



What Matters Most

While many of us are focused on the hustle and bustle of the holidays, let us remember that Christ is our true reason for celebrating Christmas. And while each of us has cultural, religious, or familial traditions, Christmas is a time when we turn our attention to what matters most – **being present and sharing time with those we love.**



During this special time let us **remember to count our blessings.** Instead of thinking of what we want, let us remember the abundance of all that we have and express our most sincere gratitude as there are those who live without, in scarcity. There are people in our own neighborhoods that are suffering from food insecurity wondering where their next meal will come from and can only dream of a holiday feast. Or hard-working people who are trying to stretch their dollars just to cover the increasing costs of gas necessary to get them to and from the jobs they and their families depend on.

We must remember that as much as we embrace the joy and warmth of the holidays, for some *this can be a time filled with sadness and loneliness.* Some find themselves alone without the love and comfort of those who may have passed away this year, are distant, or perhaps are continuing to take COVID precautions. Regardless of the reason, consider opening your heart and home by inviting someone who is alone. Make plans for someone who may be alone to join you and share your celebrations or at the very least tell them they matter to you, you love them, and that their presence is the greatest gift of *all.*

And do not forget to be prepared for a disaster. Give a gift of emergency preparedness to those you love. Purchase an emergency supply or two for under the tree or as a stocking stuffer. To show our appreciation to you BRC is providing a discount on emergency supplies during the month of December. Use the code: **Holiday10** at check out and receive a 10% discount on all purchases in our Prep Supplies online store. Shop now at www.brcus.org!

The Board, staff, volunteers, and families of Building Resilient Communities would like to express our thanks!

Thank you for reading our newsletters and sharing the information with others. Thank you to all of our partner agencies who tirelessly work alongside us at the vaccine clinics, community outreach events, virtual town halls, and the never-ending Zoom meetings. Most importantly, we thank you for getting and staying prepared for all types of disasters.

This holiday season perhaps the greatest gift we can give each other is kindness, caring, and compassion. God bless and keep you during this holiday season! Debra



Top Tips for a Safe Holiday!

Cooking Safely

- Keep an eye on food when cooking.

Holiday Travel

- Be weather-wise, know the weather forecast during your travel
- Learn the weather/climate risks for the area you are traveling to and know what to do before, during, and after such events.

Stay off the road during and after a winter storm.

- During the winter keep the proper emergency winter road tools in the trunk of your automobile such as an ice scraper, shovel, gloves, blanket, emergency flares or reflectors, rock salt, first aid kit, extra windshield washer, etc. Women don't forget a pair of flat shoes.

Holiday Decorating

- Turn off holiday lights at night or when you leave the house.
- Keep candles away from flammable materials.
- Keep your Christmas Tree watered, don't let your holiday tree dry out.

Holiday Shopping

- Shop securely online over the holidays.
- Make a communications plan with your family and friends while you're together during the holidays.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Holiday Safety

Get Vaccinated

Safety Fair

Vaccination Update

SCE PSPS Tips

Meet BRC Board Member

RESOURCES

BRC Website
www.BRCUS.org

Vaccinations
MyTurn.ca.gov

SCE PSPS ALERTS
www.SCE.com/pspsalerts

Building Resilient Communities

(909) 283-6872
Info@brcus.org

Building Resilient Communities is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that relies on the support of its donors to provide service to the community. Federal Tax ID: 46-2844712

Don't Let Your Guard Down!

With the holiday season here, many people are left wondering what festivities will look like in the second year of the coronavirus pandemic.

Similar to 2020, celebrations like Hanukkah, Kwanza, and Christmas are expected to look still a bit different than normal. While friends and family will still be able to gather, health professionals say extra COVID-19 safety precautions will need to be followed especially because many generations tend to gather to celebrate.

BRC reminds you that the best way to minimize COVID-19 risk and keep your family and friends safer is to **get vaccinated**.



