

As many of you know, if a person suffers a sudden cardiac arrest event, the sooner CPR and defibrillation are started the more likely the individual is to survive. Fifty-seven percent of U.S. adults say they've had CPR training, and most would be willing to use CPR or an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) to help save a stranger's life. Yet only 11% say they've used CPR in an actual emergency - that's a number we can increase together.

When a life-threatening call comes in our emergency responders will be ready. But what if someone was already at the scene, applying lifesaving CPR and defibrillation until they arrive? With a new mobile phone application called PulsePoint Respond, the 911 dispatch center immediately alerts CPR-trained individuals about nearby cardiac arrest events through the free PulsePoint Respond mobile app. If the cardiac emergency is in a public place, the location-aware application will alert users in the vicinity of the need for CPR simultaneous with the dispatch of advanced medical care. The application also directs these potential rescuers to the exact location of the closest Automated External Defibrillator.

The Pulse Point Respond application also allows you to view all active and recent fire incidents in Marin County. For example, I am looking at my application as I write this article and I see that firefighters are responding to a traffic collision in Novato and medical emergencies in Mill Valley, San Anselmo and San Rafael. The exact address is given for each incident and it is mapped. I also see a list of the 90 incidents that were dispatched for Marin County Fire Departments in the last 24 hours.

If you are trained in CPR, I strongly recommend that you download this free application at PulsePoint.org or through the Apple Store, etc. If you would like to receive free CPR training, please contact Rich Shortall (rich_shortall@att.net). If we get enough residents interested, the Sleepy Hollow Fire Protection District will hold a class.

Another interesting resource can be found at alertwildfire.org/northbay. In 2018, the Marin County Fire Department partnered with PG&E and ALERTWildfire to update and upgrade the Counties Fire Detection Cameras. The system provides on line access to state-of-the-art Pan-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) fire cameras and associated tools to help firefighters and first responders: (1) discover/locate/confirm fire ignition, (2) quickly scale fire resources up or down appropriately, (3) monitor fire behavior through containment, (4) during firestorms, help evacuations through enhanced situational awareness, and (5) ensure contained fires are monitored appropriately through their demise. When you go to the website, you will be able to select from one of 38 cameras providing spectacular coverage from mountain peaks of the entire North Bay.