

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

# 5STEP

NEIGHBORHOOD  
**ACTION KIT**

## NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING **FACILITATOR GUIDE**











## STEP 1

# DEFINE YOUR AREA

Identify a manageable area, your apartment building, one block, a few small surrounding streets, etc, that you can organize with relative ease.



## STEP 2

# RECRUIT LEADERS & PARTICIPANTS

Develop a team of leaders who can help build the plan and carry out emergency support activities when the time comes.



## STEP 3

# SCOUT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Get to know the lay of the land: what resources you have, what the landscape is, and disasters or other emergencies common to your area.



## STEP 4

# BUILD YOUR TEAM

Find out who lives in your area, how they can help in a disaster, and who may need extra help.



## STEP 5

# PLAN YOUR APPROACH

Create a plan that outlines what your neighborhood will do before, during, and after a disaster!

# THE FIRST MEETING

The purpose of this Guide is to help you conduct neighborhood meetings and complete your neighborhood disaster plan. Throughout the Guide you will see talking points in *italics*, extra direction [in brackets] and additional helpful information to help you answer questions and conduct successful meetings.



## BEFORE THE MEETING

1. Review the steps that will help us complete a neighborhood plan and begin to draft documents as described in Steps 1, 2 and 3.
2. Recruit assistance for launching the planning process and helping at the first meeting.
3. Have supplies such as an agenda, blank surveys, pencils, maps, and a sign-in sheet.
4. Have at least one copy of the 5 Step Neighborhood Disaster Plan Template available.
5. Research availability of upcoming training in your area, especially CERT, First Aid and CPR.

Other things you might want to have for the meeting include snacks, a fire extinguisher, emergency supply kit, and information about CERT training.

## MEETING AGENDA

1. Introductions, getting to know each other and where we live.
2. Purpose: to discuss and plan for how to respond to disasters in our neighborhood.
3. Present draft documents that kick off the planning process.
4. Identify and recruit more team members to help plan or take on leadership roles in a disaster.
5. Collect or complete neighbor surveys.
6. Walk the proposed neighborhood to validate and complete boundary map.
7. Create a list and assign action items for the next meeting.



## OPENING REMARKS

Welcome! This is the [state name of neighborhood] Neighborhood Disaster Preparedness Meeting. Thank you for coming. The purpose of this meeting is for us to find ways that we can help each other during a disaster. Before we dive into the meeting, let's do some introductions. My name is [state first and last name] I live [attend or work] at [state address and describe it e.g., white house at the end of the cul-de-sac on Main Street]. Please introduce yourselves, starting here to my right [point to right]. Tell us your first and last name, and where you live, work, or attend. Please tell us something distinct about your place – like “the little church on the top of the hill” – so that we can picture each location. Thank you.

[Hold up Neighbor Survey]. Does everyone have a copy of the Neighbor Survey? We will discuss it in more detail later, but please start filling in what you can; we would like to collect the completed survey from you before you leave tonight.

The purpose of this meeting is to talk about how we can prepare as a neighborhood – so tonight we will not have time to talk about personal preparedness. We can talk about it at a future meeting and there are references to sources of information in your packets. We want to be sure that we are all using the same definition of the disaster we are planning for. A disaster is any event that overwhelms the capacity of 9-1-1 emergency responders. When that happens, the people who will be our first responders are here in this room. Look around the room. Our neighbors will be the ones who make sure we are safe and help us when we are in need.



# REVIEW STEP 1: DEFINE THE AREA



## STEP 1 DEFINE YOUR AREA

### REVIEW STEP 1

The first step to create a disaster plan for our neighborhood is to define the area that our plan will include. We have started this process but we all need to decide if this is the map we will be using for our Plan.

- ◆ What size area would be easy for a small team to manage? **25 to 40 households is ideal** but it could be larger if we decide to use block captains or networks that already exist. A good reason to choose a larger planning area might be an active neighborhood watch program.
- ◆ Can we communicate easily? Do we need radios and have good access to all the residences? Do we need people who are bilingual to be sure we can talk to everyone in our area?
- ◆ Can we quickly identify who needs help and practice “neighbor helping neighbor” techniques? If we choose to plan for a larger area do we have enough team leaders to be responsive to the whole neighborhood?

[Review your neighborhood map. Review the streets, homes and other facilities covered. Provide the estimated total number of homes and other facilities included in the defined area.]

We need to make sure that we have everything correctly labeled. Are we missing anything? We need to show:

- ◆ The number of homes, business, schools, churches, and other buildings in the area
- ◆ The number of people in the area
- ◆ The roads and other entrance and exit points, hills, and waterways

Thank you.

Total time for this topic: 10 minutes

### Key facilities could include:

Community centers  
Schools  
Churches  
Parks  
Large Front Yards  
Garages/Carports





# STEP 2: RECRUITING LEADERS



## STEP 2 RECRUIT LEADERS & PARTICIPANTS

### REVIEW STEP 2

This section is about recruiting leaders to help create the disaster plan and leaders who can take part in emergency response. There are two types of leader we are looking for:

1. Those who can help us with planning and disaster plan development
2. Those who will have a leadership role in disaster response

Of course, these two volunteer groups need to work together during this planning process so we know that our plan has people to put into action. In preparation for this meeting, we have already identified some people who are interested in taking on a leadership role. They include: [introduce your leaders and the type of help they will provide – planning or response. If you need more leaders, ask folks to volunteer at this time.]

### TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

CERT Training classes is one way that we can learn skills that can be used in response to a disaster here in this neighborhood. I encourage you all to consider taking CERT classes. CERT or Community Emergency Response Training is offered throughout the year led by County Fire of the Sheriff's Department plus other City Fire Departments in the County. Classes are always free and will take about 20 hours to complete.

Total time for this topic: 10 minutes

# STEP 3: SCOUTING THE AREA



## STEP 3 SCOUT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

### REVIEW STEP 3

This is a big section and your input is really important as we move through the planning process. At the end of the meeting, we will tour the planning area and confirm the decisions we make tonight. We will be looking at the following:

- ◆ Threats & Risks
- ◆ Specific Hazards
- ◆ Assets
- ◆ Mapping
- ◆ Gathering Place
- ◆ Care Centers
- ◆ Triage Area

First, we need to identify the threats to our neighborhood. Threats are things like earthquakes and extreme weather. [Review the threats you have noted so far with the group.] Do we need to add any? [Document additions.]

Next, we need to list whether the disaster is highly, moderately, or not very likely to occur. [Review the risk levels that you have noted for the threats.] Does anyone have any changes or questions? [Document additions.]

Finally, we need to review how at risk our neighborhood is to injuries, death or property damage. We will classify these risks as high, medium or low. [Review the risk levels that you have noted.] Does anyone have any changes or questions? [Document additions.]

Thank you.





## ASSETS

Let’s talk about assets. We need to know what we have in this neighborhood that can be used to help in disaster response. Assets include anything that can be useful as we respond to or recover from a disaster. Here are examples:

- ◆ People trained in CERT, medical care, first aid, search and rescue, carpentry, plumbing, or crisis counseling
- ◆ Emergency Supply Bins
- ◆ Places like parks, schools, garages, open space and health/medical centers
- ◆ Organizations like neighborhood clubs, fraternal organizations, radio clubs, local military organizations, and disability service providers
- ◆ Businesses nearby that might be able to provide supplies or equipment
- ◆ Equipment and supplies for clearing debris, boats for rescue during floods, communication equipment, first aid supplies, generators and other items useful during or after a disaster
- ◆ Evacuation resources, like accessible vehicles

[Starting with each threat listed, ask for input from residents to identify what asset they have, where it is, how to contact the owner, how to get access to it, what is it vulnerable to, how can it be protected to it will be available to use? Document everything.]

ASSET TYPE	ASSET DESCRIPTION	ASSET LOCATION OR CONTACT INFORMATION <sup>1</sup>

# STEP 3: SCOUTING THE AREA



## MAPPING

Now we are going to chart our neighborhood and create a contact list. Take a look at the drawing we created. Everyone should add to the drawing so that we are all have the same information while we consider the planning area. Take a few minutes to review and update the contact information. We need your first and last name, contact information (email and 24 hour phone), the number of people at your location, and pets. Add street names if they are not shown.

Next, we are going to number all of the residences in order on the map – we will not be using street addresses because that might be confusing when we are responding and tracking our progress. [Hold up your map and show this.]

Now, take a look at the map and let's make sure we have the following information:

- ◆ Entrance and exit routes to and from the community that are accessible by foot, wheelchair, scooter, and car.
- ◆ Obstacles that after a disaster could make entry and exit difficult, such as collapsed over/under passes, downed trees, or overhead power lines.
- ◆ Names of those who may need assistance during disasters. This includes neighbors who may need extra help, children who are home alone, older adults and persons with difficulty seeing, reading, walking, speaking, hearing, remembering, understanding, or responding to direction. Writing the names here will help us remember to check on these specific neighbors soon after disaster occurs. This information will be kept confidential by our [neighborhood leaders/block captains] and is only for our use as neighbors. Of course, sharing information is voluntary.

List all of these on your drawing.



# STEP 3: SCOUTING THE AREA

We also need to locate a Neighborhood Gathering Place. The Neighborhood Gathering Place is a space for us to meet after a disaster to organize, check that no one is left behind, and to coordinate our activities. We need to pick one large central area (e.g., park, recreation area, porch, covered car port) to gather and organize response activities.

## GATHERING PLACE

- ◆ Easily seen so others will recognize this as the main gathering point
- ◆ Easy to access for everyone
- ◆ Safe from predictable hazards like flood, fire, fallen trees and power lines
- ◆ Nearby accessible toilet facilities
- ◆ Well lit in case of night evacuation
- ◆ Can accommodate service animals and pets
- ◆ Big enough for planned number of people and vehicles
- ◆ Accessible to children and adults with disabilities

We also need to locate a Neighborhood Care Center. The Neighborhood Care Center is a place where people can get extra help, including children, older adults, people with disabilities and others can be brought and cared for. Where can we locate at least one Center?

Last, let's locate a triage location, where the injured can be given first aid or assessed for medical treatment. Where should this be?

Update your map/drawing with potential locations for each of these needs.

Total time for this topic: 45 minutes



# STEP 4: BUILDING TEAMS



## STEP 4 **BUILD** YOUR TEAM

### STEP 4

Our next step is to start forming groups. Look around the room; do we represent the diversity of the people in our neighborhood? Do we need more homeowners, renters, families, businesses, churches, nonprofits, schools, or local organizations from this neighborhood? Are there any nearby service organizations, service providers, residential, care or assisted living facilities that we should include in our plan? [Document recommendations and assign them to someone to contact each group and report back.]

