

PARADISE PARK MASONIC CLUB, INC.

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, SURVIVAL
and EVACUATION GUIDE
(SECOND EDITION)**

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A BIT ABOUT PARADISE PARK – ITS RISKS AND REWARDS

Those of us who own a home in Paradise Park are truly blessed, as we live in one of the most beautiful locations in the world. Our pristine forest, with a river running through it, is a place of beauty located within one of the world's most popular locations - - the Monterey Bay.

Yet the environmental features that make our community so beautiful are the same features that give rise to risks. Trees can burn, the river can flood, hillsides can slide, power can be disrupted by falling trees and limbs, emergency exit roads can become impassible, and, in short, our residents continually face the inherent risks of injury or isolation.

In many emergency situations there are public agencies that can come to our aid, such as the Sheriff's Department, Fire Department, ambulance services, the Red Cross, and other agencies, yet if a truly large scale forest fire, flood or earthquake takes place, the ability of those public agencies to come to our aid may be limited and we may find ourselves having to rely on our own resourcefulness to protect our lives and property. That being the case, we each need to be self-sufficient in order to protect ourselves in the event of a disaster.

This emergency survival and evacuation guide has been prepared for you by the PPMC CERT volunteers in Paradise Park to help you to protect yourself in case of an emergency.

VIEWING RISKS FROM A BROAD PERSPECTIVE -

In addition to the risks and hazards related to our immediate neighborhood, there are world-wide, nation-wide, and community-wide risks for which we need to be prepared. Terrorist actions are a threat to be considered, as we sadly learn in daily news reports that it isn't just New York or Paris that are being targeted. We live within the nuclear fallout area if terrorists select the nearby Silicon Valley in their relentless effort to tear apart our American social system. Also, select targeting of transportation systems in the Bay Area, such as the destruction of bridges and highways, could find us isolated from the outside world. The potential of a major terrorist event gives us good reason to be prepared and to be self-sufficient for some period of time.

VIEWING RISKS FROM A LOCAL PERSPECTIVE -

On a more local level, we are only one gunshot away from civil insurrection breaking out on the streets of Santa Cruz, in the same way that it has broken out in other seemingly peaceful communities throughout our Nation. We are particularly susceptible to the effects of insurrection in Santa Cruz, as our public officials, the college administration, and an element within the college population have a reputation for providing shelter to some very "strange" people. An event of local civil disobedience could find Paradise Park isolated from Santa Cruz, with our residents choosing to remain in their homes rather than to go into, or pass through the more populated areas. This possible isolation provides us with all the more reason to be prepared and to be self-sufficient for some period of time.

THE FOCUS OF THIS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

The focus of this manual is to show our Paradise Park members how they can prepare themselves to survive in an emergency. The subjects covered range from simply sheltering-in-place to making an immediate evacuation.

CREATE YOUR EMERGENCY SURVIVAL KIT – The right time to assemble everything you need is a time well in advance of an emergency taking place. If you are faced with immediate evacuation then it may be too late to gather what you need from your home, or to shop around and purchase what you need.

WATER - It is recommended that (at a minimum) you have at least one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation. A much safer supply would be enough for one month.

One good suggestion is to buy (one or more) “flats” of bottled water from a store such as Costco, and while using it for your daily personal drinking, buy another flat when the first one is half consumed. Repeating that process from time to time will assure you of available drinking water. Water containers need to be replaced periodically, and a one year shelf life is a reasonable guide to follow.

Another suggestion is to save water in one gallon sized milk containers. Wash them thoroughly and fill them with tap water. These can be stored as non-potable water to use for personal hygiene, flushing toilets and other purposes.

If you find that your stored gallon jugs of water need to be consumed during an emergency then they can be sanitized with a few drops of chlorine. The recommended guide is 16 drops of regular household bleach per gallon of water. After treating the water shake the container and then let it sit for at least an hour for treatment to take place. (Use only straight bleach products and avoid those that have an additive that makes them smell better.)

Those who purchased or constructed rain barrels during the height of the drought will now find that they have a ready supply of water with which to flush toilets, leaving their other stored water for drinking and cooking.

