



BELVEDERE BLOCK CAPTAINS NEWSLETTER
BBC newsletter Sept 2019

Here we go again! After historic wildfires the past two years, we are now into the next fire season, with two recent large fires in northern California and a smaller one in northern Marin already.

There will be more. BELVEDERE IS NOT IMMUNE!

RESPONSIBILITIES: As a block captain you have specific responsibilities in our *neighbors helping neighbors'* effort. Let's review:

1. BEFORE a disaster: Visit your assigned residents to discuss the BBC program and familiarize yourself with any special needs that resident may have.
2. AFTER a disaster: Assure your house is in order, then get your radio and vest and visit your assigned homes. Note and report by radio to Belvedere Incident Command (BIC) any injuries, fires, unstable structures. If minor injury or small fire, deal with it. If large fire or major injury, call 911 if possible AND request assistance from BIC. **DO NOT** enter a structure that is on fire or unstable. After completing your survey contact BIC. You may be needed elsewhere.

CHECKLIST: Make sure you have done the following:

1. Review your block captain manual. If you don't have a manual, radio, or vest request them from city hall.
2. Sign up for AlertMarin and Nixle. We will use one or both to notify you in case of a disaster. You will need to enter your specific contact information. Both are **OPT-IN** programs. If you do not sign up, **you will not be notified.**
<https://www.marinsheriff.org/services/emergency-services/alert-marin>
<https://local.nixle.com/register/>
3. Make sure your radios are plugged in and charged. Practice with them.
4. Sign up for a Get Ready class...a one-hour class, which tells you how to shelter in place. Sign up for a First Aid for Disaster Response (FADR) class.... a four hour class that teaches you to apply tourniquets, splint fractures, transport victims, use an AED, chest compression CPR, and how to administer naloxone to reverse a narcotic overdose. This is especially valuable if you have no medical training. Call Laurie at (415) 789-2801 for more information.

BELVEDERE: The city is heavily invested in this effort and has done the following:

1. Provided radios, vests, admin assistance to schedule training and meetings.
2. Undergrounded utilities: Over the past decade we have undergrounded 90% of utilities in the community... far beyond what other communities have done.
3. Instituted a program to rehab many lanes throughout the island to assist in evacuation. Each Block Captain should know and have traversed at least two lanes closest to them.
4. First aid station: In a joint effort with the RUSD, the Del Mar gym is equipped with medical equipment to stabilize disaster victims if necessary. In addition, St. Stephens may serve a similar purpose if the island becomes isolated.
5. Belvedere emergency trailer: Also equipped with emergency medical equipment it gives us a mobile capability.
6. Early warning system: A series of five sirens throughout the peninsula can be utilized to alert the community to tune into the Belvedere emergency radio station, **840 AM** for instructions specific to our community.

7. EMS coordinator: Laurie Nilsen has been on board for several years. Stationed at the Tiburon Police Dep't she teaches Get Ready classes and generally oversees disaster preparedness on the peninsula.

WHAT'S NEW:

1. Collection points: A new concept throughout Marin involves designating specific location points in each community. Residents who cannot shelter in place for a variety of reasons would be directed to a specific collection point where emergency services would be available. We might direct Block Captains to report to these locations to assist after reviewing their block.
2. Vegetation Management: Due to the buildup of ignitable material throughout the county there is an ongoing effort to clean it up. Tiburon Fire has recently hired Vegetation Management expert Patrick Bignardi who has been assessing specific areas on the peninsula. His primary responsibility is publicly owned land, but he is available for advise on maintaining private land.
3. Evacuation plans: After unfortunate experiences with evacuation problems in the Santa Rosa fire (Tubbs) and Paradise fire (Campfire) there is intense discussion throughout the state and county on problems of evacuation. Please review:

Marin County Grand Jury Report 418/19 "Wildfire Preparedness"

<https://www.marincounty.org/-media/files/departments/gj/reports-responses/2018-19/wildfire-preparedness--a-new-approach.pdf?la=en>

Streetlight Data Inc. report highlights the traffic impacts during an emergency: <https://www.marini.com/2019/08/23/marin-communities-could-face-major-traffic-jams-during-an-emergency/>

Both articles point out the significant risks in Marin.

4. PSPS (Public Service Power Shutoffs) PG&E forced power outages will constitute significant problems especially if they go on for 5-7 days. Block Captains may be called upon to assist.
https://www.pge.com/en_US/safety/emergency-preparedness/natural-disaster/wildfires/public-safety-power-shutoff-faq.page
5. AFN (Access and Functional Needs) another issue receiving a great deal of attention is access and functional needs to individuals with special needs in the event of a disaster. Block Captains can be especially helpful if each of us is aware of individuals in our community who will need special attention.
6. Repeaters: We are aware that the Belvedere emergency radio, 840 am, is difficult to hear on the west side of the island. We are also aware that our walkie-talkies (Radios) do not always reach from the west side of the island to City Hall. We are reviewing repeaters and other technologies that may help solve these problems.

7. Marin County has agreed to fund a new position that will centralize all Get Ready and CERT programs to provide uniform content.
8. Training Video's! Your Incident Command Team is working to create online training videos for all of our Block Captains. The first one is now complete and aims to teach you about Radio Usage. Take a look and let us know what you think and give us ideas for future topics.
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iMBcGKhcZ1xq5luwHJegFVhngNuDtWOM/view?usp=sharing>

WELCOME:

Our new Chief of Police, Jason Wu, comes to Belvedere from San Francisco State University (SFSU) where he served as Chief of Police and Assistant Vice President, Division of Campus Safety, since 2016. Prior to that, Chief Wu had a long career in law enforcement, including service with the United States Park Police for over 25 years. Chief Wu was sworn in at the May 13, 2019, City Council meeting and is an active member of the Block Captains Committee. Welcome Jason.

Welcome three new Block Captains;

Larry Binkley, West Shore
Virginia Tusher, Britton
Sujata Pherwani, Britton

ANNUAL MEETING:

Thursday, January 16, 2020, 6:00 pm, Belvedere City Hall

CONTACT US: If you want to know more, please contact Tom Cromwell, 415-435-2069 or Jason Wu, 415-435-3266.

Thank you for being a Block Captain.