Building and Strengthening Disaster Readiness Among Neighbors

Remember...
Immediately following disasters, follow the 9 Steps described in this booklet.

Map Your Neighborhood - MYN
With thanks to Washington State Emergency Management, Public Education

Check these houses first: “No Card” and “Help”
Check these houses later to make sure they are fine.
Introduction to Map Your Neighborhood (MYN)

In a disaster, your most immediate source of help are the neighbors living around you.

In this Handout you will:

1. Learn the first 9 Steps to take immediately following disaster to secure your home and to protect your neighborhood.
   
   It is hard to think clearly following disaster. These steps will help you quickly and safely to do things that really help.

2. Identify the skills and equipment each neighbor has that are useful in an effective disaster response.

   Knowing which neighbors have supplies and skills helps your disaster response be timely, and allows everyone to contribute to the response in a meaningful way.

3. Create a Neighborhood Map showing the locations of:
   - Each natural gas meter and propane tank.

     About 67% of house fires following disasters are caused by leaking gas. Knowing where these meters are and shutting them off helps eliminate this threat.

   - Each neighbor who is elderly, who has disability, and where children are who may be home alone at certain hours of the day.

     Checking on neighbors vulnerable to injury and trauma helps protect them from going into shock, and helps ensure that everyone is okay.

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Use the bandaid to hang this card on the front door or a window so it is visible from the street.

**BEFORE THE DISASTER**

Put two bandages in this booklet and put the booklet under your bed.

Along with your sturdy shoes, hard hats, and leather gloves.

**AFTER THE DISASTER**
# 9 Steps — Immediately Following Disaster

## AT HOME...

**Step 1.** Take care of your loved ones.  
**Step 2.** Protect your head, feet and hands. A bicycle helmet or hard hat protects from falling debris. Sturdy shoes protect from broken glass. Leather gloves protect from sharp objects.  
**Step 3.** Check the natural gas or propane at your home. Shut off if necessary. This is one of the best ways to prevent fire.  
**Step 4.** Shut off water at the house main to trap water in your home and to keep pollutants out of possible drinking water, like that in your water heater.  
**Step 5.** Place the Help or OK sign (see back page) on your front door or window. Posting the sign helps your neighbors locate those who need help first.  
**Step 6.** Put your fire extinguisher on the sidewalk or where neighbors can see it. This way, if a neighbor has a small fire after a disaster, extinguishers are immediately available.

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### Your Neighborhood Contact List (may continue on next page)

#### HOUSE 1
- Adult Name(s)
- Children Name(s)
- Best Phone
- Email
- Pet(s) and kind(s)
  - Any person with specific needs

#### HOUSE 6
- Adult Name(s)
- Children Name(s)
- Best Phone
- Email
- Pet(s) and kind(s)
  - Any person with specific needs

#### HOUSE 11
- Adult Name(s)
- Children Name(s)
- Best Phone
- Email
- Pet(s) and kind(s)
  - Any person with specific needs

#### HOUSE 2
- Adult Name(s)
- Children Name(s)
- Best Phone
- Email
- Pet(s) and kind(s)
  - Any person with specific needs

#### HOUSE 7
- Adult Name(s)
- Children Name(s)
- Best Phone
- Email
- Pet(s) and kind(s)
  - Any person with specific needs

#### HOUSE 12
- Adult Name(s)
- Children Name(s)
- Best Phone
- Email
- Pet(s) and kind(s)
  - Any person with specific needs

#### HOUSE 3
- Adult Name(s)
- Children Name(s)
- Best Phone
- Email
- Pet(s) and kind(s)
  - Any person with specific needs

#### HOUSE 8
- Adult Name(s)
- Children Name(s)
- Best Phone
- Email
- Pet(s) and kind(s)
  - Any person with specific needs

#### HOUSE 13
- Adult Name(s)
- Children Name(s)
- Best Phone
- Email
- Pet(s) and kind(s)
  - Any person with specific needs

#### HOUSE 4
- Adult Name(s)
- Children Name(s)
- Best Phone
- Email
- Pet(s) and kind(s)
  - Any person with specific needs

#### HOUSE 9
- Adult Name(s)
- Children Name(s)
- Best Phone
- Email
- Pet(s) and kind(s)
  - Any person with specific needs