FOOD - It is recommended that you always have at least a seven-day supply of non-perishable food on hand. A much safer supply would be enough for one month. This food should be rotated regularly, and a good way to do that is to consume some of your reserves during your daily eating routine, and then keep replacing your supply as you go along. When you buy your staple foods then follow the practice of putting your most recently purchased items to the back of your shelf and make use of the front-most items for your daily needs.

LIGHT - You need to arrange for an emergency light source. Good quality flashlights or lanterns with a supply of batteries would be appropriate. Do not just rely on the type of emergency light that you plug into a house electrical outlet as they discharge quickly and, if the power is off, you’ll have no way to recharge them in order to keep using them.

There are products on the market that are operated by a hand crank and can provide both light and radio. Some of the devices are pre-tuned to a NOAA Weather Radio station.

SHELTER - A good suggestion for your emergency kit is a supply of survival blankets and rain ponchos. Both of those items can be inexpensively purchased, and they fold up into a very compact size. The survival blanket is merely a plastic sheet with reflective material on one side that you can wrap around yourself to retain your body heat.

One FEMA recommendation (related to sheltering-in-place) is that you have a supply of plastic sheeting and duct tape to cover windows and doors to protect the air within your home from being infiltrated by pollutants, as hazardous materials can become airborne. They also suggest having a supply of face masks to keep pollutants out of your lungs.

CLOTHING - A hat of some type is a necessity, as are sturdy shoes, a long sleeved shirt and a warm wrap of some type. If you've been thinking of giving some of your older clothes to a charity, instead set aside one full set for your personal survival gear.

FIRST AID - Every home should already have a first aid kit, for routine use as well as for use in a major catastrophe. At a minimum its contents should include a variety of sizes of bandages; gauze squares with tape; scissors; an antiseptic; and, pain pills. A more complete kit might also include such things as an Ace bandage; water sterilizing material; a whistle to signal for help; dust masks to filter contaminated air; and, a sewing kit of needle and thread. Also, don't forget a few days supply of any critical medications and prescriptions such as

heart meds, diabetic supplies, etc. To preserve the useful life of the medications they should be used as needed from your emergency supply and then routinely replaced. A spare set of eye glasses might be helpful, and the most recently replaced prescription eye glasses would get you through an emergency.

TOOLS - One of the handiest tools would be a Swiss Pocket Knife, or similar device, that has an assortment of blades, screwdrivers, scissors, punch, saw, etc. Having a wrench or tool to turn off your utilities would be helpful. A mechanical can opener would be a necessity to make use of your canned goods. One special tool would be a crow bar that you can store under your bed, as it might be needed in order to escape after an earthquake if the building has shifted and the doors are jammed.

A CARRYING CASE - Imagine yourself during an emergency, perhaps on foot and trying to flee from a fire or flood, and trying to carry your emergency survival gear in your hands, and you'll see why you should plan ahead and have some type of carrying case into which you would put your most important items. My suggestion is a "Back-Pack" similar to the type that students use to carry their books back and forth from school. Such a case, with straps over both shoulders, would leave your hands free to allow you to extricate yourself from whatever difficulties you may encounter. And, it needn't be an expensive case, but just serviceable, as you may never have to use it, and if you do have to use it then most likely it would only have to hold up on one occasion. Having carrying cases of two types would be important, with the most critical being stored in your back pack. Larger items could be stored in an old suit case which you can quickly retrieve and put in your

car while making your escape from danger. If you don't have such an older suit case then one can be acquired inexpensively at a thrift store.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS: There are many items that might seem important to you, such as moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation, infant formula and diapers, pet food and extra water for your pet, important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container. Having cash or traveler's checks and change would be important, and emergency reference material such as a first aid book or information from www.ready.gov. If you are evacuating by car, rather than on foot, then you have room to bring along sleeping bags or warm blankets for each person. Consider also taking a fire extinguisher, matches in a waterproof container, feminine supplies and personal hygiene items. Also handy would be mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels, paper and pencil, books, games, puzzles or other activities for children.

