



Why should neighborhoods organize?

The neighborhood is more “humane” and enjoyable, for a better quality of life.

The neighborhood typically sees less crime due to the way neighbors look out for each other in an informal version of a neighborhood watch group.

Being organized typically allows for more effective advocacy to elected officials on matters of concern to the neighborhood. When you have contact information beforehand, it’s easier to act collectively before the MP City Council.

You can also help each other to mitigate risks to the neighborhood, such removing dried brush or creating defensible space to reduce fire danger.

When disaster strikes, you and your neighbors will be prepared.

Neighborhood response teams can do light search and rescue, provide first aid, and work together to help children, elderly neighbors and pets stay safe. This will be especially important should dwellings become inhabitable.

About MPC Ready

The MPC Ready organization’s mission is to work collaboratively to help build disaster prepared, and climate-change ready, neighborhoods. We do this through advocacy, education and training, resources, organization and support.

In a disaster, studies show that our most immediate source of help will be the neighbors living closest to us. Emergency response personnel will be overwhelmed and there won't be nearly enough to go around.

Neighborhood-level disaster preparedness efforts, such as those from MPC Ready, help to meet *major gaps in community-wide disaster preparedness*. These efforts increase community resiliency and will hasten recovery following a disaster.

For More Information

Visit www.mpcready.org. Call 650-380-3028 or email info@mpcready.org.

Daniel P. Aldrich. *Building Resilience: Social Capital in Post-Disaster Recovery*.

Kathleen Tierney. *Disasters: A Sociological Approach*.

Amanda Ripley. *The Unthinkable: Who Survives When Disaster Strikes – and Why*. 2008.

Oregon Office of Emergency Management: Two Weeks Ready & Central United States Earthquake Consortium: Two Weeks Ready

Volunteer as a neighborhood coordinator



Help advance neighborhood-level preparedness by supporting block coordinators

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Why Two Weeks Ready?



Disaster preparedness experts traditionally advised us to store three days' worth of emergency supplies, per person. That's a good start and helpful for short-term emergencies, such as power outages.

However, these experts now advise that we aim to be two-weeks ready! Why? Because a major disaster, such as a large earthquake, is likely to leave transportation routes and infrastructure lifelines (power, water, utilities, etc.) severely impacted. Restoring each service may take weeks or even months.

People will have to count on each other to be safe until outside help can arrive.

The states of Oregon and Washington have rolled-out a "Two Weeks Ready" campaign to better prepare their residents for major earthquake. Earthquake experts predict that the Hayward fault will erupt next. It erupts, on average, every 150-160 years. The last eruption was in 1868. We are overdue.

What is a Neighborhood Coordinator?

A neighborhood coordinator works with block coordinators to organize a neighborhood of approximately 50-100 households.

You work with the BCs to help build social ties and prepared blocks across the neighborhood where neighbors take steps to get disaster prepared.

Following a disaster, you will be a central contact to your block coordinators as you collect information and relay it on up to a neighborhood incident command center.

Getting Started

We will put you in touch with another Neighborhood Coordinator mentor.

We will also introduce you to BCs already at work in your neighborhood and we can attend your organizing meeting.

In general, you work at your own pace and you and the BCs take a phased approach to the goal. You also do not attempt to force anyone to get prepared and/or check on their progress! We encourage readiness, but we do not monitor it.

We are here to support you. You will want to have at least one yearly social activity and quarterly (or so) practice drills.

If you want to go fast,
go alone. If you want
to go far, go together.

African Proverb

More Benefits

Organized neighborhoods, where neighbors know neighbors, makes life following a disaster so much better. After all, the neighbors will be the first people that we will see. The better we know them beforehand, the better off we will be afterwards.

If your home becomes uninhabitable, neighbors who know you and your family might invite you to stay with them until you get settled elsewhere. Shelters have capacity limits and most do not take pets.

Organized neighborhoods also help to keep the neighborhood safer following a disaster. We will also feel less alone, to reduce possible stress and anxiety. Neighbors who "have our backs" make a bad situation better.

Organized neighborhoods can also work together before the disaster to share the expenses of buying needed supplies, such as a neighborhood generator.