The **Center for Disease Control** provides some additional methods to safely enjoy the festivities:

1. The CDC recommends mask-wearing over both the nose and mouth in public indoor settings for the unvaccinated, those who are fully vaccinated are advised to still wear a well-fitted mask in public indoor settings in communities with substantial to high transmission.
2. Americans are instructed to avoid crowded or poorly ventilated spaces. Go outside.
3. Do not host or attend a gathering if they feel ill or have symptoms of COVID-19.
4. Those experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, or who have had close contact with someone who is infected, should get tested.
5. Although the number of persons with COVID-19 infections has been down since the beginning of the pandemic, the CDC recommends that people who are not yet fully vaccinated do not travel.

Mission

Our mission is to provide disaster preparedness training and education programs to families, youth, businesses, community and faith-based organizations across southern California.

Leadership

Debra J. Williams
Founder & Executive
Officer

Board of Directors

John Epps, President

Michele Myers-Heard ,
Vice President

Russell J. Williams,
Treasurer

Vincent McCoy, Secretary

Debra J. Williams

Holiday Health & Safety Fair in Blythe

Join us on **Saturday, December 18, 2021**, for the Blythe Holiday Health and Safety Fair to be held in **Todd Park, 370 N. Broadway, Blythe, CA from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm.**

BRC recognizes that underlying health conditions cause people to be more vulnerable in times of disaster. Essential to BRC's mission is to partner with other organizations to serve the community through hosting a series of educational health and safety fairs.

BRC's purpose for this festive event is to spread holiday cheer in the community while educating attendees on the importance of taking care of their health and preparing for all types of disasters.

There will be lots of music, food, and prizes for all who attend! Agencies will provide interactive learning activities, screenings, resources, tools, demonstrations and more. Come meet partners of health and safety agencies/departments and get vaccinated or tested for COVID-19.



Holiday 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.**

California Vaccination Update

COVID-19 is caused by tiny airborne germs that remain in the air when someone breathes, talks, sings, coughs, or sneezes. The most important measure to protect yourself, your family, and your community as you celebrate the holiday season is to get vaccinated including a booster shot if you are eligible.

Vaccines are the best way to end the pandemic and they prevent COVID-19 illness, hospitalization, and death. They are safe, effective, and free. Learn more about COVID-19 vaccines and visit **MyTurn.ca.gov to get vaccinated. For the latest updates go to: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Vaccine-Booster-QA.aspx>**

As of November 19th, the California Department of Public Health reminds of the following updated guidelines regarding COVID-19 vaccines:

Who is eligible for booster vaccinations?

A Pfizer or Moderna booster dose is recommended if you received your second dose at least six months ago, and are age 18 or older

A Johnson & Johnson booster dose is recommended if you:

Received your first dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at least 2 months ago, and are eighteen or older



NEW PSPS ADDRESS ALERTS!

You can now sign up for PSPS alerts for a specific address, even if you are not the SCE account holder. This is ideal for residential and commercial tenants who do not maintain their own SCE service accounts, for caregivers, and for frequent travelers or service providers.

If you already receive PSPS notifications and alerts for the address on your service account, you do not have to do anything. You will continue to get customer alerts.

Signing up for PSPS Address Alerts is easy. Visit www.sce.com/pspсалerts to sign up or call SCE at **1-800-655-4555** to speak to a customer service representative.

NEW PSPS WEATHER PLANNING TOOLS!

PLAN AHEAD

FIVE DAY OUTLOOK

Visit our new weather forecast page to see if PSPS weather is forecast in your county.

sce.com/pspsweather



BE AWARE

CURRENT PSPS EVENTS & OTHER OUTAGES

Our new address look-up and map tool can show you if your address is impacted by a current or upcoming PSPS event (usually within three days) or other type of outage. For maps and information, visit sce.com/psps

Power Outages

Search by address (optional) or ZIP

Major Outages
SCE is currently affected by significant power outages. Visit the [Major Outages](#) page for more details.

