



Background Information: Los Altos Community Emergency Preparedness

Material for Informational Purposes
Will not be presented at the City Council Meeting

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January 12, 2021

Purpose

- Background and historical information on emergency preparedness in Los Altos
- Provide context to Los Altos City Council in support of the Community Emergency Preparedness report at the January 12, 2021 Council meeting

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LOS ALTOS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS--BACKGROUND

WWII & the Cold War

- Calif War Council
- Local War Councils -> Disaster Councils
- Workers' Comp for volunteers

1955 Ordinances:
Los Altos Civil Defense
and Disaster
Organization and
qualified Disaster Service
Worker volunteers for
Workers' Comp

1987: Los Altos
Emergency
Preparedness
Committee
Develops City EP Plan



2002 – 2006
CERT training by
Los Altos Police
Dept



Police Dept.
ended CERT
training

RESOLUTION NO. 71

REGULATION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS
RELATIVE TO WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION INSURANCE FOR REGISTERED
VOLUNTEER "DISASTER SERVICE WORKERS"

WHEREAS, Section 1599.1 of the Military and Veterans Code,
Chapter 104, Statutes 1946, First Extraordinary Session,
provides:

"The California State Disaster Council shall establish
by rule and regulation various classes of disaster
service workers and the scope of the duties of each
class. The California State Disaster Council shall also
adopt rules and regulations prescribing the manner in
which disaster service workers of each class are to
be registered. All such rules and regulations shall
be designed to facilitate the paying of workmen's
compensation," and

WHEREAS, The California State Disaster Council on April 4, 1946,
adopted rules and regulations establishing classes of disaster
service workers, the scope of duties of each class and the
manner of registration of such volunteer workers; and

WHEREAS, Section 1599.2 of the Military and Veterans Code,
Chapter 104, Statutes 1946, First Extraordinary Session,
provides:

Section 2. Group of Operating Services. There is hereby
created a group of operating services. For the purposes of civil
defense planning and organization, the chief of each operating
service within this group shall be responsible to the director
through the assistant director.

Within this group there shall be the following civil defense
and disaster services:

- (1) Engineering service, which shall include public utilities,
public works and shelters, and rescue service.
- (2) Health and medical service, which shall include public
health, medical, hospitals, special weapons defense and
animal protection;
- (3) Fire service.
- (4) Emergency welfare service, which shall include mass care
(food, clothing, shelter), registration and information,
welfare aid and evacuation; and
- (5) Law enforcement service, which shall include law enforcement,
traffic control, sabotage and general protection.

The director shall appoint a chief of each service, except as
hereinafter provided. The Chief of the Fire Department of the Los Altos
Fire Protection District shall be chief of the fire service. The Chief
of Police of the City of Los Altos shall be the chief of the law
enforcement service. The City Engineer of the City of Los Altos shall
be chief of the engineering service. The Health Officer of the County
of Santa Clara and a person designated by him shall be chief of the
health and medical service.



1967 Ordinance:
Amended the 1955
Disaster Ordinance

1987 Ordinance:
Repeals the Los Altos
Disaster Council

1987 Whittier
Narrows earthquake

1989 Loma Prieta
earthquake



FEMA

1993 CERT
became a
national
program

LOS ALTOS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS--BACKGROUND

2013: Community member Sherie Dodsworth restarted community EP



Started the Block Action Team (BAT)



2013: CERT training resumed in Los Altos Led by CERT trainers from neighboring cities, then by local volunteers



2016: CERT training Led by Santa Clara County Fire Dept.



