



Home and neighborhood hazard hunt

Make a game out of looking for hazards in your neighborhood and home. If you have kids, get them involved to help promote safety-conscious thinking. Your neighbors may appreciate notifications, too.



We are all in this together

No one survives or recovers from big emergencies alone, and communities typically bounce back faster from disasters when residents are organized. The sooner that you make connections with your neighbors and start talking about disaster preparedness, the sooner that you can tackle more ambitious projects like planning emergency drills and building supply caches. People are stronger together, which is why the best individual planning efforts can only go so far without involving other people.



First responders are often overwhelmed during any disaster that affects multiple communities. Help from them may not always be available in those situations, which is why you should get to know your neighbors and discuss what you can do to help each other when disaster strikes. The plans that you make with the people that you know are an important part of overall readiness.

Credits

Oregon Office of Emergency Management

Websites

iema.illinois.gov
ready.illinois.gov



Neighbors Helping Neighbors



NEIGHBORS HELPING EACH OTHER



Introduction to “Two Weeks Ready”

Taking time to prepare for potential disasters could save your life and the lives of people that you know. Having three days of emergency supplies on hand is a great way to be ready for power outages or temporary evacuations, but bigger disasters that destroy roads and infrastructure demand more preparation. Acquiring supplies and assistance will be far more difficult under those circumstances, which is why individuals, families, communities, and businesses should have plans to be self-sufficient for two weeks.



Getting to know you

We don't always know our neighbors very well, if at all, but you may be in a position to save their lives after a disaster, or the other way around. Start building relationships with people around you by introducing yourself. Once you know your neighbors, you can supply them with emergency contact cards that have your name, email address, physical address, and phone number.



Share a meal

Sharing food has been a community-building action for generations. Organize a potluck dinner at a local meeting place or community center and take the opportunity to tell participants about preparing for emergencies together in your neighborhood.



Map the hazards

Your emergency preparedness plan needs to account for hazards in your area. It's a great idea to get your neighbors together and map out those hazards so everyone knows where they are. Most state geological and emergency management agencies have maps available of your area online. Print them out and ask around to see if anyone in your community has special training (medical, firefighter), special equipment (generator, chainsaw), or special needs. Verify and mark the locations of gas and water shut-off valves, too.



Community and backyard gardens

Canned food is a staple of any emergency preparedness plan, but it doesn't last forever. With that in mind, it's easier than you think to start growing your own food. Your local garden nursery or extension service can help you get started with growing fruits and vegetables.