

BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

HAPPY 2021 TO ALL!

Celebrate the
New Year with BRC!

Make 2021 a Year of Safety

Have you made your New Year's resolutions yet? Why not prioritize emergency preparedness over the next 12 months?

Make 2021 a year of successful safety by adding emergency preparedness to your New Year's resolutions.

Whether you are just starting to create an emergency preparedness plan or you have been preparing for years, the start of the new year is a good time to evaluate your emergency preparedness plan. By understanding exactly what it takes to get ready for critical situations, you can prepare by allocating the necessary resources to implement an effective emergency preparedness response.

In addition, you can develop emergency preparedness and response exercises for a variety of dangerous situations that will enable you to keep affected individuals informed before, during, and after a critical event.

And finally, the new year is an excellent time to celebrate! Take time to congratulate yourself on working hard to keep others safe all year.

*From everyone at BRC, here is to a safe and happy New Year,
Debra*



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THIS YEAR RESOLVE TO BE PREPARED

The Resolve to be Ready campaign offers practical emergency preparedness tips individuals can practice each day throughout the entire year. **BRCC** suggests you can share these emergency tips with your family members, friends, schools, places of worship and businesses.

Make A Resolution to Be Prepared!

1. Make an emergency plan: choose a safe place to meet, learn evacuation routes, and establish an out-of-town contact.
2. Take a current photo of you and your pet together in case you get separated during a disaster. Get to know your neighbor and invite them to be a part of your emergency plan.
2. Snap photos of important documents and save them in a secure place or online. Set up group text lists so you can communicate with friends and family during emergencies.
2. Take a class in CPR and first aid. Keep and update emergency supplies; remember to include cash. Have back-up power sources available to charge devices in case of a power outage.
5. Snap pictures of your property for insurance purposes.
6. Check your insurance for coverage on disasters like floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes.
7. Sign up for alerts and warnings. Download the
8. FEMA app to get real-time alerts, safety tips, and locate open shelters.
9. Save for a rainy day! Start and grow your emergency fund. Financially prepare for the New Year. Find out how with the Emergency Financial First Aid Kit. Spend within your means. Use a personal budgeting worksheet to help plan for holiday expenses and beyond. Build up your savings by setting aside a small amount each month.



Meet BRC Team Member Laura Floyd Cole

Teaching is Laura Cole's professional passion. Working first as a public-school teacher for Dade County Unified School District in Miami, FL, then the Los Angeles and Rialto Unified School Districts, Laura transitioned to serve as a supervisor of an after-school program for the City of Montclair, CA. After retiring from the field of education, Laura stepped into the role of administrative assistant for Sunergeo Christian Fellowship Church in Upland.

Recently, Laura's Church Administrator was looking for someone to go with her to the Emotional and Spiritual Care certification and disaster preparedness classes on behalf of the church. *This was her call to work in disaster preparedness.* Having known BRC CEO, Debra Williams, for over 20 years including working in partnership at Higher Ground International, joining the BRC team combining her passion for education and disaster preparedness was a perfect fit.

Laura joined the BRC team in September of 2020 as the Coordinator for the Ark of Safety Youth Program. This program is critical as young people are considered one of the most vulnerable groups in times of disaster. Youth are more than capable of learning how to prepare for and to survive a disaster as well as, be of help to their families in an emergency. The training and education provided by the **Ark of Safety Youth Program** removes the fear of what could happen in a disaster and gives youth the confidence to make positive contributions to their communities.

"BRC is vital to a community that is prone to so many different types of disasters year-round. The citizens need a constant reminder that they should be ready at any time for any disaster.", shares Laura. "I continue to learn how BRC and its mission impacts the community as well as me personally."

To date the **Ark of Safety Youth Program** has served over 1,000 youth which may save countless lives in the future. As this new year approaches, the BRC team is planning to amplify its mission by expanding the curriculum, training teams to teach it, and increasing the number of locations that will implement its use.

Thank you, Laura, for your commitment to educating our youth on the importance of emergency preparedness in order to save countless lives.



California Fire Foundation Invests in Youth



California Fire Foundation supports BRC's initiative to educate and empower youth with disaster preparedness education and training.

Building Resilient Communities is grateful to the California Fire Foundation for their generous grant support for the **Ark of Safety Youth Teen CERT** program.

Get Your 2021 Preparedness Calendar!

The **Ready 2021 Preparedness Calendar** is a planning tool that marks preparedness activities and provides customizable resources to help promote preparedness throughout the year. Feel free to adapt the materials to hazards that can impact your local area. Get your monthly 2021 preparedness calendar [here](#).



Prepare Your Community



What is a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) event and how can we stay prepared?

With about a quarter of SCE customers residing in high-risk fire areas, addressing the prevention and mitigation of wildfires is one of SCE's top priorities. When there is a high risk for a wildfire, SCE may temporarily shut off power to prevent an electric system from becoming the source of ignition.

Turning off our customers' power is not something SCE takes lightly, but Public Safety Power Shutoff events are one of the ways we can better ensure the safety of the public, our customers, and our employees.

SCE always wants our customers and employees to be prepared in case of an outage or emergency. Preparing for an outage is easier than you think. Stocking up on a few supplies and planning ahead can help you stay safe and comfortable. For more information on how to stay prepared, please visit: <https://on.sce.com/3gUBcFU>

Learn more about Public Safety Power Shutoffs, the conditions we monitor for and how we approach reenergization efforts [here](#).

BRC Supports Student Nurses With PPE



When the Program Director for the College of Nursing Undergraduates at California Baptist University College of Nursing contacted BRC with an urgent need for Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), BRC's Community Outreach Coordinator, Norma Spencer, sprang into immediate action. As shared with BRC, the university's faculty and students were having difficulty acquiring PPE yet due to safety concerns were mandated to wear cloth masks and face shields on campus. As nursing faculty with students going to various places, both were in need of KN95 protection masks, hand sanitizer, and face shields.

BRC answered the university's request providing 1,300 Face Masks (300 each KN95 & 1,000 White reusable Cloth); 2 gallons of hand sanitizer, 600 disposable gloves. In addition, the university also received 200 black reusable cloth face masks and 20 of our Grab and Go bags for her staff, which contained more face masks,

hand sanitizer, gloves, a document holder, Disaster Ready Guide with emergency preparedness content on responding to earthquakes, fire, and flood: and resources from providers including So. California Edison, BRC, Earthquake Country Alliance and Listos California for All.

BRC provides face masks, hand sanitizers and other emergency preparedness resources. This is just one of many examples of vital programs and collaborations BRC provides by helping communities be better prepared in the midst of a worldwide pandemic and other unpredictable events like earthquakes and fires. If your organization, house of worship or business is in need of PPE, contact [Community Outreach Coordinator, Norma Spencer](#).



Let BRC Help You With Your New Year's Safety Resolution!

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!](#)

Contact us at info@brcus.org if you want help selecting the perfect gift for your loved ones.



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the holiday cheer**
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