### SKILLS & TRAINING

Now, we need to identify the skills and equipment each of us has that may be useful in disaster response.

Who has CERT or first aid training, can lift heavy objects, experience caring for children or working with people who may be confused when dealing with unfamiliar activity during an emergency due to age, loss of sense of direction, not understanding what is happening, etc.?

[Document this on your contact sheet and assign someone to confirm with each person.]

### PHONE TREE

Although telephone service is vulnerable for some disasters, in many cases it will be the best way to get and give important information. A phone tree is a list of people and phone numbers arranged so everyone is part of a chain of calls. For example, the person who gets the first call contacts a few people, then those people call the people on their list, and so on until everyone in the neighborhood has been contacted. Who is interested participating in a phone tree? [Document this on your contact sheet and assign someone to put it together.]

Total time for this topic: 15 minutes





## STEP 5 **PLAN** YOUR APPROACH



### **STEP 5**

Let's talk about what we need to do in a disaster and be sure we all have the same planning action steps.

#### **Make Sure Everyone in Your Household is Safe**

Don't forget your pets!

#### **Put Your Personal Emergency Plan Into Action**

Wear protective clothing, pull out your fire extinguisher, check your utilities and take other steps noted in your plan.

#### **Go to Your Neighborhood Gathering Place**

If it's safe, gather at our planned location to check in.

#### **Get Organized**

If the Leader listed in our plan is not available, select someone else to lead the overall response effort.

#### **Form Response Teams**

Using our plan, assign team leaders for every 3-7 people with a response role.

#### **Put Neighborhood Plan into Action!**

Decide what we want to do, how we plan to do it, and the time we have to respond.

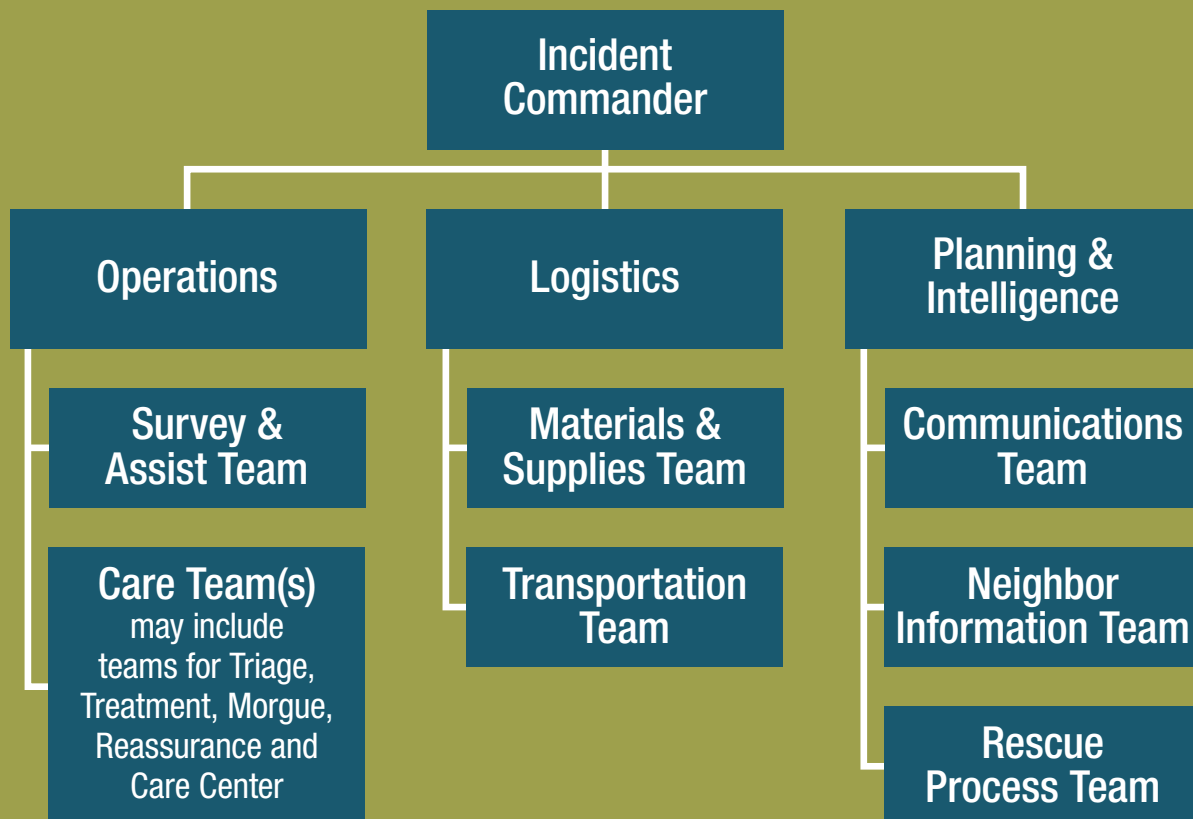
# STEP 5: PLANNING STRATEGY

A practice used by first responders and CERT is to organize using the Incident Command System. The **Incident Commander** is the leader and he/she is responsible for deciding what is to be done and monitoring the status of the neighborhood.

