

# The Fire Plug



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## National Preparedness Month

National Preparedness Month is recognized each September to promote family and community disaster planning now and throughout the year. As the nation continues to respond to COVID-19, there is no better time to be involved this September and there is still time to visit: <https://www.ready.gov/september>.

### Week 1: Make a Plan

- Talk with family members about [your emergency plan](#). Discuss how you will stay in touch when disaster strikes and review CDC recommendations during COVID-19.
- Tailor your plan to specific needs in your house. Consider:
  - [Disabilities](#) and [older adults](#)
  - [Children](#) and [pets](#)
  - Medical needs
- Create a budget that includes an [emergency savings fund](#).



### Week 2: Build A Kit

- Ensure [your kit is stocked](#) with essential items, including what is needed to protect you and your family from COVID-19.
- Consider the unique needs of your family (example: families with infants should include formula, diapers & bottles).
- Have enough supplies for several days and store items in airtight containers.
- Help [individuals with disabilities](#) prepare for disasters.



## Spring Shredding Event

The Kensington Fire Protection District has postponed the Fall shredding event to the Spring given the COVID-19 Pandemic. We

hope to announce the date late this year or early in 2021...stay tuned.

### Week 3: Prepare for Disasters

- The CDC has published a #PrepYourHealth [Digital Media Toolkit](#) with suggestions on how people can create a community before a disaster or emergency.
- Sign up for emergency [alerts](#) so that during a disaster or emergency you receive immediate life-saving information from your state and local municipality.
- If you live in an area that is prone to [earthquakes](#), consider making improvements to your building to fix structural issues that could cause your building to collapse during an earthquake.
- If you live in an area prone to [wildfires](#), create a defensive space around your home by clearing debris or articles that could easily fuel the flames.
- If you live in an area prone to [hurricanes](#), install shutters for all your windows.
- If your area is prone to [flooding](#), keep important documents in a waterproof container. Also, protect your property by [purchasing flood insurance](#).

### Week 4: Teach Youth About Preparedness

- Youth are an important part of building a national culture of preparedness; children under the age of 18 make up nearly one-quarter of the entire U.S. population.
- Promote good financial saving practices by providing clear steps to saving, budgeting, setting and meeting financial goals.
- The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has additional resources online to teach [youth financial capability](#).
- Check out the [Ready Kids](#) website for tips on how to prepare your entire family.

#### KFPD BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- **Julie Stein**, President
- **Kevin Padian**, Vice President
- **Don Dommer**, Director
- **Janice Kosel**, Director
- **Larry Nagle**, Secretary/Director

#### KFPD STAFF:

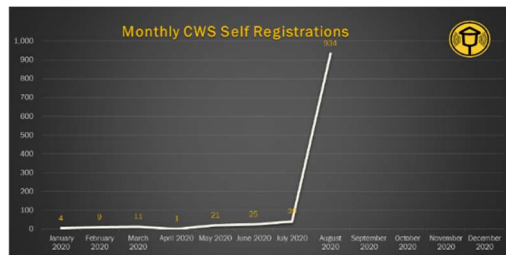
- **Mary Morris-Mayorga**, Interim General Manager
- **Michael Pigoni**, Fire Chief



## Sign Up for the Community Warning System (CWS)

The number of monthly registrations for the Community Warning System (CWS) increased dramatically from July to August 2020. If you have not already, consider taking a moment to register for <https://cwsalerts.com>. The Contra Costa County Community Warning System (CWS) is recognized as one of the nation's most modern and effective all-hazard public warning systems.

Sign up for Nixle alert from local Police and Fire agencies by going to: <https://local.nixle.com/register/> or simply text any zip code to 888777 and receive real-time alerts and



advisories directly from your local police department and other local agencies. There is no charge for registering, but standard text

messaging rates associated with your mobile phone service will apply.

## Are You Ready to ShakeOut?



With 330 million people living and working in the United States, a major earthquake could cause unprecedented devastation. What we do now, before a big earthquake, will determine how well we

organizations, and communities to get prepared, to practice what to do to be safe, and to learn what plans need to be improved.

survive and recover.

Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills in October 2019 involved more than 66 million participants through broad-based outreach programs, media partnerships, and public advocacy by hundreds of partners. The drill is held annually on the third Thursday of October. This year, International ShakeOut Day will be on October 15.

Not just any drill will accomplish this; it needs to be big. It must inspire communities to come together. It must involve children at school and parents at work, prompting conversations at home. It must allow every organization, city, etc., to make it their own event. We are all in this together.