2016-17: Los Altos PREPARE installed container at MSC with \$3K in EIRS and \$27K in CERT supplies

June 13, 2017: Los Altos PREPARE presentation to Council

2017: Los Altos PREPARE requested City support and hiring a part-time Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

2017: City hired EP Coordinator and assumes EP program—renamed *Los Altos PREPARES*



March 13, 2018: Staff presentation to Council

2018: City ordinance

- Disaster Council
- Mutual Aid
- Workers' Comp



- “Whole Community” approach
- Bench-marking other cities and assessing best practices

Recruited community members to work on emergency preparedness

Gained support of the Los Altos Community Foundation: sponsored Los Altos PREPARE Program

Los Altos PREPARE deployed “PSA” damage assessment forms and training to volunteers

LOS ALTOS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS--BACKGROUND

2018 Los Altos PREPARES Steering Committee established to provide input

2018 CERTs and "Hams" enrolled as Disaster Service Worker Volunteers. Record-keeping established; ID cards issued

2018-19 Council funds *Community Emergency Preparedness Grants*; first projects in 2019



City represented at County Emergency Management forums

City EP website updated and enhanced

2018 + City sponsors EP award projects with Scouts



2019 City hosted EP seminar for FBOs. Organized FBOs in "EP working group"

February 11, 2020 Staff presentation to Council



2018 "EP Card" for Businesses. EP Presentations to LAVA and Chamber

2019 City sponsored "Jamboree on the Air" BSC Scouts ham radio event



2019 City sponsored "Ham Cram" licensing prep event



2019 EP exhibit at Los Altos History Museum with workshops + EQ fair Jan 2020





Los Altos PREPARES Program Steering Committee

The Steering Committee guides community volunteers, Police and Fire Departments, and City staff to develop policies and programs for community emergency preparedness in the City of Los Altos

- Advise the City on emergency preparedness (EP) programs, goals, policies and ways to strengthen EP in the community
- Provide guidance to the volunteer programs supporting City EP
- Review DSW volunteer training and drills/exercises (CERTs and HAMs)
- Advise the City on priorities for the EP budget
- Report to Council on Los Altos PREPARES and our EP volunteer programs

Established
2018

Steering Committee Members:

- Los Altos PREPARES Program Manager – Ann Hepenstal
- Block Action Team Program Manager – Nadja Jackson, Los Altos Community Foundation
- Lead CERT Volunteer – Harry Guy
- Los Altos Amateur Radio Emergency Service (Ham volunteers) – Jim Clark
- Los Altos Police Department – Captain Scott McCrossin



As of
February 11, 2020
Council presentation

PROGRESS ON GOALS SINCE 2018

Goals as of March 2018	Status	Notes
Review and compliance of City ordinances for disaster emergency workers and Disaster Council	Done	Ordinance updated. Disaster Council established. Disaster Service Worker volunteers sworn in; new id badges; management process
Outreach with identified community stakeholders and steering committee for annual meetings and to review budget and identify budget projects; work with volunteers on budget expenditures	Done	Los Altos PREPARES Steering Committee established; periodic meetings for input and advice
Outreach to the business community, downtown and shopping districts to start emergency preparedness procedures and activities	In place	Presentations done to LAVA, LAPOP. Business emergency preparedness info mailed to Chamber members. CEPG program expanded to offer grants to Los Altos small businesses.
Enhance the emergency preparedness information on the City website	Done	Website revamped. Information updated and added.
•Support efforts and community recruitment for BATs, CERTs and HAMs (Block Action Team, Community Emergency Response Team, and amateur radio operators)	In place	CEP budget supports program; coordination with LACF on BAT
Provide support to City staff, Police Department and County Fire for internal and community EP matters	In place	City Great Shakeout drills. Fire evacuation drill. City EOC drills and planning. City staff EP education

As of
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presentation

2020 Plans

- Partner with Faith-based organizations on Emergency Preparedness
- Partner with LAHCFD CERT and other City CERT programs
 - Public educational programs
 - CERT Skill training
- Community & Emergency Preparedness Grants Program
 - Grant recipient selection under the new requirements
 - Added: CERT, AlertSCC requirements
 - Expanded to Small Businesses: emergency communications plan, NIXLE requirement
 - **Round 1:** 14 grants awarded on January 30
 - \$17K to fund projects like ham radio stations, emergency preparedness training events neighborhoods, neighborhood supplies
 - Covering 918 households: 2 new BATs, 7 new applicants to the Grants Program
 - **Round 2:** applications due February 26
- Expand outreach and awareness efforts
 - Access & Functional Needs (AFN) emergency preparedness: Educational programs and training
 - School districts: outreach and partnering



