



HISTORY AND PAST PRESIDENTS

The Emergency Preparedness Organization is otherwise known as EPO. We strive to be of service and help Rossmoor be a better place to live. Being prepared for personal emergencies and a possible disaster is vital to our community. The EPO purpose is “The education and training of volunteers to assist those in our entries to prepare for an area-wide emergency, and to relay this information, if needed, to GRF (Golden Rain Foundation), Securitas, CERT and resources outside Rossmoor.” We also find ourselves assisting our neighbors in many ways, daily. We are a unifying influence in our neighborhoods.

SOME EPO HISTORY

In 1992, as a result of the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, GRF (Golden Rain Foundation) created a Board Committee for Emergency Preparedness called REPO or RREPO, the Rossmoor Resident Emergency Preparedness Organization. At that time, the security was retired police and fire officers who were employees of the GRF. The REPO board of residents, with Jerry Priebat heading the residents, created the concepts of the Entry Coordinators and communicators. They gave trainings much as we do today. Around 2007, the GRF General Counsel provided an opinion that GRF was exposing itself to liability by having this committee. GRF is not a first-responder agency and the committee could not direct first-responder activity. The GRF Board discontinued the committee and the Emergency Preparedness Organization started as a organization. Around this time, the City started CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) and CERT became active in Rossmoor. Dennis Bell, Public Safety Manager, started in March 2009 when EPO and CERT were still in their infancy stages. Dennis Bell had, and the current GRF Public Safety Manager, Tom Cashion, has a seat on the EPO Board

For most of its 32-year history, Rossmoor Emergency Preparedness Organization has been a training program for neighborhood EPO teams who assist their entry neighbors in readying their households for a major disaster or emergency. Rossmoor has 278 entries with only half of them covered by an in-place operating EPO team. This leaves far too many Rossmoor residents without access to the preparedness messaging they need and deserve to safely ready their households for a major incident or event. As a result, Rossmoor EPO now takes a “whole community/all hazards” approach to its core mission and operations - mirroring the approaches of the Golden Rain Foundation’s Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) as well as the EOP for the City of Walnut Creek, Contra Costa County and the state of California. Part of our core mission is training our local EPO teams on how best to help their neighbors prepare for a disaster or emergency. We are also deeply committed to making every effort through the Rossmoor News, Rossmoor TV Channel 1083, and our regular meetings to engage all Rossmoor residents in helping them ready their own households for a major event or incident striking Rossmoor and beyond.

EPO ACTIVITIES

Our meetings are the 1st Monday of each month, open to all and we give workshops and trainings to assist our residents. In cooperation with the Red Cross, EPO sponsors quarterly blood drives. EPO's news articles and website information are in the Rossmoor News twice each month. EPO offers weekly Quick Tips in the Rossmoor News to aid residents in readying their households for a major emergency or disaster striking Rossmoor and beyond. www.rossmoornews.com Our website www.rossmoorepo.org was created in 2018 by two volunteers of EPO to facilitate and disseminate knowledge on a full-time basis rather than monthly. It has been a fantastic source of knowledge.

PAST PRESIDENTS

- Al Zandar, GRF Emergency Preparedness Committee 1992 - 2007
- Gerald Priebat, GRF Emergency Preparedness Committee 1992 - 2007
- Donna Kaufman, 2008 - 2009
- Ellen Dietschy, 2010 - 2012
- Rose Kasmai, 2013
- Colene Reams-Trinterud 2014 – 2019
- Fran Gibson 2020 – 2023 (immediate Past-President 2024)