A key aspect of the ShakeOut is the integration of comprehensive science-based earthquake research and the lessons learned from decades of social science research about why people get prepared. The result is a “teachable moment” on par with having an actual earthquake (often followed by increased interest in getting ready for earthquakes). ShakeOut creates the sense of urgency that is needed for people,

The 2020 ShakeOut drill will be the largest preparedness event in world history. To participate, go to [www.ShakeOut.org/register](http://www.ShakeOut.org/register) and pledge your family, school, business, or organization’s participation in the drill. Registered participants will receive information on how to plan their drill and involve others. At the minimum practice "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" on the specified date, which is 10/15 this year. It is only a one-minute commitment for something that can save your life.

For more information, visit [www.ShakeOut.org](http://www.ShakeOut.org).

## Fiscal Year 2020 - 2021 Budget

The Board of Directors adopted the final Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget on September 9, 2020. It is now posted on the District’s website: [KFPD Final FY 2020-21 Budget](#)



## Annual Weed Abatement Program

Fire prevention is always at the forefront, but has been even more so with the annual weed abatement program. There have been a number of complaints on social media; however, this is not monitored by the fire department. If you have complaints, please contact the Fire Prevention Officer of the main number, both posted on the District’s website:

Damien Carrion, Fire Prevention Officer

[fpo@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:fpo@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us)

Main Number: (510) 527-5385

## Public Safety Building Renovation

Over the past few months there have been a number of discussions on the Public Safety Building. As you may know there are several options being considered: occupancy by fire only, or shared occupancy with fire and police. No decision has yet been made on the outcome, but here are some of the more recent milestones on the potential project:

- May 27, 2020 - Board of Directors Special Meeting; KFPD established an agreement with Ross Drulis Cusenbery (RDC) Architecture via Extra Service Request (ESR007) to provide a Board Workshop.
- June 3, 2020 - Board of Directors Special Meeting; RDC presented on the Public Safety Building Renovation; Board of Directors authorized the Interim General Manager to request RDC seek County evaluation of the Public Safety Building Renovation Option B.
- June 10, 2020 - Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors; Board of Directors authorized the Interim General Manager to devise cost-sharing arrangements with KPPCSD for the potential renovation and report back to the Board.
- June 26, 2020 - Board of Directors Special Meeting; Board of Directors authorized the Interim General Manager to pay all costs associated with the County evaluation and invoice KPPCSD for 50% if needed to continue project.
- July 8, 2020 - Board of Directors Regular Meeting; Interim General Manager seeking Board approval

of the County evaluation cost estimate of \$27,146 (50/50 cost allocation to KFPD/KPPCSD) and provided a project update including cost-sharing options.

- July 23, 2020 - RDC met with County of Contra Costa for review of conceptual design and decision on elevator (meeting notes attached).
- July 31, 2020 - RDC provided additional information and documents to the County as requested.
- August 11, 2020 – RDC continued reaching out to the County for a meeting on the status.
- August 20, 2020 – RDC learned from Contra Costa County during discussions that the elevator will likely be required; however, due to the high level of activity with the County it may be several weeks before formal written determination is provided.
- August 26, 2020 – RDC recommended a final review of conceptual design to determine the impact of including the elevator while allowing the balcony to be enclosed while waiting for final County determination.

The District continues efforts to bring forward the most current update at each Board Meeting and anticipates more in the coming months. These will all be discussed in public meetings, most regular meetings unless time is of the essence and a special meeting is warranted.



**KENSINGTON FIRE  
PROTECTION DISTRICT**

Kensington Public Safety Building  
217 Arlington Avenue  
Kensington, CA 94708

Phone: (510) 527-8395  
Fax: (510)527-8396

E-mail: [fire@kensingtonfire.org](mailto:fire@kensingtonfire.org)

*When in Doubt—  
Call Us Out!*

We're on the Web!  
[www.kensingtonfire.org](http://www.kensingtonfire.org)



## Change Your Clock and Your Batteries

Daylight savings time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 1st. While you are busy setting your clocks one hour backward, it is a good time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors. We recommend that smoke detector batteries be changed every six months and

your smoke detector unit should be replaced if it is over 10 years old. If you have any questions, call us at (510) 215-4450.



## Carbon Monoxide Detectors

If your home is not already equipped with a carbon monoxide (CO) detector, consider installing one on each floor of your home. Carbon monoxide is a **colorless, odorless, and toxic gas** that is a byproduct of burning carbon fuels like wood, gasoline, propane and natural gas. CO is deadly because it binds with your

red blood cells and starves your body of oxygen after passing into your lungs. It is hard to detect without a sensor which is one of the reasons it is so dangerous. CO detectors are available at your local hardware store, home improvement or on line. More information is available at <https://www.safewise.com/home-security-faq/carbon-monoxide-detector/>.