

PREPARE AND LEARN

Preparing neighborhoods for disasters save lives, reduces the severity of injuries and reduces property damage.

Working together as a team and contributing as an individual develops stronger communities and improves the quality of life in the community.

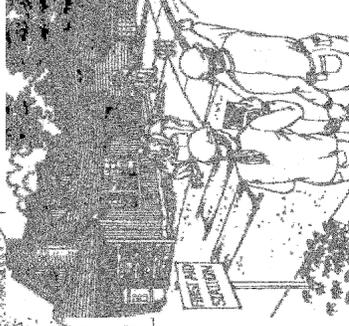
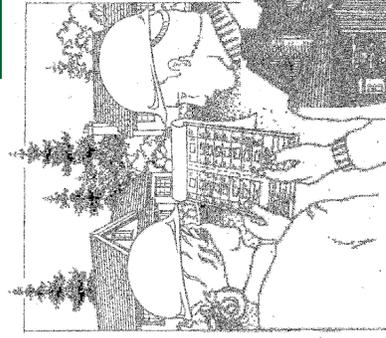


Preparedness is vital to overcome disasters

During a Map Your Neighborhood event you will;

- Learn the “9 Steps” to take immediately following a disaster.
- Develop a neighborhood skills and equipment inventory.
- Map your neighborhood and identify areas of concern such as gas meters.
- Verify which neighbors need extra help such as the elderly, those with a disability, or children who may be alone.

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MAP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD



CONTACT

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Prepare your Neighborhood

Map your neighborhood (MYN) is designed to improve readiness among your neighbors. Disasters may cause more emergencies than professional responders including police, firefighters, paramedics, and utility personnel can handle. Assistance from overwhelmed responders are prioritized based upon the greatest need first.

During the hours or days that may pass, before professionals can respond, residents must rely on themselves and their neighbors for assistance.

MYN provides a step-by-step process that groups of neighbors can work through together to prepare their neighborhood for disasters.

It takes just one person to begin this process by personally inviting the neighborhood to his or her home for a 90-minute preparedness meeting.

During a MYN meeting, participants

- (1) learn the “9 Steps” to take immediately following a disaster;
- (2) identify the skills and equipment each neighbor has that could help the neighborhood cope with a disaster;

- (3) create a neighborhood map that pinpoints the locations of all natural gas meters and propane tanks;
- (4) compile a contact list that includes the names of individuals who may need extra help in a disaster, such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, or children who may be home alone. Participants also pick locations for a ‘Neighborhood Gathering Site’ and a ‘Neighborhood Care Center.’

The “9 Steps”

MYN participants learn nine steps that begin at home and then reach throughout the neighborhood.

Immediately after a disaster, residents check to ensure that their own families and homes are safe and sound.

They don protective clothing; check for natural gas leaks and shut off the gas to their house if necessary; shut off water and electricity to the house if needed; tape a placard onto their front door or window signaling their status (“OK” or “Help”); and take their household fire extinguishers out to the front curb for use in the neighborhood.

Those who are able then go to the designated Neighborhood Gathering

Site, where they use the skills and equipment information prepared earlier to assemble four teams.

One team remains at the site to monitor local radio broadcasts for emergency information; another team uses the neighborhood contact list to check on individuals who may need extra assistance and transport them to the care center if appropriate; a third team checks neighborhood gas meters and propane tanks and shuts them off when needed; and the remaining team walks door-to-door to check on homes displaying the “Help” placard (or no placard).

As the teams complete their assignments, they report back to the gathering site and make further plans as required.

Don’t wait, take action now and Map Your Neighborhood.



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Map Your Neighborhood was developed by LuAnn K. Johnson, PhD, Public Education Manager, Washington Emergency Management. Excerpts from “Seismic Waves,” a publication of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program were used in the creation of this brochure. Please see www.nehrp.gov for info.