

Message from the City Manager to the Milpitas Community

08/22/2020



Dear Milpitas Community Members,

Late August has brought new challenges to Milpitas, from a heat wave and rolling power outages to the SCU Lighting Complex fires – and of course, ongoing COVID-19 impacts. As you are well aware, one of those fires known as the Reservoir Fire, came to our doorstep, forcing residents in the unincorporated areas of Milpitas to evacuate.

Thanks to the hard work of firefighters from Milpitas, CAL FIRE, Santa Clara County Fire, and many other agencies, and with the help of fortunate weather conditions, the City of Milpitas is not currently under any evacuation watch or warning. I urge you to stay prepared: pack a 3-day supply of medications and clothes, along with essential papers and ID. [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) offers tips on how to pack and prepare before, during, and after a [wildfire](#), and [CAL FIRE](#) also offers resources on how to protect your home in case you must evacuate. Don't wait until an evacuation becomes imminent—get prepared now.

Another way you and your loved ones can prepare is to [sign up to receive emergency alerts](#) from Santa Clara County [by clicking this link](#). The City is closely monitoring any potential changes to the wildfires and has activated our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) with 24/7 staffing. The COVID-19 response is also being coordinated from the EOC and we are continually focused on the pandemic.

In response to heat and smoke conditions, we will be opening a cooling center/clean air center at the Sports Center starting Monday, August 24. The Sports Center has the capacity to hold 100 people with social distancing and has a backup generator in case of power outages caused by nearby fires or Public Safety Power Shutoffs. If you plan to visit the cooling center, please bring your face covering and remember to [#MaskUpMilpitas](#).

In some positive news, the city is launching a Milpitas Small Business Spotlight program to support shopping local. Local businesses can be nominated for the program by community members or business owners, and the nomination process will be open from August 21 through September 21. The City will hold a lottery to randomly select fifteen local businesses, which will receive a 90-second video for promotional use.

While we respond to the fires, the City is still at work trying to stop the spread of COVID-19. We strongly encourage all of you to wear a face covering when you leave your home. Face coverings and social distancing remain two of the most important ways to protect yourself and your family. You can prevent the spread of COVID-19 by joining your community in a campaign to [#MaskUpMilpitas](#).

I continue to be inspired by the resilience and character shown by Milpitanians in these extremely difficult months. I believe we can be the most prepared community in the Bay Area for wildfires. We'll continue to get through these challenges the best way any community can: together.

Sincerely,
Steve

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