



2018 Boards & Commissions Report

Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission

Date: July 19, 2018
To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Council
From: Gila Katz, Chair
Re: Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-18 Annual Report of the Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission

The mission of the Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission (EPAC) is to educate and prepare the public to survive, endure and recover from a natural or manmade disaster. The Commission is committed to providing advice and recommendations to the City Council on how the City and the residents can prepare and respond swiftly and responsibly to emergencies. The Commission meets in the Council Chambers at 7:00 P.M. on the first Monday of every other month.

[HERMOSA BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE, CHAPTER 2.38 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ADVISORY COMMISSION](#)

Commission Members:

Please identify members and length of service.

1. Gila Katz – Chair: July 2017 - present, 8 years of service, term ended May 31, 2018.
2. Matt McCool – Vice Chair: July 2017 – Present, 3 years of service, term ends May 31, 2019.
3. William Hallett – 11 years of service, term ends May 31, 2019.
4. Al Benson – 11 years of service, term ended May 31, 2018.
5. Dave Buckland – 4 years of service, 2 year term ends May 31, 2019.
6. Nadine Sky-Davis – 1 year of service, term ends May 31, 2021.
7. Michael Detoy – 1 year of service, term ends May 31, 2021.



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Commission Subcommittees:

Please list any subcommittees/liaisons and the goal for each. Please list the date of formation for each subcommittee and the accomplishments/status for each. (If none, put N/A)

Goal 1: Enhance the current Community-wide notification processes by researching available options and provide recommendations by September 2017. Subcommittee was formed in February of 2017.

Subcommittee: Matt McCool and William Hallett.

Objective 1: Subcommittee to research community-wide emergency alert systems to include chemical sensors and tsunami sirens to determine the feasibility of implementation for the City of Hermosa Beach and provide recommendations to the Emergency Manager by September 2017.

Goal 2: Develop a more robust Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program by researching available options and provide recommendations by November 2017. Subcommittee was formed in February of 2017.

Subcommittee: Dave Buckland and Nadine Skye-Davis

Objective 1: Subcommittee to research strategies to increase visibility of the CERT program to include sustainability and engagement strategies of CERT volunteers and provide recommendations to the Emergency Manager by November 2017.

Goal 3: Develop a community-wide emergency preparedness program and provide recommendations by end of December 2017. Subcommittee was formed in February of 2017.

Subcommittee: Al Benson and Gila Katz

Objective 1: Subcommittee to review the My Ten Program to determine the feasibility of implementing three preparedness modules by June 2017.

Goal 4: Develop a business preparedness program. Subcommittee was formed in January of 2018

Subcommittee: Michael Detoy

Objective 1: Subcommittee will review available resources to determine the most effective for promoting business preparedness and work with Chamber of Commerce to distribute the materials to the businesses.



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FY 2017-18 Activities & Accomplishments:

Please highlight the commission's 2017-18 activities & accomplishments.

Goal 1: The subcommittee has conducted research regarding siren technology to purchase and install a new tsunami siren and utilize it as a noon-time siren. The subcommittee developed a Facebook page to engage the public in gaining support to bring the noon-time siren back into the community. The old siren will be donated to the Historical Society and placed in the museum as a way to preserve the history of Hermosa Beach.

Goal 2: The subcommittee has begun discussions with neighboring jurisdictions to develop an animal disaster response team and training program. In addition, the subcommittee has been promoting the Basic CERT training and many other emergency preparedness trainings that are available throughout Los Angeles County.

Goal 3: The subcommittee has reviewed materials and determined that the best emergency preparedness program for the City of Hermosa Beach is to relaunch the Map Your Neighbor program.

Goal 4: The subcommittee has reviewed a variety of business preparedness documents and begun to develop a single document incorporating all of the critical preparedness steps a business needs to take to ensure the safety of employees and patrons during and immediately following a disaster.



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FY 2018-19 Goals:

What are the commission's goals and/or areas of focus for FY 2018-19? Please list in order of priority. If possible, please explain how your goals support City Council's Strategic Plan.

The EPAC commission had a lengthy discussion at the January 2018 meeting regarding the FY 2017 – 2018 goals and trying to determine the FY2018-2019 goals. Throughout the discussion, it was determined that the FY2017-2018 goals would be the focus of FY2018-2019 as the goals were still relevant, timely, and addressed the concerns of the commission. Therefore below are the FY2018-2019 goals and the EPAC commissioners assigned to each goal:

- Goal 1: Continue to research and implement a community notification siren with a focus on returning the noon-time siren. Subcommittee is Vice-Chair McCool and Commissioner Hallett.
- Goal 2: Enhance the visibility of the Community Emergency Response Team, continue to work with Hermosa Beach Amateur Radio Association, work with the American Red Cross (shelter and CPR/AED training, Pillowcase program), and develop an animal disaster response team with neighboring jurisdictions. Subcommittee is Commissioner Buckland and Commissioner Skye-Davis.
- Goal 3: The subcommittee will relaunch the Map Your Neighborhood program to include preparedness information (animals, older adults, young children, access and functional needs, 10-days of supplies, utility concerns, Carbon Dioxide/Smoke detector alarm checks), and disaster response capabilities such as human and animal sheltering. In addition, the subcommittee will work with the schools (parochial, private and public) to disseminate safety and emergency preparedness messages. A vulnerable population inventory will be created. Subcommittee is Chair Katz and Commissioner Benson.
- Goal 4: Develop and implement a business preparedness program with a focus on small business. Subcommittee is composed of Commissioner Detoy.

The EPAC commission FY2018-2019 goals directly correlate with the City Council Strategic Plan Goal 2021 - Commitment to a Safe Community. Implementing a community emergency siren, increasing awareness of various emergency trainings and HbCERT, developing an animal response team and relaunching Map Your Neighborhood will assist with making the community safer during and following a disaster. The Whole Community is responsible for preparedness and through these projects; EPAC is reaching out to all segments of the community to prepare themselves and their families to become more resilient following a disaster.



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Please list any upcoming challenges and concerns for FY 2018-19. Please also indicate any procedures the commission feels are unclear or need to be revisited/more formally established.

The EPAC commission identified the following challenges and concerns related to the completion of the FY2018-2019 goals:

1. EPAC's goal is to have open, ongoing and continuous discussions with City Council, City Manager and Emergency Manager in order to set the short term and long term goals for the health and safety of the community.
2. EPAC's goal is to encourage all residents and businesses to follow emergency preparedness best practices by preparing a 10-day supply of food, water, medications, and additional items to be utilized during and following a disaster.
3. The EPAC commission requests the reinstitution of the attendance and participation of the Police Chief, Fire Chief and City Manager as well as a City Councilmember at each of the commission meetings.