ESTABLISHING A POINT OF CONTACT OUTSIDE OF THE IMMEDIATE AREA:

One vital necessity is establishing an emergency contact outside of Paradise Park. The duty of your "Shelter Friend" could be as minor as being the point of contact with whom your family members and friends could communicate to let each other know what their situation is and where they can be contacted. The need for such a contact becomes obvious when you recognize that local telephone service may be interrupted

and your family members won't be able to know the whereabouts of each other. In a more extreme example the duty of your Shelter Friend would be to provide shelter for you and your family members if you should need to evacuate from Paradise Park and not remain in the area close to your home. This emergency contact arrangement could be mutually beneficial as you could offer to shelter your friend if they should ever find themselves in need of a point of contact or a place for them to be sheltered.

Establishing a local meeting point is also necessary. If you and your family are outside of the Park and unable to get back into the Park, and if you aren't able to communicate with each other by phone, you should have a local meeting point established. It could be a nearby school or perhaps a local Masonic Lodge.

LIVING THROUGH AN EARTHQUAKE EVENT:

As you no doubt learned when you were in school, the first thing to do is to Duck and Cover. Prior recommendations involved standing under a doorway, but more recent research finds that your safest location is huddled up against an interior wall, down on your knees, with your head bent forward and your fingers interlaced across the back of your neck. If you have time to do so, then select your position away from things that will fall or collapse such as book cases, and away from windows that can easily break.

When you feel it is safe to move around then check yourself for any obvious injuries that need to be attended to, and then start searching for anyone else in the same house. Render whatever first aid might be necessary.

Assess the situation and set your priorities, such as “Life First, Property Second”. When you have rendered whatever first aid is needed, then start protecting your property. Check for any leaking water, leaking propane, or electrical sparking. If necessary then shut off the water, or the propane, or shut off the electricity at the breaker panels. Be aware that you may need these services for your comfort, or for your survival, so only shut them off if you have cause to do so. If you need to shut off your propane then be aware that you won’t be able to turn it back on again until trained personnel are available to come out and check the pipes and relight the pilots, and in a major emergency situation they may not be able to respond for a number of days.

Next, begin surveying your neighborhood to see if any of your friends and neighbors are in need of first aid, or are in need of being rescued.

Next, assess the situation in your neighborhood. Were fires caused by downed power lines? If you become aware of a serious situation then communicate with the proper authorities, as you may be the first one, or the only one, who knows of the situation. If electrical wires are down on the roadway, then avoid them. If caution tape is available then place it around the area to keep others away. Don’t hesitate to call 911 to report emergencies, and, after having done so then contact the PPMC Manager so he can help react to the situation.

PREPARING IN ADVANCE FOR THE EFFECT OF AN EARTHQUAKE:

The normal cause of damage during an earthquake is things falling – not just falling on the floor but perhaps falling on people. Here are a few things you can do:

Cabinets should be secured by latches, not just knobs. During an earthquake the contents of the cabinets can go flying; and, if they aren’t already on the floor they might get there the first time you open that cabinet door.

The right place for heavy items is at the lower shelves of a cabinet, not the upper shelves, so they can do less harm if the earthquake shakes items off the shelf.

Book cases, grandfather clocks, and other tall items of furniture should be anchored to the wall to prevent them from tipping over. The best way is to screw an “eye” into a stud behind the wall, and similar eyes into the back of the bookcase; and then use heavy wire to secure one to the other.

Have a contractor inspect your home to see if it can be retrofitted to remain on its foundation in the event of an earthquake. Wooden framing should be bolted to the foundation, and raised foundation walls should be cross-braced to provide support. Sheer walls can be added to provide needed additional support. Water heaters need to be strapped to the wall.

WHAT TO DO TO PREPARE IN ADVANCE FOR A FLOOD:

History will have taught you whether your personal home in Paradise Park is subject to routine flooding.

If you are subject to flooding then the time to acquire and fill sand bags is a time far in advance of flooding taking place. You should fill as many sandbags as you think you'll need, stack them, and then cover them with a tarp. The reason for covering them is the plastic or burlap material that is used for sand bags will deteriorate if left out in the sun, and when they are sun-rotted they will break up when you try to pick them up and put them where needed.