The job of **Planning & Intelligence** is mainly to gather information about what is happening in the neighborhood and give that information to the Operations teams. You will also help spread information to residents that are in the care centers or still in their homes.

The job of **Operations** is to organize teams and take action to survey the neighborhood and provide assistance. These jobs are usually assigned to people who have skills and experience.

The job of **Logistics** is to get stuff; make sure that there is the space to do the work and get the things needed to get the job done.





# STEP 5: PLANNING STRATEGY

Here are some teams that you can form. Take a look at the list and let's find out who is interested in joining each team. Remember that each Team should have at least three members. [Document names of volunteers for each team.]

**Communications Team.** The Communications Team listens to the Emergency Alert System, handheld radio, and/or National Weather Radio. The Communications Team is responsible for communicating information within the neighborhood and to/from the neighborhood and first responders.

**Survey & Assist Team.** This team will look for the OK/Help signs, as well as check on those listed as needing extra help. They begin with a damage assessment to identify hazard areas and prioritize Survey & Assist operations. Ideal members have completed CERT Search & Rescue training.





# STEP 5: PLANNING STRATEGY

**Care Teams.** Care Teams can consist of

- ◆ **Triage Team** – those who determine the priority that injured survivors will receive care
- ◆ **Treatment Team** – those who tend to the injured
- ◆ **Care Center Team** – those who provide extra care during disaster. Members of these teams ideally have experience in healthcare.
- ◆ You may also consider creating a **Reassurance Team** – those who help keep fear and anxiety at low levels.

**Materials & Supplies Team.** This team coordinates getting the materials and supplies needed from within the neighborhood. Over time, this might also include organizing food and water supplies.

**Transportation Team.** This team coordinates transportation for supplies, equipment and people within the neighborhood.

**Neighborhood Information Team.** This team coordinates information about survivors and relays information about rescue progress and survivor status (injured, missing, etc.) from the Command Post to the Care Center.







### STEP 4

Another important part of response is communications. Take a moment to review the various communications methods we can use in our neighborhood.

[If your neighborhood has a webpage or social media account, talk about how this can be used in a disaster to communicate information. Identify people to carry out related action items.]

I encourage everyone to sign up for Alert LA County, which is a community mass notification system that will provide recorded phone messages, text messages, and email. Register at [www.alert.lacounty.gov](http://www.alert.lacounty.gov) and click on the link to “Alert LA County”.

During a disaster you can also register on the Red Cross “Safe and Well” website <https://communityos.safeandwell.org>. This is a tool that you can use to let friends and family know that you are OK.

Anyone with a disability or other restrictions that will make self evacuating difficult or impossible should consider signing up for SNAP. This is a voluntary web-based registry for people who could potentially have difficulty evacuating in an emergency or critical event. Register at <http://snap.lacounty.gov/>

One issue that the planning group must decide is whether to use the OK/HELP window sign that is part of the Action Kit. Using the signs is optional and how they will be used will be documented in the Neighborhood Plan.

# STEP 5: PLANNING STRATEGY

## WRITE IT DOWN

We have made progress in preparing our neighborhood for disaster!

Next, we need to put it in writing! This where our group of planners comes in. [Review the names of the people who volunteered as planners.] Are you still up for this? Use the plan template [show the template] to create a simple disaster plan. Can you meet soon after this meeting to put together what we talked about today?

Last, I want to call everyone's attention to the Disaster Resources listed near the end of the 5 Step Neighborhood Guide. Look through the list and explore some of the resources available.

Please return the sign-in sheet and the surveys to me before you leave. [Gather these.] Thank you.

Let's talk about what we need to do next.

First, [look at planners] can you make the plan available for review at next month's meeting? [Review the date, location, and time of the meeting.]

Once we have a plan and have assigned roles, we will need to review and clarify these roles at every other neighborhood meeting to accommodate for new people and to maintain our preparedness for disaster.

At this time, let's all head outside and review our maps. [Lead everyone outside and walk our neighborhood area together.]

Thanks for coming.

Total time for this topic: 30 minutes





# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## 1. How big should my neighborhood be?

25 to 40 households are ideal; however, use logical boundaries if they already exist (like neighborhood watch programs, homeowner associations, etc.). Organize by floor or number of units planning for a high-rise or multiple-unit building.

## 2. How should people be invited to the meeting(s)?

Use the flyer provided in this kit or create your own to personally invite neighbors, leaders from existing networks, and others with disaster training.

## 3. How can I best help persons who need extra support during the disaster, such as people with disabilities?

Ask people at your meeting to identify themselves as needing additional support what can be done to help them. Also, FEMA has published a useful summary

## 4. How can neighborhoods support shelter operations?

Neighborhoods can assist government and Red Cross shelter operations by locating and providing transportation for those who need help to safely evacuate an area.

## 5. How do I share our completed plan?

During meetings, discuss strategies in how to keep surveys and other personal information updated and confidential. Make sure that everyone understands how information will be used by the planning teams.





# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## TIPS FOR INCLUSIVE PLANNING

FEMA ([www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/specialplans.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/specialplans.shtm)) has published a useful summary for use in emergency planning, which is adapted below:

Some people may require additional assistance and this should be reflected in your neighborhood plan. In addition to those with visible disabilities, people with hidden disabilities and activity limitations may also need help. Here are a few things to consider when planning for everyone in your neighborhood:

- ◆ **Vision** - May be unwilling to leave familiar surroundings when the request for evacuation comes from a stranger. A service animal could become confused or disoriented in a disaster. People may have to depend on others to lead them and their service animal to safety during a disaster.
- ◆ **Hearing** - May need help getting and receiving warnings and directions.
- ◆ **Mobility** - May need assistance to get to a shelter or neighborhood gathering area.
- ◆ **Single working parent** - May need help to plan for the safety of their children.
- ◆ **Non-English speaking persons** - May need assistance in understanding warnings and directions. The following agencies provide detailed information on individual, family, and community preparedness on their respective websites:  
  
American Red Cross of Greater Los Angeles,  
City of Los Angeles Emergency Management Department, County of Los Angeles Office of Emergency Management
- ◆ **Illness/sensitivities** - People who have allergies and chemical sensitivities may not be able to manage in certain gathering areas or shelters.





Visit one of the websites below for additional tips and guidance regarding household preparedness.

**American Red Cross**

**Prepare SoCal**

<http://preparesocal.org/>

**Safe and Well**

<https://disastersafe.redcross.org/>

**Emergency Survival Program**

[www.espfocus.org](http://www.espfocus.org)

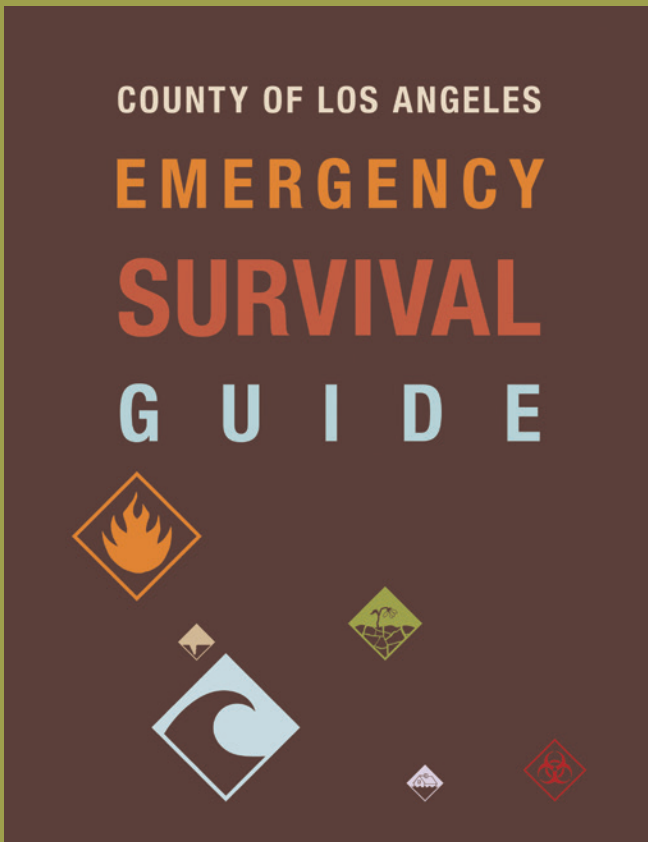
**Ready LA**

<http://readyla.org/>

**Other preparedness websites**

[www.daretopreparesocal.org](http://www.daretopreparesocal.org)

[www.moreprepared.org](http://www.moreprepared.org)



## HOUSEHOLD DISASTER PLAN

Emergency situations become disasters when they overwhelm the resources here to protect our community. A large disaster in the region will create many threats to public safety and first responders will need to focus their efforts in areas where they can do the most good – helping severely endangered people and heavily impacted areas first. It is likely that some areas will not get professional assistance for days after a disaster has occurred.

Consider holding a neighborhood meeting to talk about the safety of our families and preparedness in each of our homes. The Los Angeles County Emergency Survival Guide is a free publication intended to help our residents prepare for and recover after a disaster. Before the meeting provide everyone with a copy of the Guide or a link to download the Guide at [www.espfocus.org](http://www.espfocus.org).

# FUTURE MEETING TOPICS



## ANIMAL PREPAREDNESS

Things to discuss at a meeting focused on Animal Preparedness might include:

- ◆ Creating a neighborhood network of pets owners; learn where pets are and how they can be helped if their owners are away in a disaster.
- ◆ Ensuring that there are emergency supplies for neighborhood pets that includes extra leashes, collars, food, crates and other things your pet will need to be safe and secure in an evacuation or disaster.
- ◆ Knowing how your neighbors plan to take care of their pets in an evacuation or disaster.
- ◆ Learning about local emergency care providers such as the nearest veterinarian office, animal shelters, or rescue organizations.
- ◆ Understanding how to plan for neighbors with service animals; animals that stay with their owners at all times.
- ◆ Planning for pet/owner reunification by registering microchips, wearing identification tags and using photographs of owners and their pets.
- ◆ Preparing to evacuate horses as soon as an evacuation warning is issued, not waiting for mandatory evacuation orders that may come too late for safe transport.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### **Emergency Survival Program Bulletin on Pet Preparedness**

[www.espfocus.org](http://www.espfocus.org)

### **County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control**

[www.animalcare.lacounty.gov](http://www.animalcare.lacounty.gov)

### **City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Services**

[www.laanimalservices.com](http://www.laanimalservices.com)

