

## Neighborhood Emergency Response Plan

Dear Neighbors:

We prepare for emergencies such as fires, earthquakes and weather events because the consequences of being unprepared are too great. We hope such incidents won't happen but we never know, so it seems like a good idea to have a neighborhood emergency response plan in place just in case. It seems to me that the peace of mind knowing we are ready will be worth the effort of preparing. Below you will find a preliminary outline for a plan that can be adjusted as we go.

Sincerely,

John Doe

### NEIGHBORHOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

**Objective:** To ensure everyone is prepared for disaster and has the necessary supplies to assist one another in sustaining basic necessities (such as food, medicine and water) for at least 72 hours. This objective is flexible and will develop as further needs are identified.

#### **Establish team leaders**

Incident commander

Neighborhood watch members

Neighborhood fire station representative

Emergency medical services representative

Protection services representative

#### **Conduct hazard analysis**

What hazardous locations are close to our neighborhood?

What hazardous conditions might arise?

How will we prepare for potential hazardous conditions?

#### **Identify communication resources**

What communication technology is available in our neighborhood (Internet, Ham radios, telecommunications, land lines, etc.)?

## Neighborhood Emergency Response Plan

How will we communicate with one another? Communication tree?

How will we communicate with the outside world?

How are 'warnings' received and distributed?

### **Plan assumptions (assume the best but plan for the worst)**

- A major or catastrophic incident may overwhelm the capabilities of counties and municipalities to provide prompt and effective response.
- Transportation infrastructure may be damaged and local transportation services disrupted.
- Widespread damage to commercial telecommunications facilities may occur.
- Homes, public buildings and other critical facilities and equipment may be destroyed or damaged.
- Debris may make streets and highways impassable.
- Public utilities may be damaged and either fully or partially inoperable.
- Some people may require immediate rescue and/or medical care.
- There may be a shortage of supplies.
- Energy sources could be disrupted.

Incident commander initiates all communications and maintains contact with team leaders and outside agencies as needed.

### **Preparedness Level (Prelevel) Pre-incident Planning Timeline:**

Prep Level 4—**72 HOURS PRIOR:** Monitor the situation and review preparedness plans, implement neighborhood communication tree if applicable, secure neighborhood meeting place.

Prep Level 3—**48 HOURS PRIOR:** Secure homes, gather supplies, consider options for evacuation if necessary, activate personal and neighborhood preparedness plans.

Prep Level 2—**36 HOURS PRIOR:** Secure outside objects, vehicles, ensure that you have fuel, cash and food. Incident commander meets with support team for coordination and monitoring of the situation.

### Prep Level 1—**24 HOURS PRIOR:**

- Secure safe spaces, first aid station, meeting place, water
- Finalize response team plans.
- Activate communication plan.
- Secure neighborhood meeting place.
- Determine a location for incident command center. This could be a home, community center or other suitable meeting place. All activities will be centered around the incident command center.

## Neighborhood Emergency Response Plan

### Prep Level 0—**DURING THE INCIDENT**

- Do routine wellness check-ups on all neighbors
- Establish regular check-ups and provide care for:
  - The sick
  - The elderly
  - Animals
- Coordinate food and water supply
- Keep a record of injuries
- Keep a record of damages

### **Incident Codes**

CI = critical incident: attack or accident which may involve serious physical and/or psychological impact for a significant number of people.

W = weather: tornado, hurricane, volcano eruption, earthquake, etc.

N = Nuclear: any sort of accident or incident involving nuclear facilities or weapons

Bi = Biological event: disease carrying insects, spread of viruses, etc.

Cy = Cyber attack

Preparation level alerts may be accompanied by the above abbreviations. For example, if a Preparation Level 1 is called due to a weather event, it may be expressed this way:

**PrepLev 1 W** (Preparation Level 1 Weather).

If, for example, a critical incident is in progress, a Preparation Level 0 may be expressed as **PrepLev 0 CI**.