In some instances the creation of wooden flood barriers may offer you some protection. Such barriers, when installed together with sand bags and tarps, can help prevent water from entering through doors, foundation vents, windows, or other points of access.

If the lower levels of your home have a history of being flooded, then consider building cabinets and shelves well above floor level such that any water entering your home won't damage your personal property. Another preventative measure would be to install pulleys and cables in the ceilings of your lower floors such that large items that won't fit into cabinets can be hoisted above expected flood levels.

If you have a solid foundation wall made of concrete blocks or poured cement, then you should consider periodically painting a coat of water sealant on the foundation to keep water from seeping through joints and cracks and into your home.

WHAT TO DO IF FLOODING IS IMMINENT

The first step is to assess the nature of the flood. There are three major scenarios to understand.

- 1.) If word is received that **Newell Creek Dam has ruptured** – (also known as Loch Lomond) then flooding will be imminent. Studies show that if the dam should break that flood waters from the dam will reach PPMC within 18 to 20 minutes. No one knows what the depth of water will be when it reaches our area. It could be anywhere from a few inches deep to many feet deep. The height and force of the water from the dam will depend upon whether the San Lorenzo River is very low and can contain the onslaught within its banks, or whether the river is already swollen, as it would be if the dam breaks during a time of heavy winter rains. This will be a short term event with the water rising rapidly, and draining off rather quickly. It may be so small as to be a non-event, or it could be catastrophic, but, not knowing which it will be, you must plan for the worst case and be glad if it is the best case.

Immediately depart – grab your evacuation gear on your way out, lock your doors and get to higher ground immediately.

Ocean Street Extension is **not** a safe retreat direction as it follows the course of the river at about the same elevation as PPMC, and would similarly be flooded.

Highway #9 towards Santa Cruz is **not** a safe retreat direction as you would have to travel some distance before you could reach higher ground at Mission Hill or in the Branciforte area. And, gridlock traffic could be anticipated with others trying to flee in the same directions.

Northbound Highway #9 is the quickest direction to get to higher ground if the dam should break. Find a wide spot midway between Santa Cruz and Felton, pull off, and remain there. Be aware that you may be cut off and have to remain at your chosen location for a time as Felton is likely to be inundated, and portions of downtown Santa Cruz will be flooded. You may have to wait for flooding from the dam to diminish before making your next move.

Keep your portable radio or car radio turned on and remain at that higher elevation until you hear that it is safe to return. Local radio is at 1080 on the AM dial.

- 2.) If you learn that flooding is imminent **from rising storm waters on the San Lorenzo River** then there are three general scenarios to consider.

2.a.) If your home normally does not flood, then work within the community to help those whose homes are expected to flood. Alert them in case they are unaware of the impending flood. Offer

to help them with sand bags and storm barriers. If you have space in your home, offer to provide them with the shelter they'll need if their home becomes uninhabitable.

2.b.) If your home normally experiences minor flooding, then get busy putting out your sand bags and install your storm barriers. And don't hesitate to call on your friends to help you with sand-bagging. PPMC has a long history of neighbors helping neighbors in time of need. After having prepared your home as best you can, then search around for neighbors who will need your assistance.

2.c.) If your home normally experiences major flooding then put up whatever defense materials you have, lock your doors, put your evacuation gear into your car, and then move yourself and your car to a higher elevation within the Park. Park in such a way that your car won't be in the way of emergency vehicles coming into PPMC. Be constantly aware of what is happening around you and be prepared to evacuate further from the Park if necessary.

- 3.) If you learn that flooding is imminent **resulting from a tsunami**, then you have a different set of circumstances to deal with.

The magnitude of the event may range from a miniscule non-event to an event of life threatening and earth-changing proportions. Be aware that a tsunami occasioned by a mild to moderate earthquake will be measured in inches and feet, and will usually only impact low lying coastal areas. But an earthquake of great magnitude, at a shallow depth, located relatively close to our coast, can cause a tsunami several hundred feet in height, and travel several miles inland, and that would be high enough to reach PPMC. In the worst case a tsunami occasioned by an asteroid or comet impact can cause a water surge a mile or two in height and will travel at a speed of hundreds of miles per hour. With our current scientific knowledge being greatly advanced, such a rare occurrence as an asteroid impact might become known weeks or months in advance, in which case you would have a greater opportunity to assess your risk and act accordingly.

