

Dear Emily Rogan:

Thank you so much for coming to speak to the Berkeley Disaster Prep Neighborhood Network members and Berkeley community in general. The issue of the role of insurance in preparing for and recovering from a disaster is one that is vitally important to our mission and our community, but one that often gets downplayed in the world of disaster prep (which tends to focus on issues such as supplies, first aid, and community coordination).

We have been seeking someone to come speak on disaster insurance for some time and so we were pleased that you were available to come speak with us. But our community knew little of what United Policyholders does, and so we didn't really know what to expect.

Your presentation of UP's mission and services, and the various considerations around insurance as a vital part of disaster prep was engaging (especially for a subject that can make one's eyes glaze over!), thoughtful, informative, and clear. You answered the many varied questions with honesty, humor, and understanding of our community's specific concerns. We are so grateful that a consumer-focused organization like UP – completely independent of the insurance industry – is there to help families and individuals, homeowners and renters alike, navigate the confusing claims process after a disaster, and to help them before a crisis as well.

We are so lucky to have had you come and speak with us, and to have learned that an organization such as United Policyholders is there to serve people both before a disaster and after, and that it is vigilant in assessing the problems around insurance and in advocating on behalf of communities like ours. Thank you!

Sincerely,

David Peattie

On behalf of the board of the BDPNN

Berkeley Disaster Prep Neighborhood Network