

## National Preparedness Month Survey – Outcome Statement (2020)

In September 2020, San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department used a survey to collect feedback from residents about their concerns regarding potential hazards to Belmont, Foster City, and San Mateo and emergency preparedness measures that they have taken. The survey closed on October 15, 2020 and received 132 responses. Here are the highlights from the survey responses:

The majority of respondents have lived in this community for 10 or more years. When assessing community preparedness, 87 respondents have talked about what to do in case of an emergency, 79 respondents have identified and understand utility shutoffs and 78 have anchored service utilities to their home and made an emergency kit.

The survey asked, “What hazards around your community most concern you today?” The question allowed respondents to list multiple answers, and of the combined 132 responses:

- 118 of responses identified earthquakes
- 60 of responses identified wildland fire
- 49 of responses identified sea level rise

Another question asked, “In your opinion, which of the following community assets are most vulnerable to natural hazards in your community?” and allowed for open ended responses, where participants could identify and explain their recommendations. Common themes that emerged were that people are most concerned with loss of life and/or injuries followed by infrastructure damage.

Another question asked, “Which of the following actions do you think should be taken in order to reduce damage and disruption from hazard events within your City?”, and then rank them.

- “Strengthen infrastructure” had the highest amount of responses as a “high priority”, with
- “Install or improve protective structures”, “Develop climate adaptation plans, policies, or projects to minimize potential negative impacts from climate change”, and “Provide better public information about hazard risks and available mitigation measures” coming in as a three-way tie for the second highest priority.
- “Protect cultural and /or historic resources” had the highest number of “low priority” responses.

Community members identified electronic sources as the best way to inform them of hazards and preparedness measures, and 40% of respondents would attend public education classes dealing with emergency preparedness & hazard awareness.

The winners of our three emergency preparedness kits was James F. from Foster City, Rebecca S. from San Mateo and Barbara F. from Belmont.

Thank you to all those who offered feedback to this important topic. Look for future SMCFD topics to continue to join the conversation and see what others are saying. Your feedback is key to helping the Cities of Belmont, Foster City, and San Mateo offer the best services to citizens.