Most tsunami events take place with little (if any) warning, and if you survive a tsunami of major proportions it may be because you were lucky enough to hear about it and you then took emergency steps to protect yourself. One warning sign that is sometimes noted (in certain types of tsunamis) is that the tide may run out suddenly, leaving the normal coast line exposed, and this is known as a “trough”. If it is suddenly noted that boats in a harbor that are normal afloat are sitting on

the sandy bottom, then make a hurried retreat as the “trough” will be followed by a “run-up”, meaning that the tide will suddenly come racing back in, and the height of the water, and the force of its arrival could be extreme.

Your escape to higher ground will be the same as was described in section #1.), so you should seek higher ground. But, in this case don’t stop short of going to Felton or up the San Lorenzo Valley, as the tsunami surge will be coming inward from the ocean rather than outward from the dam.

In any of those three flood scenarios move your evacuation kit to your car at the first sign that flooding is likely. Don’t assume that you can always go back to get your evacuation materials after the flooding subsides as it may get worse, your home could be broken up or become uninhabitable, or the access roads that would enable you to return home may be impassable.

PREPARE IN ADVANCE FOR A WILDFIRE

It has often been said that “redwood trees don’t burn”. Right? Wrong? The truth of the matter is that redwood trees do burn, but it is just the result of their having a thick layer of insulating bark that allows redwood trees to withstand the effect of having burned and continue to live on long after the fire has ravaged their forest. So, the potential of experiencing a wildfire in our redwood forested park is a reality and we need to protect ourselves against such a fire taking place, suppress it if it takes

place, and protect our lives if we find we are in the path of an oncoming fire.

One highly recommended preventative technique is to create a defensible area around your home. The usual recommended distance of combustible materials away from a home is hard to achieve in a community such as ours, where our homes are so close to each other, and where trees are so thick that they can't realistically be removed. Yet we can still safeguard ourselves by removing combustible materials, so far as we can do so, keeping it as far away as possible from our home and away from the base of trees. Fires can "ladder" themselves into a major fire if a small fire spreads into surrounding taller bushes and then upwards into trees.

Dead trees should be promptly removed as they pose one of the greatest threats. In particular, Bay Trees are numerous in PPMC and when dead they ignite very readily.

Our greatest defense against wildfire is our own PPMC Fire Brigade. With trained volunteers and superior equipment being located in our own firehouse, we have the ability to suppress or control the spread of a wild fire long before the city fire department can get their equipment to our Park.

So, what do you do if you become aware of a wildfire? First, sound the alarm by calling 911, then alerting Park management, and if practical, use your own garden hoses to try to contain the fire until help arrives. On the other hand, if you assess the situation as being one in which you and your neighbors are in immediate danger, then grab your evacuation kit and flee to safety.

REACTING TO A LANDSLIDE EVENT

PPMC has a history of landslides having taken place, with homes being destroyed and lives having been in danger. One area of the Park in particular has drawn the attention of local authorities and they have placed restrictions against winter occupancy of certain homes.

Unlike a flood in which the water level gradually rises, it is rare that you'll be able to see the land slowly starting to slide, as they usually just happen catastrophically without any particular warning. On rare occasions one might notice that the ground at the base of a hill has developed a bump, indicating that the hillside is "slumping" and if such an early warning is noticed then you need to immediately evacuate that area and the Park management should be immediately notified.

Other than such a rare notice, (of a hillside slumping), all that can normally be done by our members is to avoid the area during times of their greatest risk (winter rains) and then react appropriately if a slide does take place.