As of January 2021
Council presentation

Update on the February 2020 Report to Council

2020 Plans	Update on What We Did	New work
Partner with Faith-based organizations on Emergency Preparedness	Held videoconference mtgs April and Sept to share and engage	Presentations by Los Altos Lutheran Church associate minister: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earthquake Country Alliance Bay Area Workshop • Emergency supply kits webinar
Partner with LAHCFD CERT, SCCFD and other City CERT programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public educational programs • CERT Skill training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-person training cancelled after March. No CERT academy. • Partnered with other Cities on training webinars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched www.losaltosca.gov/prepares with educational programs for the community and EP volunteers • Partnered with LAHCFD and launched CERT skills refresh webinar series
Community & Emergency Preparedness Grants Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round 1: Awarded in January • Round 2: Awarded in February 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round 1: 14 grants awarded • Round 2: 11 grants awarded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Preparedness Neighborhood Projects Webinar in June showcased CEPG grant recipients and their projects • Some projects deferred due to COVID-19
Expand outreach and awareness efforts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access & Functional Needs (AFN) emergency preparedness • School districts: outreach and partnering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFN: identified resources • Established regular meetings with LASD administrator • Establish communications with senior living communities • Good communications with MVLA administrator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inaugural Los Altos Preparedness Calendar delivers EP reminders and prompts, along with scenes of our City • Delivered crime prevention and emergency preparedness workshop for Bridgepoint

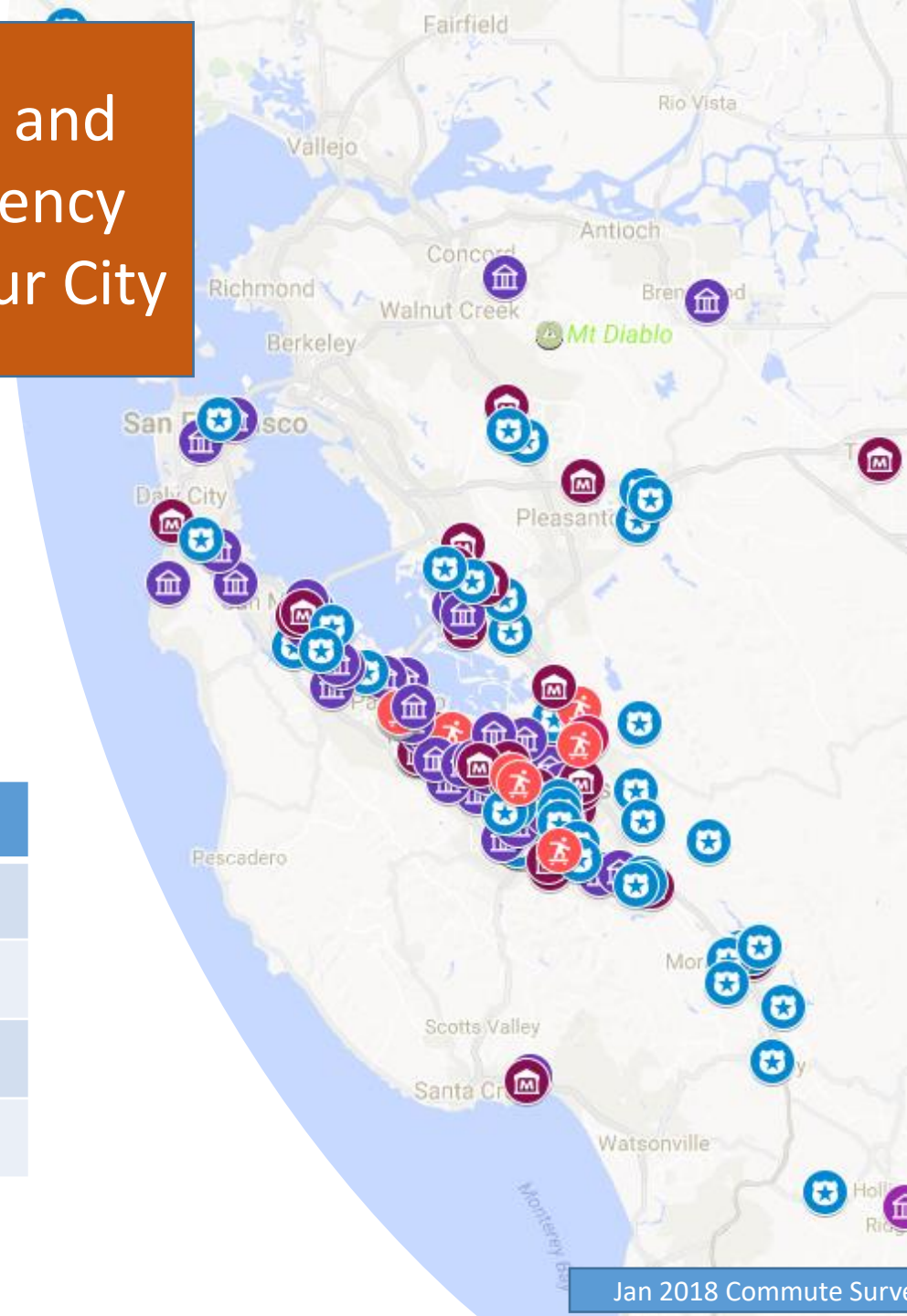
- FY2019-20 CEPG Program: \$40K budget
 - 2 Rounds of grants, awarded 25 grants
 - Grant requirements supporting Los Altos PREPARES
 - Must be a BAT or NW (or in process)
 - Must meet % of neighbors registered for County emergency notification system
 - Must have a CERT (or registered for training)
 - Projects included:
 - Neighborhood preparedness kits
 - New Ham radio packet stations (“EIRS”) for their zone
 - Generators
 - Neighborhood EP training parties and community events: COVID-cancelled
- Motivates EP actions and engages neighborhood volunteers