#### HOUSE 14
- Adult Name(s)
- Children Name(s)
- Best Phone
- Email
- Pet(s) and kind(s)
  - Any person with specific needs

#### HOUSE 5
- Adult Name(s)
- Children Name(s)
- Best Phone
- Email
- Pet(s) and kind(s)
  - Any person with specific needs

#### HOUSE 10
- Adult Name(s)
- Children Name(s)
- Best Phone
- Email
- Pet(s) and kind(s)
  - Any person with specific needs

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**Your NEIGHBORHOOD MAP and CONTACT LIST**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOUSE</th>
<th>Adult Name(s)</th>
<th>Children Name(s)</th>
<th>Best Phone</th>
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<th>Pet(s) and kind(s)</th>
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Guidelines for Neighborhood Mapping

These guidelines will help you sketch a neighborhood map (create the sketch on the following page).

FIRST:
Sketch the basic layout of your neighborhood.
- Include streets, building lots, and houses.
- Include house numbers.

SECOND:
Number the building lots in order. This will allow you to easily match each house to the information on the Contact List (see FOURTH step).

THIRD:
Mark the exact location of each natural gas meter or propane tank on your map.
- Explain the location of your gas meter to your neighbors. For example, "behind the lilac bush on the front corner of the house."
- Suggestion: At the end of the meeting, actually walk your neighborhood and identify each meter. It is useful to see where each meter is located.

Neighborhood Care Center:
A Neighborhood Care Center is inside someone’s home. It is a place where children, those who are elderly and those with disability can be brought so they are not alone and where they can be given care.
Write your Neighborhood Care Center location here:
Neighborhood Gathering Site and Care Center

Neighborhood Gathering Site:

Come to the Neighborhood Gathering Site after you have completed Steps 1-6 of "9 Steps Immediately Following Disaster." Coming here will help you organize an effective neighborhood response, and reduce confusion.

The Neighborhood Gathering Site is at someone’s home, though not inside because it is important that it is easily seen. The visibility will help remind everyone that they should come here. A large front porch, a covered carport, or an open garage will protect you from rain or snow.

Write your Neighborhood Gathering Site here (please also write this location in the box on the previous page):

FOURTH:

- In the tinted box on the Contact List, write names of those who may need extra help during disasters (neighbors who are elderly, neighbors with disability, and children who may be home alone at certain hours of the day).

- Match 1 on contact list with the lot that you numbered "1," match 2 with the lot that you numbered "2," match 3 with "3," match 4 with "4," etc.

In the next 48 hours, complete the Contact List as shown above.
Your Neighborhood Map

Draw the layout of streets, building lots and houses (see previous “Guidelines for Neighborhood Mapping”).
Number building lots in order. Mark exact locations of gas meters and propane tanks.

WITH NEIGHBORS...

Step 7. After Steps 1-6 are completed, go to the Neighborhood Gathering Site. (The following page will help you choose this location.)

Step 8. Form Teams at the Neighborhood Gathering Site:
- Team 1 will listen to the Emergency Alert System (AM/FM radio), or to a NOAA Weather Radio and keep neighbors informed of what they learn.
- Team 2 will check on neighbors who are elderly, those with disability, or children who may be home alone.
- Team 3 will check all natural gas meters and propane tanks, and shut off the gas as necessary.
- Team 4 will check on all homes with the “Help” card displayed on the front door or window, or with no ce showing. Be prepared to give first aid. Trust your instincts. If something feels unsafe, stay out.

Step 9. After your Team has completed its work, go back to the Neighborhood Gathering Site. Share what you have done with the rest of your neighbors.
Neighborhood Skills and Equipment Inventory

Who knows what?  Who has what?  Who can do what?

Write the names of neighbors with these skills/knowledge and equipment/supplies:

**SKILLS / KNOWLEDGE**

- First Aid Skills
- Child Care Skills
- Elder Care Skills
- Search and Rescue Skills
- Crisis Counseling Skills
- Plumber Skills
- Carpenter Skills
- Electrician Skills
- Fire Fighting Skills
- Coordinating and Organizing Skills

**EQUIPMENT / SUPPLIES**

- First Aid Supplies
- Tents / Spare Bedding
- Chain Saw
- Generator
- Fire Extinguisher
- Camp Stove
- Walkie-Talkie
- NOAA Weather Radio
- Ladder
- Crow Bar
- Strong Rope