Disasters are inevitable.
And they are increasing in size and frequency.
Santa Barbara County wildfires
by decade 1980-2018

Data source: SBC Fire
Federally declared disasters in CA
by decade 1980-2018

Data source: FEMA
Billion dollar disaster events in the US by decade 1980-2018

Data source: NOAA
This is the trend.

Where is this going...?
Disasters are happening more often and causing more damage.
The question is not **IF** we will have more natural disasters.

The question is **WHEN** and **HOW BAD** they will be.
Communities experience disasters in a pattern that repeats.

And the same needs and gaps in services show up again and again.
The Disaster Cycle
The Disaster Cycle

- EVENT
- RESPONSE
- MITIGATION
- SHORT-TERM RECOVERY
- LONG-TERM RECOVERY
- PREVENTION
- SHORT-TERM RECOVERY
- LONG-TERM RECOVERY
- PREVENTION
The Disaster Cycle

- PLANNING
- ASSESSMENT
- PREPARATION
- EVENT
- RESPONSE
- SHORT-TERM RECOVERY
- MITIGATION
- LONG-TERM RECOVERY
- PREVENTION
The Disaster Cycle

COLLECTIVE AMNESIA (the great forgetting)

PREVENTION

RESPONSE

MITIGATION

SHORT-TERM RECOVERY

LONG-TERM RECOVERY

ASSESSMENT

PLANNING

PREPARATION

What Event?
We see the same needs and gaps in service every time.
When these needs are not addressed, communities struggle to be resilient.

The Disaster Cycle

1. Immediate Relief
2. Planning
3. Preventing
4. Preparing
5. Remembering
6. Rebuilding for Resilience
Unmet needs lead to the true disaster cycle

- Individual and collective trauma goes unaddressed
- Slow and inadequate physical cleanup and recovery
- Frayed local economy and social infrastructure
- Looting, distrust and social unrest
- Poor people get hit the hardest and end up more vulnerable

This is the opposite of resilience.
The Bucket Brigade was built to meet these needs.

Could we rebuild stronger and smarter by working together?

What if we prepare together?

What if we help each other recover?

RESPONSE
“The local response capacity is the foundation of all disaster relief. “

– David Fukutomi - FEMA
“The community support network is the key. It doesn’t matter what the disaster is, if the network is there it will make all the difference in the world.”

– Rev. Dr. Kate Wiebe, PhD
Our Purpose:
Organize and empower community readiness, response and uplift.
How do we do that?
We take action. Together.
The Bucket Brigade was built to transform this Disaster Cycle...
...into The Community Resilience Cycle

Prevention & Preparation
Let’s prepare together

Community Self-Rescue
Let’s help each other

Community Rebuild and Uplift
We’re in this together for the long run

Community Building

Community Healing

RESPONSE
1. A caring, cooperative and organized community is the fundamental building block of resilience.
2. Local knowledge empowers all preparation and recovery efforts, making them far more efficient and effective.
3. Swift, collaborative and sustained action is required for true recovery and resilience.
Our Formula

The size of a community multiplied by its willingness and ability to cooperate equals resilience capacity.
Our Plan

Build resilience in vulnerable neighborhoods throughout Santa Barbara County. Weave that resilience into a community safety net comprised of neighbors prepared to engage in a time of need: Neighborhood Mutual Aid.

1. Build community at the neighborhood level through grassroots outreach, organizing and uplift.

2. Build neighborhood preparedness with localized education, training and support.

3. Facilitate coordinated community action in response to natural disasters and community crises.
Our community gets better for everyone, no matter what comes next.