Successful program!

Household emergency preparedness and resilience and the Community Emergency Preparedness Volunteers are vital to our City

Los Altos employees begin their commutes in many corners of the Bay Area.

City employees (full-time)	Average commute
All	23.9 miles
City Hall	19 miles
Police Dept	28.8 miles
Municipal Services	26 miles

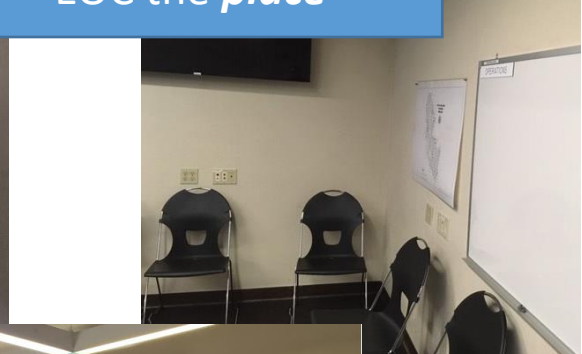


Los Altos Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

- Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is a *place* and a *team*
- EOC the ***place***:
 - Conference room at the Municipal Services Building
 - Stocked with monitors, radios, boxes of office supplies and other gear
- EOC the ***team***:
 - City Staff with the expertise and authority to assess the situation and plan the City's response
 - EOC has defined roles to cover emergency operations response
- EOC activations:
 - May be Full or partial, virtual or in-person
 - Communications, power and internet capability—depends on the situation. (City of Los Altos has coverage to bring in generators/communications/etc. if needed)
 - EOC roles and staffing set appropriate to the emergency



