Now more than ever it is imperative that we all take the time to be prepared for disasters. In light of the terrible devastation our neighbors to the north are enduring and the terrible disasters we’ve seen in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, we must ensure we are all personally prepared.

As Chair of the Marin County Disaster Council, I want to take this opportunity to recommend your enrollment in the County-wide alert system, Alert Marin. If you visit www.AlertMarin.org, you can register your cell phone to receive emergency alerts sent by call, text or email from the County of Marin.

Listed and unlisted Marin County landline phone numbers are already included in our emergency notification system, but cell phone numbers are not included and require individual registration.

Emergency officials use Alert Marin to deliver incident-specific information or potentially life-saving instruction to the precise geographic area affected. Emergency situations may include: flooding, wildfires, and subsequent evacuations; public safety incidents including crimes that affect your neighborhood; and post-disaster information about shelters, transportation, or supplies.

I highly recommend taking the time to check out the website Ready Marin which provides training and education to promote disaster preparedness for Marin County residents. Learn what supplies you should store at home, work and in your car to take care of yourself and your family for 5-7 days. This includes how much water to store, how to build an emergency kit and a family evacuation plan, and means of communication in an emergency. Their website is chockfull of helpful information, check lists and recommendations: www.ReadyMarin.org

As always, please contact me if I can be of assistance to you. You can reach me at jarnold@marincounty.org or 415-473-7331.