### **Small Animal Rescue Team**

[http://www.laanimalservices.com/about\\_us/SmART.htm](http://www.laanimalservices.com/about_us/SmART.htm)

### **Humane Society of the United States**

[www.humanesociety.org](http://www.humanesociety.org)

### **National Association of Professional Pet Sitters**

[www.petsitters.org](http://www.petsitters.org)

### **Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals International**

[www.spcai.org](http://www.spcai.org)

### **The National Lost Pet Hotline**

1-800-755-8111 to report found pets



## Disease Outbreak

An outbreak can happen when a disease is new to a community, been absent for a long time, or has a population uniquely vulnerable to infection. The most serious outbreaks occur when people have little or no immunity, and there is no vaccine to prevent or medication to treat the illness. A large outbreak that sweeps across the nation and world is called a “pandemic.” The disease may spread, cause serious illness and/or potentially impact daily, community life. Wherever and whenever a disease outbreak occurs, neighbors can help neighbors through planning, preparedness and concern for their community’s health.

At a future neighborhood meeting consider adding a Disease Outbreak section that shows how your neighborhood will respond. Consider the following:

- ◆ An outbreak may come and go, or appear repeatedly in waves over many weeks.
- ◆ An especially severe disease outbreak could lead to high levels of illness, hospitalization, death, social disruption, and economic loss.

- ◆ Everyday life can be disrupted as many people in many places become seriously ill at the same time.
- ◆ Impacts can range from school and business closings to the interruption of basic services such as public transportation and food delivery.
- ◆ Families, neighborhoods and communities alike may need to adjust their behavior and social patterns in order to prevent the spread of disease in their homes, schools, places of work and neighborhoods.
- ◆ Neighbors may need wellness checks so that help can be given or requested for those in need.

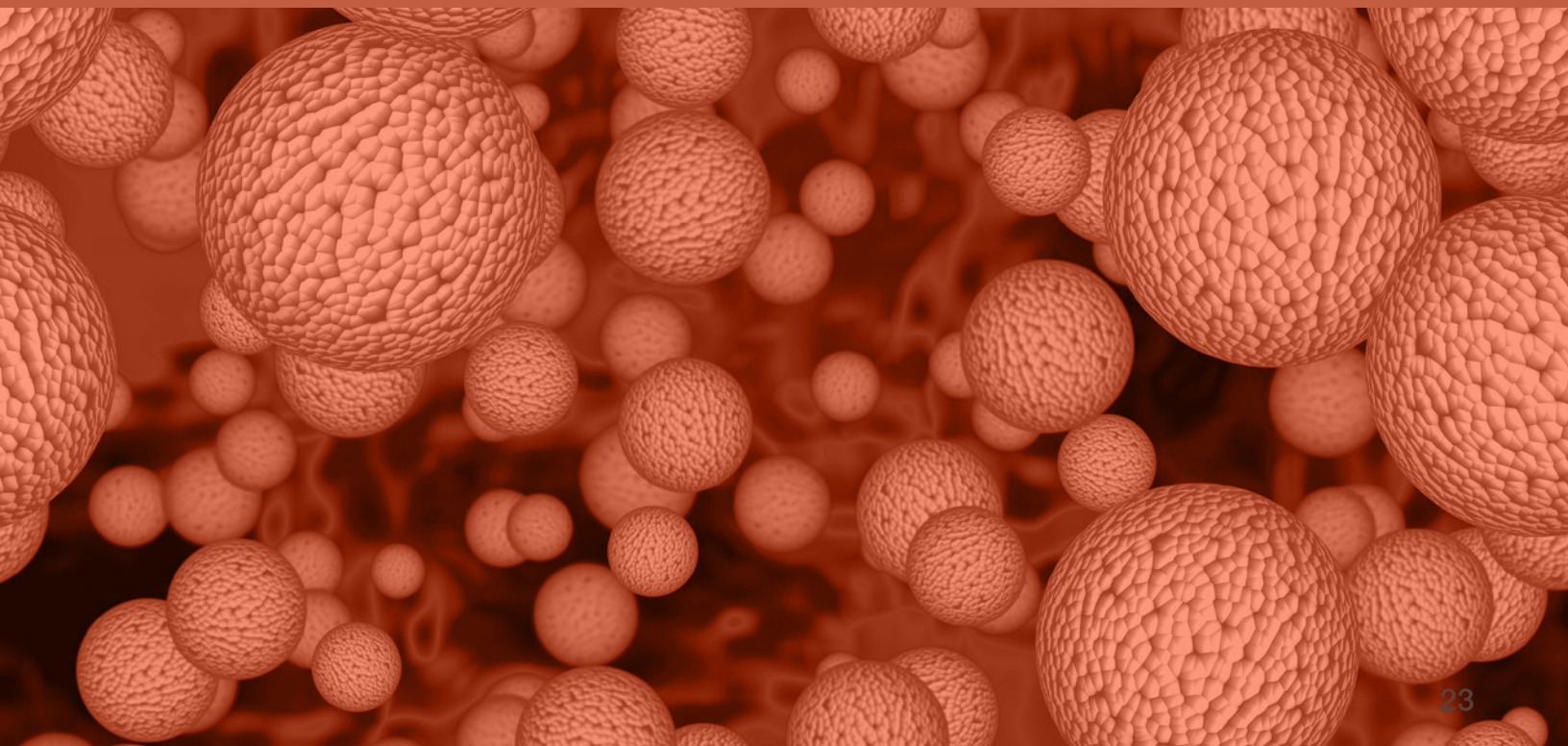
For more information visit:

**Los Angeles County Public Health**

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/>

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

<http://www.cdc.gov/>





## RECOVERY

The emergency may be over, but it can take a long time for your neighborhood to get back to normal. Have a neighborhood meeting to discuss how you can prepare and support each other to recover after a disaster. Don't wait until disaster strikes – learn now about what documentation you will need, review insurance policies and understand the limits of disaster assistance programs.

