

Center for Independence of Individuals with Disabilities

Newsletter Fall 2019

SMC Alert Provides Emergency Notifications

With the recent power shut-offs and wildfires in San Mateo County and across California, we were reminded of the importance of emergency preparedness for the disability community. One way to be prepared is to sign up to get notifications about emergency events around us.

SMC Alert is San Mateo County's alert notification system used to contact you during urgent or emergency situations which may include life safety, fire, weather, accidents involving utilities or roadways or disaster notifications. A few examples of the types of messages that can be sent through SMC Alert are:

Emergency situations:

- Notify employees, and/or citizens of the location of the nearest emergency shelter, available bed space, hours of operation during a crisis;
- Notify employees/citizens of available evacuation routes during an emergency;
- Activate special teams within the community, such as CERT volunteers.

Precautionary warnings: (optional subscriptions)

- Crime alerts;
- Major road closure such as a freeway;
- Wildlife warnings such as mountain lion sightings.

You can't be reached if you don't register for SMC Alert—it's an opt-in service so you must sign up in order to receive the alerts. Register for SMC Alert here: www.smcalert.info.

You can set alerts to send emergency and non-emergency text and voice messages to your:

- email accounts

- cell phones, smartphones, tablets
- voice messages to landline phones (home & work)

SMC Alert is managed by the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services. The service is free to register and is available to all cities, towns and special districts within San Mateo County. Alerts may also be sent by local police, fire and emergency managers from other cities within San Mateo County.

When you register, it's important to add addresses. When you enter an address such as your home, work or child's school, the address is geocoded within the mapping system. A map system allows emergency personnel to focus their alerts down to a specific neighborhood or any entire city. If you don't include at least one address, you may miss an important alert.

Questions can be directed to smcalert@smcgov.org.

“SMC Alert is really an extraordinary and powerful tool,” said Supervisor David Canepa who introduced the Board proclamation. “When emergencies hit, time is of the essence and SMC Alert is a direct link between public safety agencies and our community.”

Additional resources:

[Emergency Power Planning Checklist](#) for people who use electricity and battery-dependent assistive technology and medical devices.

California offers a program called, “[Disaster CalFresh](#)”. Disaster CalFresh is a way to meet the temporary nutritional needs of disaster victims within a 30-day period following a natural disaster such as a flood, fire, earthquake or any other natural disaster.

[Transition to Independence Fair](#)

The County of San Mateo held the 6th Annual Transition to Independence Fair on Saturday, October 21, 2019. Center for Independence was a co-organizer for the event. We had an attendance of 300 students and family members. Attendees had an opportunity to visit resource tables learn about programs and services to help youth in their transition from high school to post-secondary life. There were 50 agencies that provide higher education, job training, employment, day

programs, living options to adults with disabilities, including Center for Independence. The event also featured six workshops from benefits counseling, advocacy, healthcare, employment, college preparedness, and assistive technology. Planning for next year's event is already underway. We look forward to seeing you at the Transition Fair next October!

FREE Housing Workshop

Second Tuesday of Every Month: 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM, Center for Independence Main Office, 2001 Winward Way, Suite 103, San Mateo, CA 94404

Fourth Wednesday of Every Month: 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM, Center for Independence Branch Office, 1590 El Camino Real, Suite C, San Bruno, CA 94066

This workshop provides INFORMATION AND RESOURCES about affordable and accessible housing to individuals with disabilities in San Mateo County. Registration required due to limited space. For more information or to register, call 650-645-1780. **Individuals are required to attend the housing workshop prior to receiving one-on-one housing services from CID**

Fundraiser at California Pizza Kitchen

On September 25th, CID held a fundraiser at the California Pizza Kitchen at Hillsdale Mall in San Mateo. For the entire day, 20% of sales was donated to CID. We hoped to raise \$100. We're delighted to announce that we raised \$346.24! Thank you everyone who participated in our fundraising event and thank you to California Pizza Kitchen for the donation! Your support helps us to provide valuable programs and services for people with disabilities, helping them to become more independent!

Housing Accessibility and Modification Program (HAM)

CID has funding available for its HAM Program in the City of South San Francisco. The program helps with the installation of grab bars, hand-rails, stair-lifts, ramps and other modifications to make homes accessible and safe. Free of cost to income qualified consumers. For more information, please contact Lisa at 650-645-1780 Ext. 122 or lisah@cidsanmateo.org.

Peer Support Group

When: Thursdays 10am–12pm

Location: Center for Independence, 2001 Winward Way Ste 103, San Mateo, CA 94404

Potential discussion topics include: Living with and accepting a disability, family and relationship difficulties, employment and housing issues.

If interested in joining the group, contact: Alex Madrid, 650-645-1780 ext 203, alexm@cidsanmateo.org.

AmazonSmile

Thank you for supporting CID. Your shopping makes a difference. Amazon donates to Center for Independence of Individuals with Disabilities when you shop at smile.amazon.com, and select Center for Independence.

Center for Independence of Individuals with Disabilities:

Locations

San Mateo Office: 2001 Winward Way San Mateo, California 94404, Tel: 650.645.1780 Fax: 650.645.1785 TTY: 650.522.9313

San Bruno Branch Office: 1590 El Camino Real, Suite C San Bruno, California 94066, Tel: 650.589.8994 Fax: 650.589.8995 TTY: 650.589.8170.

Our services include:

- ADA Consulting
- Housing Modification
- Counseling & Peer Support
- Independent Living Skills
- Training
- Information & Referral
- Systems Change Advocacy
- Assistive Technology
- Financial Benefits
- Counseling
- System Reuse Program

Please call, email, or stop in for more information.

CID's mission is to provide support services, community awareness, and systems change advocacy to promote full and equal community integration and participation for people with disabilities in San Mateo County.

For accessibility, this publication is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact our office for details

Interested in receiving this quarterly newsletter via email? Sign up on our website! We promise to NEVER send you spam or share your email with anyone.