

**ROSS VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT
STAFF REPORT**

For the meeting of September 12, 2018

To: Board of Directors
From: Jason Weber, Fire Chief
Subject: Proclamation declaring September Preparedness Month

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board adopts the Proclamation declaring September "Preparedness Month".

BACKGROUND:

Each September, National Preparedness Month encourages and reminds residents to be prepared for disasters or emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities. Homeowners, families, communities and businesses can use this opportunity to find ways or help others understand more about preparing for disasters and reducing risks to health and the environment.

DISCUSSION:

During the month of September, the Department will post and share information on our website and our social media platforms on how individuals, families, businesses, and communities can be better prepared for disasters – whether it is a natural disaster or an emergency in their home or business.

There are resources available to our communities that provide step by step instructions, lists, and other resources to assist in preparedness. We have links on our website www.rossvalleyfire.org.

AGENDA ITEM # 39
Date 9/12/18

Proclamation of the Ross Valley Fire Department

Proclaiming September 2018 Preparedness Month

WHEREAS, a major disaster such as an earthquake, flood, wildland fire, public health crisis, or terrorism could cause large numbers of deaths and injuries; and devastating loss of property and costly damage to the town's environment; and

WHEREAS, it is vital that all community members take steps to prepare for emergencies at home, work or school; and

WHEREAS, personal preparedness and planning in advance is critical to effectively responding to the effects of a disaster; and

WHEREAS, by preparing individuals, their families, business, schools, and the community as one, it allows first responders to prioritize efforts and aid; and

WHEREAS, the Town's leadership desires to bring together community and government leaders to involve community members in emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response and recovery; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) sponsors a National Preparedness Month each September to encourage Americans to prepare for emergencies and to increase public awareness of its importance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Ross Valley Fire Department hereby takes the following actions:

1. Encourages and persuades residents of the jurisdiction to prepare and to have a plan for all types of emergencies and disaster, including what to do before, during and after a disaster.
2. Supports the Towns programs to prepare residents for the crucial 72-hour period after a disaster where community preparedness is the key to survival.
3. Promotes enrollment through the county-wide alert system, www.AlertMarin.org, partner community organizations, advertisements, and social media outreach throughout "Preparedness Month".
4. Recognizes community members who have committed the time to join programs such as the Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) supported by Ross Valley Fire Department and the Marin Medical Reserve Corps supported by the Marin County Department of Health and Human Services.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the Board of Directors of the Ross Valley Fire Department does hereby proclaim the month of September 2018 as "Marin County Preparedness Month".

PASSED AND APPROVED at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Ross Valley Fire Department on this 12th day of September 2018.

Elizabeth Brekhus, Board President