The first need, in the case of a slide, is to assess the situation. Make inquiries of the neighbors as to whether any damaged homes were known to be vacant or occupied. If they were vacant, then don't place yourself in danger by going near the area, just wait for the professionals to arrive to handle the situation. On the other hand, if it is known that buildings were occupied, and that residents are likely to be trapped inside, then you need to make a decision as to whether you are going to place yourself in harm's way to try and effect an immediate

rescue. If professional disaster personnel are on the way, then you should avoid the area and let them effect a rescue. On the other hand, if the Park is isolated when the event occurs, then you'll need to make a decision as to whether you are prepared to risk your own life to save the life of another. If you do decide to take that risk, then remain highly alert as to what is going on around you, and if there is any indication of rocks or debris heading down the path of the slide, then step sideways out of the path of the slide. A comparison might be an oncoming train - - you might be able to step sideways out of its path, but you sure can't outrun it.

WHAT TO DO IF DISASTER STRIKES WHILE YOU ARE AWAY FROM HOME

It's rare that someone is at home 24 hours a day, 7 days out of each week, as there are times when we are shopping, visiting friends, seeing a movie, or are out of town for a few days or more. Your evacuation kit is at home, your emergency food supply is at home, and your medicines and first aid supplies are at home. It is all right there, waiting for your return, but in some cases you won't be able to immediately return to retrieve it.

So, what do you do when the forest fire is between you and your home, or an earthquake has taken out some bridges and overpasses between you and your home?

First, don't panic, take a step back and **assess the situation**. Start searching for information to guide you in your decision as to how you are going to react to the emergency. Tune your car radio to local station KSCO at 1080 on the AM dial, and listen for news. If you have access to the internet by computer or

smart phone then connect to the local TV station KSBW at www.ksbw.com , or, KION at www.KIONrightnow.com, and search for news. If it is simply a tree that is down across a roadway, or there is a blockage on a major highway then you can use your cell phone and dial 511 for Bay Area Traffic Report.

If traffic on Highway #9 is temporarily obstructed, then you may be able to get back into the Park by way of Ocean Street Extension. Even if you don't have a "clicker" to open the back gate please be assured that in emergency situations our PPMC CERT team opens and disables the gate so it will remain open. Also, if the electric power is down then the back gate opens, and remains open, automatically.

But, suppose the emergency is more serious, and of a longer duration, than just a road obstruction. Then it is time to call on your out-of-town friend who has agreed to shelter you if you should ever have to be evacuated. Their phone number should be in your wallet or purse, and if it isn't, then now is a good time to put it there, before a disaster strikes.

You are also going to want to let your family and friends know that you are OK, so try to contact them by using your cell phone. If you are not OK then family and friends may be your first line of defense in getting someone to come to your aid. You should recognize that when the major disaster strikes that the police, fire, ambulances and other emergency agencies will be stretched to the limit and may not be immediately available to you.

In the case of an earthquake or fire your regular home phone service may be disrupted, but more likely than not the cell

service will still be available. If you can't reach family and friends then let your shelter friend know that your family will be contacting them to find out where you are. So leave a detailed message for your shelter friend to relay if needed. And, if the situation requires you to evacuate, let your shelter friend know you are headed their way, what challenges you face, and what route you are taking.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU NEED TO SHELTER-IN-PLACE IN THE PARK:

Your primary source of shelter will be **your own home**, as you are likely to have whatever you may need in order to wait-out the disaster. This is particularly true if you have created an emergency kit and a supply of food and water.

If your source of heat is propane, and if your propane didn't need to be shut off due to earthquake damage, then you'll still have warmth in your home, and a source of heat for cooking. Be sure you have matches stored in a waterproof container as electronic ignition won't light your range burners if the electricity is off.

Also, if the electricity is off, the doors of your refrigerator and freezer should be opened only when necessary, since the already-cold refrigerators will remain cold for quite some time.

In case the electrical service has been interrupted, then you can make use of your battery operated flash lights and/or lanterns.

If water service has been disrupted, then go outside and turn off the main water valve to guard against contaminated water entering your water pipes when service comes back on again.

About 30 to 50 gallons of available water can be found in your water heater by turning off the inflow valve, opening a hot water faucet within the home to allow air to enter the tank, and then drain the water you need by opening the drain valve at the bottom of the tank. Another good source of clean water is the water storage tank on the back of your toilet, as that tank is isolated from the toilet bowl; but, if you are squeamish about using that water for drinking or cooking then just use it for hand washing. Then, of course, you have your emergency supply of water as described in the Survival Kit instructions.

