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## **Lessons Learned**

Happy Holidays! This month, I have a variety of updates on different topics to share with you.

With the terrible fire devastation our neighbors to the north just experienced and with the current fires raging in southern California - disaster preparedness is at the top of everyone's mind and it is imperative that we all take the time to be prepared. It is important to work together as a community and take "advantage" of the interest and engagement that we are seeing now.

After the North Bay fires, I established a Board of Supervisors Sub-committee (with Supervisor Rodoni) to work with stakeholders to identify lessons learned from the wildfire and develop a collaborative approach to reducing life and property loss in the event of a similar incident in Marin County. We will be looking at existing programs and if they should be enhanced as well as potential new programs. Stakeholders involved (but not limited to) include representatives from Marin County Fire, Marin County Sheriff and Office of Emergency Services, Marin County Police Chiefs Association, Marin County Fire Chiefs Association, Fire Safe Marin, Marin County City Managers, Marin County Open Space, National Park Service, and Marin Municipal Water District. Included in our work, will be inviting similar counterparts from the North Bay to meet with us to listen and learn from their experiences. As more details about community engagement and a timeline are developed, I will share them with you here.

Coincidentally, last June as Chair of the Marin County Disaster Council, I created a different subcommittee (of the Disaster Council Board) to collaborate and make recommendations to the Disaster Council about enhancing disaster preparedness in Marin. That committee just completed its work and has created an excellent proposal with three specific initiatives that we will begin work on now. In brief, the proposals are: Get Ready Program - re-energize Get Ready Program, broadening disaster preparedness throughout the community; School Based Continuum - ensure all students have access to basic training that is age appropriate and utilize the students as a portal into family homes throughout the County: and Disaster Service Workers - ensure all public employees countywide are provided adequate training and understand expectations of their employer in the event of a disaster. The success of these proposals will include the involvement and collaboration of a broad group of participants throughout Marin. I am committed to working with all agencies in Marin and bringing the County into a leadership position on these issues to help ensure their success.

Please know my door is always open to you and I can be reached at 415-473-7331 or [jarnold@marincounty.org](mailto:jarnold@marincounty.org). I wish you all a peaceful and joyous Holiday Season.