**What do I need to know about returning home after a disaster?**

**What is FEMA Disaster Assistance?**

**What if my home is destroyed?**

**What if I lost my job or can't work because of a disaster?**

**What if I think I need legal help?**

**What can I expect from my homeowners insurance?**

Here are a few resources to get you started on Recovering after a disaster:

### **FEMA**

[www.fema.gov/assistance/](http://www.fema.gov/assistance/)

### **General Government Assistance**

[www.disasterassistance.gov/](http://www.disasterassistance.gov/)

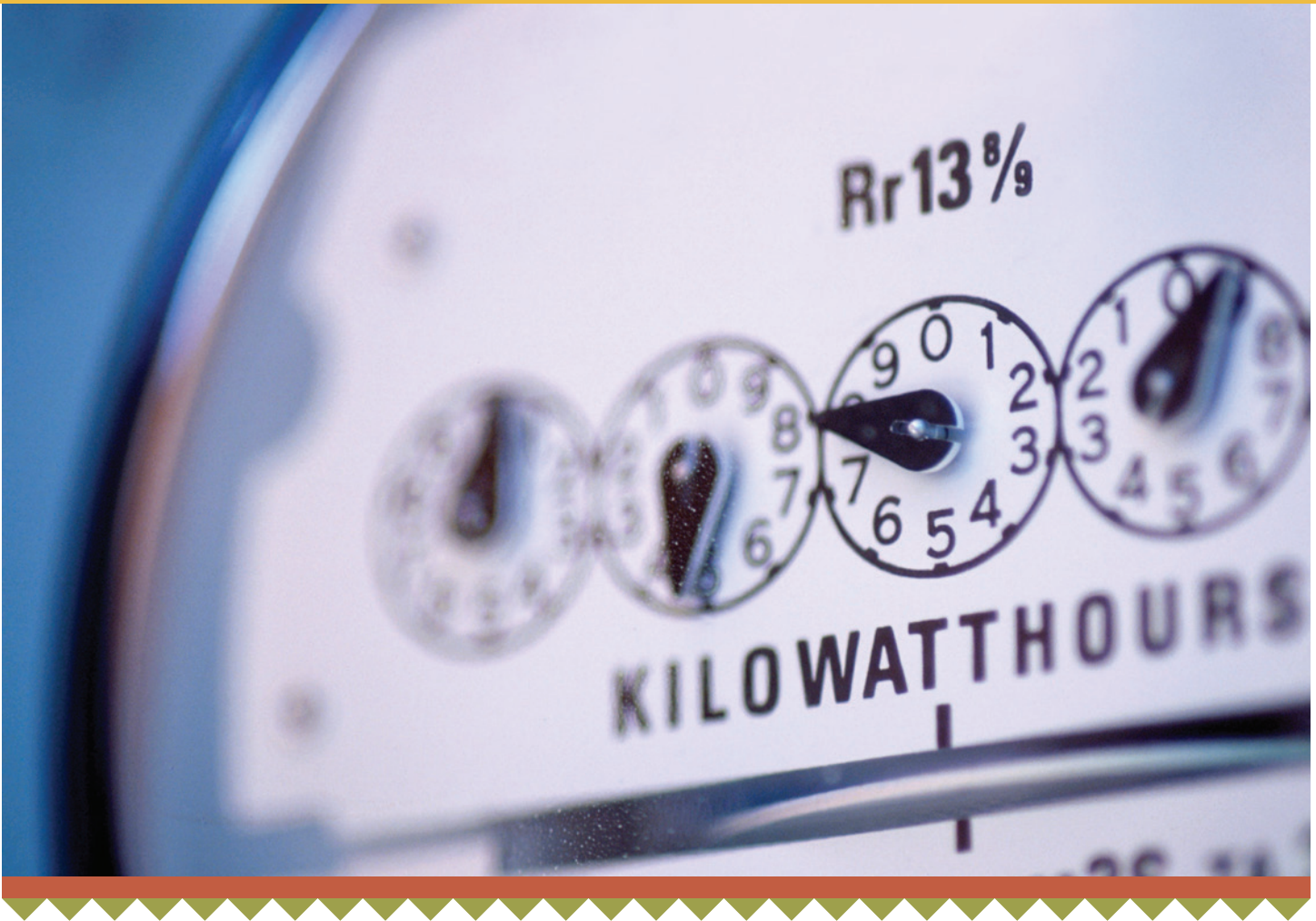
### **Small Business Administration**

[www.sba.gov/](http://www.sba.gov/)

### **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development**

[www.hud.gov/info/disasterresources\\_dev.cfm](http://www.hud.gov/info/disasterresources_dev.cfm)





## OTHER IDEAS

### MITIGATION

Preparing for a disaster helps you survive and help others. When you prepare yourself, you lessen the impact a major event has on your life. This is called mitigation; disasters and events are unpredictable and can happen to anyone, but their effect on you can be lessened through what you do before the event.