EOC the *place*

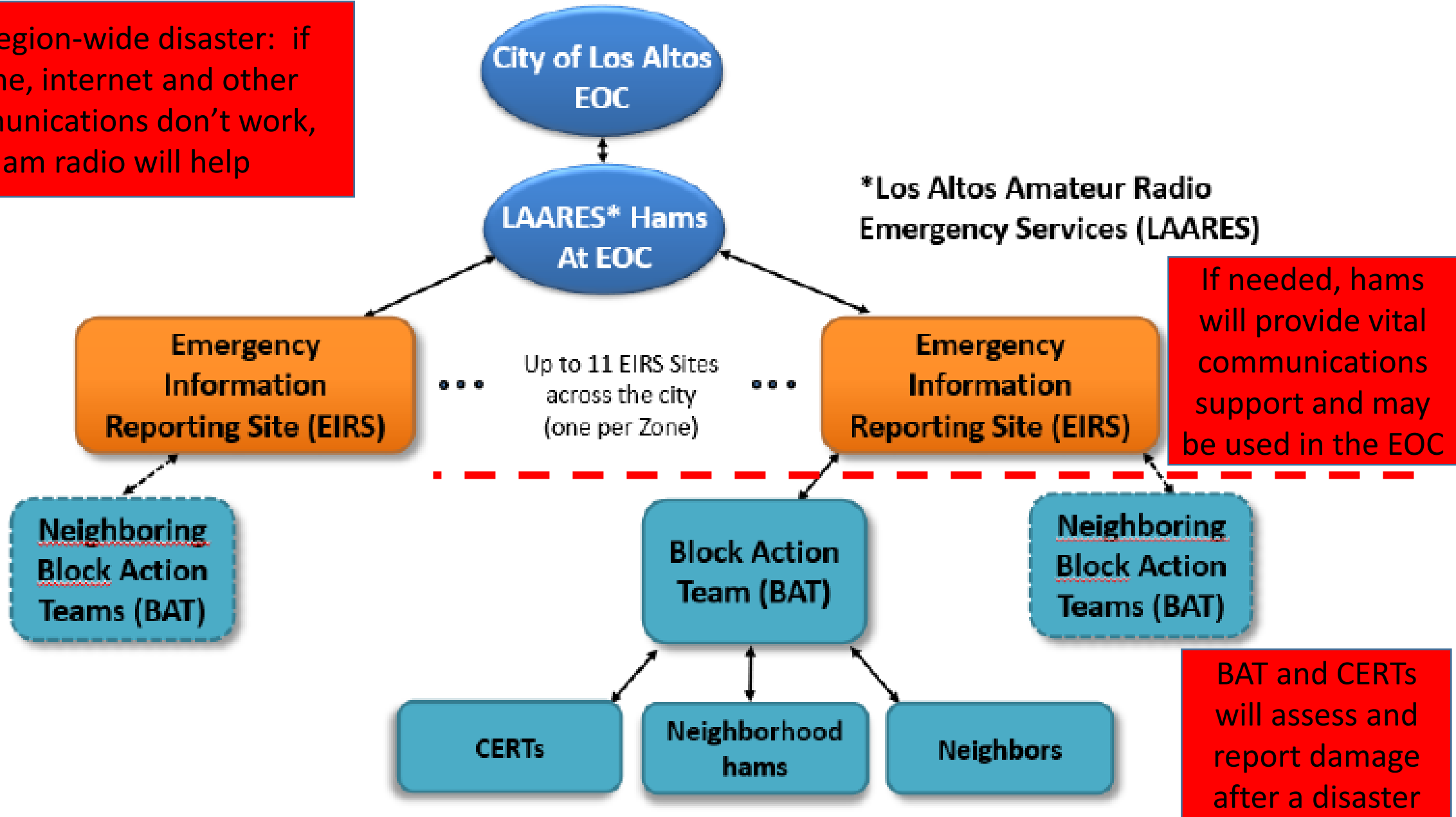


EOC the *team*

For COVID-19:
EOC was partially activated, with virtual meetings
Many EOC roles were not engaged for the response

Emergency Information Flow

In a region-wide disaster: if phone, internet and other communications don't work, ham radio will help



*Los Altos Amateur Radio Emergency Services (LAARES)

If needed, hams will provide vital communications support and may be used in the EOC

BAT and CERTs will assess and report damage after a disaster