Current Outages
2 Outages (0 Customers impacted)

Scheduled Outages
No outages scheduled for today.

Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS)
Search for an address to see specific PSPS details or see county-level details below.

Not Seeing Your Outage?
See Issues: 01/03/2021 - 03/16/2021 [Report](#)

Outage Alerts
Stay informed about upcoming repair and planned maintenance outages. [Get Alerts](#)

8 GREAT REASONS TO GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE



- 1** The vaccine not only protects you, your family, your friends, and your community, it also protects those who can't get the vaccine because of their age or health conditions.
- 2** The vaccine works, greatly reducing your chances of contracting, getting hospitalized, and dying from COVID-19.
- 3** The vaccine is safe. You may have minor side effects, which are normal signs that your body is building protection.
- 4** Doctors trust the vaccine. The American Medical Association reports 96% of Doctors are fully vaccinated.
- 5** You can get other vaccines, like the flu shot, at the same time as your COVID-19 vaccine.
- 6** Getting vaccinated can help decrease the burden on hospitals, so you can get treated for non-COVID illnesses.
- 7** The vaccine is free, and no insurance is required.
- 8** Many schools, businesses, and employers require the vaccine.

HOW TO GET A COVID-19 VACCINE

Visit myturn.ca.gov to set up first, second or booster shot visits.

No internet access?
Call the COVID-19 Hotline
1-833-422-4255 or IEHP
Member Services at
1-800-440-IEHP (4347).
TTY users should call
1-800-718-4347.



IEHP complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. ATTENTION: If you speak a language other than English, language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call 1-800-440-4347 (TTY: 1-800-718-4347). IEHP cumple con las leyes federales de derechos civiles aplicables y no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, nacionalidad, edad, discapacidad o sexo. ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-800-440-4347 (TTY: 1-800-718-4347). IEHP 遵守適用的聯邦民權法律規定，不因種族、膚色、民族血統、年齡、殘障或性別而歧視任何人。注意：如果您使用繁體中文，您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 1-800-440-4347 (TTY: 1-800-718-4347)。IEHP tuân thủ các luật dân quyền hiện hành của Liên Bang và không phân biệt đối xử trên cơ sở chủng tộc, màu da, nguồn gốc quốc gia, tuổi tác, tình trạng khuyết tật hay giới tính. LƯU Ý: Nếu quý vị nói một thứ tiếng khác không phải là tiếng Anh, chúng tôi có sẵn dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí cho quý vị. Xin gọi số 1-800-440-4347 (TTY: 1-800-718-4347).

Meet BRC Board Member Michele Myers-Heard

When asked to be interviewed for this article Michele thought someone else who is “more interesting than a grandma ready to retire” should be the focus. What readers will discover is BRC already knows - that her answer speaks volumes to her kindheartedness.



There are those in this world that dedicate themselves to “walk their talk” every day. Michele is an authentic example of just this. Servant leadership calls upon us to step forward to help those in need. Her core values are reflected in her dedication to working from the heart and being an advocate for the church in all places including the workplace. Michele believes that the church is to be a leader in preparing others for a disaster and serve as a place of refuge when needed.

One insider tidbit Michele shares is that BRC does much more than provide awareness and preparation for the community, BRC’s educational program reaches those disadvantaged or marginalized communities that need help most including Native Americans and those communities with children.

“Most people live day to day and never once think about if a disaster happens. BRC wants to make sure people are not blindsided by what could devastate their lives. We cannot stop a disaster, but we can curve the devastation it causes.,” shares Michele, “Our (BRC) service to our communities is job one! It is what we do best and our passion!”

Michele, thank you for being such a strong supporter and advocate of BRC. Know that you are loved for the wonderful person you are!



Building Resilient Communities is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that relies on the support of its donors to provide service to the community. Federal Tax ID: 46-2844712