Debra and BRC.

Following the devastating Ridgecrest earthquakes Norma began working as a BRC volunteer. By February 2020, she and the BRC team were fully engaged in community activities - then the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Norma was invited to work part time in community outreach with various Churches becoming one of the first three official employees of BRC.

As the Community Outreach Coordinator and Trainer, Norma and the team developed the Mask Up! Project that advocates for and provides personal protective equipment (PPE) along with educational and resource materials packaged in an Emergency Grab and Go Bags given to individuals and families of small businesses, faith-based organizations, food distribution sites and Vaccination Clinics throughout Riverside and San Bernardino counties with special attention to vulnerable populations hardest hit by COVID-19.

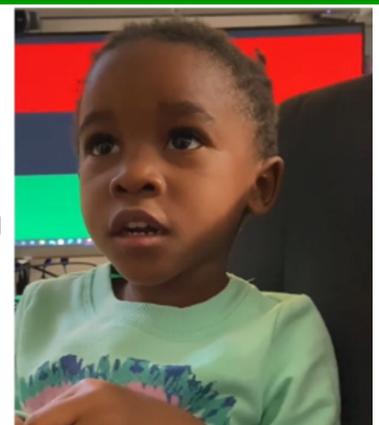
Thank you, Norma, for answering the call to serve others in this most profound, impactful way. Your contribution to the community and saving lives is immeasurable.

Empowering Youth Through Story

Why do children need stories? Stories are universal and transcend boundaries across time, place, cultures, and religions. A good story draws children in by engaging their fundamental humanity while sparking curiosity to learn and participate in creating a better world.

BRC knows that disasters disproportionately impact children, yet many programs often overlook the importance of preparing children. Through the **Ark of Safety Youth program**, BRC educates youth on disaster preparedness topics from family preparedness to wildfires and earthquakes. Coupling biblical stories and emergency preparedness curriculum is at the heart of a new program in the **Ark of Safety Youth**.

BRC’s recent pilot program at **The Centre at Highland's Children's Church** has been enthusiastically received by both children and church leadership. This innovative program combines an emotional and spiritual reference through storytelling coupled with video, resources, and preparedness education. Look for more exciting updates as BRC continues to expand this impactful program. Enjoy this short video from five year old Lay Lay talking about Fire Safety!



ARE YOU READY, CALIFORNIA?
 FOLLOW THESE 5 SIMPLE STEPS:

- 1. GET OFFICIAL ALERTS** 
- 2. MAKE A PLAN TO PROTECT YOUR PEOPLE** 
- 3. PACK A GO-BAG WITH THINGS YOU NEED** 
- 4. BUILD A STAY BOX** 
- 5. HELP FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS** 

LISTOSCALIFORNIA.ORG
 #YOURACTIONSSAVALIVES 

Let BRC Help You!

Shop our easy online store! Disaster preparedness kits and supplies for every size household or business.

Make your purchase to prepare yourself and family while supporting our mission. [Click Here for Easy Shopping!](#)



Shopping on Amazon? Experience feel-good shopping and support BRC by using Amazon Smile! When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you will find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to BRC. Get shopping and make a difference today!



Preparing for Disaster | Strengthening Communities | Training Leaders

Building Resilient Communities is a 501 (C)(3) nonprofit organization that relies on the support of its donors to provide service to the community. Your gift can make a difference to a lifesaving opportunity for another.

Donate Today!

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