

County Partnership-Santa Rosa County

Summary

SAFER Santa Rosa County is an association of independent organizations active in all phases of disaster. Its mission; to foster efficient, streamlined service delivery to people affected by disasters, eliminating unnecessary duplication of effort, through cooperation in the four phases of disaster. Includes businesses, non profits, faith-based and government agencies.

Background

SAFER Santa Rosa was born out of the Long Term Recovery Organization (LTRO) that was developed after Hurricane Ivan. The problem with LTROs is that they have a defined period of operation (long term versus forever) and address only one of the four phases of emergency management. As time went by, the LTRO membership began to diminish. It was thought that the power of community involvement should not be lost so a COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disasters) was developed and the name SAFER (Support Alliance For Emergency Readiness) was selected to represent the county. We had about 125 people from all over the county representing many organizations attend the kick off meeting, and then we ended up with about 60 members, which has steadily grown in the last two years to over 110 members.

Goals and Objectives

Our goals are to be a resilient community by promoting volunteerism (building social capital), promoting community preparedness and awareness, supporting the under privileged in our community, and our pet goal is to complete an initiative called the SAFER Kids project where we are raising money for barricades to be used at community events throughout the county. These barricades would also be useful after a disaster.

Description

SAFER Santa Rosa County is a humanitarian association of independent organizations who may be active in all phases of disaster. Its mission is to foster efficient, streamlined service delivery to people affected by disasters, while eliminating unnecessary duplication of effort, through cooperation in the four phases of disaster: preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation. **SAFER** Santa Rosa is not a competing or exclusionary organization. **SAFER** Santa Rosa is intended to be a network for organizations active in disaster. Each **SAFER** member organization will maintain its own identity and independence while closely collaborating with other **SAFER** Santa Rosa member organizations. COAD - Community Organizations Active in Disasters During periods when there are no disasters, SAFER attempts to meet the needs of the less fortunate in the community.

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SAFER members have the opportunity to network with other organizations that have similar goals. The organization facilitates the sharing of information and resources between members.

SAFER has the following standing committees:

Administration

The Administration committee assists in the daily functioning of SAFER Santa Rosa. It assists the Secretary and Treasurer with SAFER related activities in order to maintain proper management of SAFER Santa Rosa. Committee members may assist with organization of SAFER records, minutes and funds.

Business Continuity

The purpose of the Business Continuity committee is to serve as the business operations support for preparedness efforts such as resources, continuation of business operations, logistical support, etc. and to assist in recovery phases of operations. Business Continuity may work with preparedness, recovery and logistics committees to support other areas of SAFER Santa Rosa response and recovery efforts.

Case Management

The Case Management committee's purpose is to network organizations including government, non-profit and faith-based entities that provide case management services to the public as part of their organizational mission or disaster response. This committee works with disaster victims and/or homeless individuals and families directly. It may work with Recovery, or Unmet needs to coordinate activities and/or referrals for services. Client confidentiality is a priority.

Health Committee

Working to create a county-wide and community-wide movement with a shared vision for health. Working to develop a team approach to solving the health problems in the community. Our vision is to ensure health and wellness for the citizens and visitors to our community by leading the way in efforts of wellness, exercise, nutrition, and overall health.

Logistics

The Logistics committee will assist members with the management and distribution of donations given to SAFER. It should also assist with the movement of SAFER Santa Rosa provided or acquired equipment, goods and supplies where necessary in order to assist citizens after a disaster.

Preparedness Committee

The Preparedness committees purpose is to provide support to organizations and individuals in preparedness efforts that include, but are not limited to training, preparedness events and mitigation. Training areas may overlap with multiple committees such as Volunteers, Case Management, Logistics, and Business Continuity. It may include planning and promotion of local preparedness events.

Public Relations/Marketing

The Public Relations/ Marketing committee's responsibilities include marketing and promotion of the SAFER Santa Rosa, events and trainings, assistance with development of promotional materials and development of fundraising activities to support SAFERs overall mission with its members and the general public.

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Recovery

This committee is activated when a need arises. The Recovery committee can work on short term or long term issues associated with a disaster. Coordinate and communicate the individual efforts of SAFER member organizations by leveraging a limited supply of resources to maximize and sustain the recovery process, while individually addressing survivor needs.

Unmet Needs

The Unmet needs committee addresses all aspects of individual disasters like homelessness, cold weather shelters, and any issue that is beyond the scope of another committee. Unmet needs should identify and assess individual and family disaster related unmet needs and apply the resources of SAFER Santa Rosa partners to meet those needs.

Volunteers

This committee is responsible for soliciting the community for volunteers to partner with a non-profit and to become active with a church or otherwise volunteer to help the needy in our community. It will be responsible to register volunteers through established volunteer centers for a time when they are needed. It will also handle training volunteers in VRC operations and registering volunteer hours.

SAFER has an ad hoc SAFER kids committee as well. The **SAFER Kids Project** was developed out of an already existing committee of concerned community members who started a "barricade" project in order to purchase, store and utilize barricades, for all community events in the county.

This barricade committee is now an "ad hoc" committee of **SAFER Santa Rosa** and the project was renamed. **SAFER** board members voted unanimously to take the "**SAFER Kids**" Project on as an ongoing mission of **SAFER Santa Rosa**.

The board is divided among businesses, faith based organizations, non profits and government organizations.

Requirements for Success

Communication with members, and participation. SAFER is only as successful as its partners are participatory.

Resources

SAFER Santa Rosa has the following resources available through its partnership- A seat in the Emergency Operations Center; web resources; and tools and templates. On the main web page we have a documents section with all kinds of helpful and explanatory information. We have a newsletter section for archived newsletters. We have links for seniors, special needs, kids, business, faith-based, emergency preparedness, homeless issues and health issues. We attempt to make the web page an all in one portal for whatever resources are needed. This includes as calendar, a members only area where resource requests can be added, and an area for current projects.

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<http://www.safersantarosa.org/>

<http://www.mysaferkids.com/>

Training and Exercises

SAFER Santa Rosa hosts and participates in joint training and exercises with the public and private sectors.

Communication Tools

SAFER Santa Rosa uses the following methods of communication with their public/private sectors; email alerts; in-person meetings; weekly newsletter; website; media outreach; paid advertising; and public service announcements.

Links

<http://www.safersantarosa.org/>

<http://www.mysaferkids.com/>

Contact Information

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