Another source of shelter within the Park is our Social Hall. Certain disaster preparedness plans are already in place within PPMC. For example, if there is a power outage lasting more than just a few hours, then the Social Hall is opened as a shelter. The Social Hall is serviced by propane for heat and cooking; it is powered by a standby generator for lighting and electrical needs; it is serviced by a water storage tank on the hillside above the hall; and, it has internet and phone service available. Although a supply of emergency food is not maintained, there is a history of food being brought into the hall by members to help sustain our members.

EVACUATION FROM THE PARK - WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE TO LEAVE PPMC AND ALL OF THE NORMAL ROUTES ARE BLOCKED

One of the risks inherent in living in PPMC is the possibility that you might become isolated. It is a genuine risk. There was a time, not too many years back when we were isolated for a few hours by a tree being down across Highway #9 and Ocean Street Extension was blocked at the same time. It could

happen again, and the disruption could last for a longer time – perhaps even days.

In some cases sheltering-in-place might be your best answer. Just wait it out. But if there is a fire or flood involved, then you may find that you'll need to use whatever escape route is available.

If our two roadway exits are blocked to traffic by auto (Highway #9 and Ocean Street Extension), that doesn't necessarily mean that they would be blocked to foot traffic. And, escaping from the Park on foot by one of those two routes might be better solutions than trying to escape by walking out on one of the old abandoned roadways.

In order to exit the Park on foot by way of Ocean Street Extension you'll need to get through the locked back gate. The "man-gate" can be opened from the inside, but re-entry into the Park (through the man-gate) requires a key-pad code, and that code is currently 53214. You may find the "vehicle-gate" already open since in an emergency a member of the CERT will open the gate and leave it open, or if the power is off then the gate will open automatically, but if the power is still on and that gate hasn't been opened, then there is still a way to open the gate. Near the hinge end of the gate you'll find an electrical box containing a light-switch type of device which, when flipped, will turn the power off and cause the gate to open. If you have to open the gate in that way then after flipping the switch you need to stand back as the gate mechanism will retract towards you and could injure you.

But, if our two normal roadways are blocked, then three routes immediately come to mind: 1.) King Solomon Road, 2.)

Shrine Road, and 3.) climbing the terrain behind the social hall to reach Highway #9 near the railroad trestle.

If all else fails, and you are unable to escape by travelling uphill; and, if a fire is licking at your heels, you'll need to do whatever is necessary to escape the flames. One last resort would be to grab two canes, or two sturdy sticks, put on a pair of soft soled shoes, and make your way up or down the river far enough that you are out of the path of the fire. (The sticks or canes will aid you in keeping your balance during your river walk.) Then, when it seems safe to do so, leave the river bed and climb back up to the roadway and make your way towards Santa Cruz or towards Felton, depending upon the path of the fire. The other last-resort scenario, if you are totally surrounded by fire, would be to grab your emergency blanket (the one with a reflective side), enter the river, throw the blanket over you to trap breathable air, and then remain in place (semi-submerged) until the force of the fire passes over you.

If the need to evacuate the Park is due to flooding rather than a fire, and if you are blocked from the normal exit routes, there are a few points of high ground within PPMC where you may be able to get above the water level. One example is the hill in Section #4 called Flagstaff Hill, which offers a combination of steps and pathways to get to the top. Access is gained by a staircase located between the Sharon Simas home and the Karl Raddik home on Keystone. Another access point to Flagstaff Hill is a pathway across the street from the Todd Williams home on St. Augustine. Still another high point in Section #4 can be reached by going up Shrine Way to the fish tank, or even higher on that same roadway that leads to the Griff

Nelson home. Other high elevation points within the Park, at the rear of Section #1, can be reached by going up King Solomon, or Scottish Rite roads. Another relatively high point is the Social Hall.

PARK EVACUATION MAP

It is planned that a map of PPMC will be created which has the various evacuation roads, trails, and pathways marked on it. When it is completed then you may pick up a copy at the office.

