

OPA ESV Update.

We have a very large and wonderful neighborhood. It would be a shame if something happened to it (old joke). But seriously, all of you are playing an important role in making sure OPA is prepared. Thank you.

I took on the NPC role at the beginning of the pandemic and immediately saw there was work to do. First was to fix the radio problem as only two BPCs were able to check in for the first drill. Now it is possible for every ESV to check in no matter where in OPA they live.

The next problem was that there were just not enough of you. We have done many things, too many to list here, and have grown the numbers but not by enough.

We have 30 blocks covered. Most recently I surveyed all of OPA and found that there are 106 blocks representing 857 houses without coverage. Adding that many new BPCs is a goal but not a reasonable one. We have taken on, and just completed, a project to reduce the number of BPCs needed to cover all of OPA. We need 40 additional BPCs so we are almost half way there!

We (and by we I mean Helen Bauman, my co-NPC) did this by increasing the number of houses per "block". In some cases your block remains the same, in some cases your block, and the new proposed blocks, have added houses just around the corner basically going half way around the block. Where those cross streets already have a BPC, we did not add the around the corner houses.

The next task was to document the new "blocks". We created the required 70 maps, one for each assigned and needed BPC. All of the maps are posted Click [HERE](#).

I am going to ask each of you to do two things:

- 1) Look at the new block assignment for your block and make sure that looks like something you can do either by yourself or with the help of someone else on your block. It is perfectly fine to share the BPC duty and in fact it is desirable.
- 2) Pick a block that needs a BPC, put on your hat, vest, nametag, and print some literature (Click [HERE](#)) and knock on a door and tell whoever answers that you are looking for someone to help out their block in an emergency. Ask if they would be willing to help. If not, who would they suggest you talk to? Then, with that recommendation, go talk to that person either about being a BPC, or recommending someone else on their block.

Please tell the prospective BPCs that they can take the online test to qualify and that it only takes about 15 minutes. Also tell them we have an under 4 minute video just for OPA that tells them everything they need to know to set up and use their FRS radio. Click [HERE](#). We are trying to remove all obstacles to becoming a BPC. Also tell them about our website <http://OldPaloAlto.com>

If you all do these two things, OPA will be a much better place.

In addition, we have two more items of interest. As some of you know, there is a CERT trailer dedicated to OPA located in the parking lot of the main library. I created a page showing what is in it. Click [HERE](#).

Finally, OPA now has a Quick Reference "Tri Fold" that has lots of information you will find useful in an emergency. Please download it and print it. Click [HERE](#).

Please feel free to email me with any questions.

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