### EARTHQUAKE

Businesses and residents should seek to maintain or live in buildings “up to code” for earthquakes—and/or ask the property owner for help.

Use earthquake tie-downs and locking mechanisms for items on shelves or on walls that can fall. Falling objects can be deadly!

If possible, sign up for text alerts with the USGS to receive update texts on earthquake or aftershock notices.

### INTERRUPTION OF UTILITIES

As resources allow, invest in a backup generator for electricity. Keep water in the home (or business), occasionally changing that supply (as it ages).



## FLOODING

Unlike other disasters, you usually have time to prepare for a flood. Take advantage of this time by locating and keeping information on the nearest sandbag distribution center. Take note of the natural flow of water on light-rainy days to map out a sandbag plan. Buy and keep a simple or heavy-duty water pump (and generator). Keep gloves, boots and floatable devices handy, always, in flood plains and high-risk areas.

## FIRE

Residents and businesses near the foothills and brush should create and upkeep a “firebreak” line that acts as a road (for emergency responders) and put distance between your home and the fuel for the fire (vegetation).

Residents and businesses must keep their smoke detectors working; they are lifesavers! All buildings should keep fire-extinguishing devices with easy instructions on them. Create and keep plans for fire evacuation inside and outside of a building or home.

If you live in in a multi-dwelling unit, apartment, condo, or very close to your neighbor’s home, contact your neighbor to help them keep their fire monitoring systems up to date.

## TSUNAMI

Extremely rare but potentially devastating, tsunamis’ impact can only be mitigated by planning swift evacuation routes. If possible, register for text alerts with the USGS (earthquake notice).



## TERRORIST ATTACK

Be a vigilant citizen, report suspicious activity and devices (like unattended packages). Businesses can create strategic security adjustments. The Los Angeles Police Department's iWatchLA program educates the public about terrorist behaviors and activities: <http://lapdonline.org/iwatchla>

## SEVERE WEATHER

Take note of local hardware stores for necessary items (boards for windows, etc.) Locate house utility box control (for turning power off and on). Pre-plan a location in the house when a Wind Storm Warning is issued, and take cover! This area should not have windows and be located in a low area of the home.

## EXTREME HEAT AND COLD

If your location gets very hot, as it does in the valley, have an adequate amount of fans and/or air conditioning, if possible. As resources allow, buy and keep a backup generator (for heat or air conditioning). Keep a location list of nearby stores (for ice, water and other items). Keep chimneys clean and always have fuel (wood) and items to start a fire.

## LANDSLIDES

As with flooding, take note of the direction of water-flow as it might indicate. Call authorities to occasionally check the land's foundation after major rain and heat. You can't be too careful! Keep evacuation plans up to date!

## CHEMICAL EMERGENCIES

Sign-up to LA City emergency alerts for possible or necessary details on major accidents.



# OTHER RESOURCES

## NEIGHBORHOOD EMERGENCY BINS

If you would like to establish an emergency supply container for your neighborhood, you can refer to the following for guidance. While not a final recommendation, these guidelines provide a good picture of what should be contained in a Neighborhood Emergency Supply Container, and how it should be maintained.



### A NEIGHBORHOOD CONTAINER SHOULD INCLUDE

Storage Container: 20 foot (roll up or cargo)  
Combination Padlock  
Multi-person, First Aid Trauma Medical Unit - 500 Person - OSHA Certified  
5000 Watt Generator  
5 Gallon - Gasoline Containers with Gas  
10 x 10 Pop-up Canopy  
Bottled Water Cases  
8 foot folding tables  
Plastic folding chairs  
Plastic Container with Basic Office Supplies (note pads, pens, pencils, etc.)



### COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT

Portable Radios  
AM/FM Hand Crank Radio



### LIGHTING

Utility Lamp 500 Watt  
7' Tripod Light  
Power Strip  
12/3-50' Extension Cords



### FIRE SUPPRESSION

ABC Fire Extinguishers 6





## SEARCH & RESCUE PORTABLE KITS

(Accommodates 4 persons each)

- 1 Saw
- 1 Pair of Pliers
- 1 Roll Caution Tape
- 1 Steel Pulley Block/Tackle
- 1 Flathead Screwdriver
- 1 Phillips Screwdriver
- 1 Tarp 10' X 12'
- 4 Safety Goggles
- 4 Safety Vests
- 1 Hammer/Hatchet
- 1 Roll Duct Tape
- 1 Vise Grip
- 1 Folding Shovel
- 1 Pry/Crow Bar - 24"
- 1 Nylon Cord - 50 ft.
- 4 Triage Tags
- 4 Whistles
- 4 Pair Work Gloves - leather palmed
- 4 Pair Latex Gloves
- 4 Shake Lights
- 4 Hard Hats
- 4 Green Light Sticks - 12-hour
- 4 Yellow Light Sticks - 12-hour
- 1 AM/FM Solar & Hand-Crank Powered Radio, Flashlight, & Cell Phone Charger
- 1 Survival Knife Kit - 6" stainless steel blade with jagged edge, survival contents in handle (waterproof matches and fishing hooks/weights/line) compass, sheath, & sharpening stone
- 1 Durable duffel bag - with hand & shoulder straps