BECOMING PART OF THE SOLUTION – VOLUNTEER FOR THE PPMC CERT

PPMC has developed their own Emergency Response Team (CERT) to provide “First Responder” services to all of the members of the Park. The CERT volunteers have received CERT training from the local authorities; have been trained in performing CPR and using oxygen and AED equipment, and some of the volunteers have completed First Aid training. The team members have pagers that alert them when a 911 emergency takes place in the Park, and have radio equipment that will allow the team members to coordinate with each other during an emergency.

The **PPMC CERT** is divided into groups that perform various functions:

The **Medical Team** responds to incidents involving injury, accident or illness, and performs first aid until the local ambulance can arrive on scene. History shows that lives of PPMC members have been saved by CERT members getting promptly to a scene and performing CPR, and those with

critical injuries have received faster first aid treatment at the hands of CERT members. The members of the Medical Team are referred to as our “Go-Baggers” as each one has a bag they can carry to the scene of an incident containing an AED, oxygen equipment, and first aid supplies.

The **Traffic Team** responds to incidents wherein fire trucks, ambulances or other emergency vehicles have to enter and leave the Park. With the roads in PPMC being narrow and difficult to locate, the Traffic Team is able to direct the emergency equipment to the scene of an incident more quickly than would otherwise be possible. In addition, the Traffic Team controls the flow of cars within the Park to prevent their interfering with incoming or departing emergency vehicles. This team also provides assistance in getting large delivery trucks into and out of the Park by way of the one-way roads, blocking traffic when necessary so the large vehicles can make use of one-way roads to make their exit from the Park

The **Fire Brigade** responds to fire incidents in the Park, and has been classified by our Board of Directors and by our insurance carriers as being “First Responders”. History shows that the Brigade has successfully suppressed some fires in the Park before the City Fire Department could arrive on scene. PPMC maintains two fire engines and provides the equipment necessary for the Brigade volunteers to function effectively. The maintaining of our fire trucks is critical within our community as they would be our only source of fire protection in the event that the Park should become isolated by a disaster, or in the event that the City Fire Department can’t get to us as the result of their equipment being fully utilized elsewhere during some major emergency. Volunteers for the Brigade hold

training sessions every month in order to maintain their skills in using our equipment.

A need always exists for new volunteers to become trained in performing the CERT functions. There is normal attrition as members sell their homes and move elsewhere, or become elderly and aren't able to effectively perform their duties. If you would like to become a part of the CERT team then you are encouraged to let it be known that you are available, and you will be called on to see how you might be of assistance.

CERT TRAINING AVAILABLE TO YOU

The Santa Cruz County CERT organization offers disaster preparedness training courses several times each year, at varied locations. Information regarding scheduled training classes can be found online at www.santacruzcountycert.org

The Basic CERT Training Class prepares you to handle disaster situations, at home and in your community. You will learn what to do on your own, and what to do as part of a CERT team. The subjects they cover include:

1. *Disaster Preparedness* - Recent Disasters and Emergencies, Home and Workplace Preparedness, and , Community Preparedness
2. *Fire Safety* - Fire Chemistry, Fire and Utility Hazards, Fire Suppression (for small fires), Hazardous Materials
3. *Disaster First Aid* - Treating Life-Threatening Conditions, Triage, Treating Injuries and Wounds, Disaster Psychology
4. *CERT Organization* – Mobilization, The CERT Team in Action,

5. *Light Search and Rescue* - Building Construction, Conducting Search Operations, Conducting Rescue Operations

6. *Review and Exercise* - Course Review, Disaster Simulation, Final Exam

RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO YOU

Santa Cruz County Emergency Services

<http://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/default.aspx?tabid=3251>

<http://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/Departments/EmergencyServices/DisasterPreparedness.aspx>

Emergency Supplies – SOS Survival Products, www.sosproducts.com 800-479-7998 - This is a retailer of survival equipment, food and supplies. A complete catalog of their products will be sent to you on request. (This is just one of many companies that offer emergency supplies – to learn of others do a Google search for “Emergency Supplies”)

CERT Training

<http://santacruzcountycert.org/>

Red Cross Services

<http://www.redcross.org/local/california/northern-california-coastal/disaster-responses>