

# MYN

## Map Your Neighborhood



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



### Prepare

Neighborhoods that are prepared for emergencies and disaster situations save lives, reduce the severity of injuries and trauma, and reduce property damage. In addition, contributing as an individual and working together as a team helps develop stronger communities and improve the quality of life in the community.

### Learn

- Learn the first **9 Steps to Take Immediately Following a Disaster** to secure your home and protect your neighborhood. It is hard to think clearly following disaster. These steps will help you to quickly and safely take actions that can minimize damage and protect lives.
- Identify the **Skills and Equipment Inventory** each neighbor has that are useful in an effective disaster response. Knowing which neighbors have supplies and skills ensures a timely response to a disaster and allows everyone to contribute to the response in a meaningful way.
- Create a **Neighborhood Map** identifying the locations of natural gas and propane tanks for quick response if needed.
- Create a **Neighborhood Contact List** that identifies those with specific needs such as the elderly, those with a disability, or homes where children may be alone during certain hours of the day.
- Work together as a team to evaluate your neighborhood after a disaster and take the necessary actions.

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**Designed to improve disaster readiness** at the neighborhood level (generally neighborhoods = 15-20 urban homes; 5-7 in rural areas and can be implemented in condos and apartment complexes).

**Teaches** neighbors to rely on each other during the hours or days before fire, medical, police, or utility responders arrive.

**Takes just one person** to begin this process by inviting the neighborhood to his or her home for a 90-minute meeting, facilitated by the program DVD.

**Craig Fugate, FEMA Director** commented that there needs to be something to “fill the gap” between CERT and individual preparedness - *MYN* is that program.

- IAEM’s first place in the State/Regional Public Awareness Category, 2009
- FEMA’s Challenge Award: <http://blog.fema.gov/2011/06/and-challengegov-winner-is.html>, 2011
- FEMA’s Individual & Community Program Award: Innovative Training and Education Programs <http://www.citizencorps.gov/councils/awards/2011/awardwinners2011.shtm>, 2011

### Program Components (*accomplished in a 90-minute neighborhood meeting*):

- 9-Step Response Plan begins at home and then reaches throughout the neighborhood. It teaches what to do to save a life, reduce the severity of injuries, reduce emotional distress, and decrease property and environmental damage.
- Skill & Equipment Inventory saves response time by identifying who in the neighborhood has relevant response skills and equipment.
- Neighborhood Map created during the neighborhood meeting pinpoints the exact locations of natural gas meters and propane tanks, recognizing the single biggest source of neighborhood fire (about 67%) following disaster is natural and propane gas leaks.
- Contact List identifies who in the neighborhood may have specific needs following the disaster, including those who are elderly, neighbors with disability, or those home alone.

### Program Materials:

- MYN Neighbor Handout: contains the 9-Step Response Plan, Skill & Equipment Inventory, Neighborhood Map & Contact List, Help / OK card. Available in English and Spanish.
- MYN Discussion Guide: designed as a ‘script’ for MYN’s DVD and can be easily read if a DVD player is not available.
- MYN DVD: produced in a play-pause-discuss format and is subtitled in English, Spanish, Russian, Korean, Chinese, and close-captioned for the hearing impaired.
- MYN CD: supporting materials (also available online) – includes Discussion Guide, meeting invitation, promotional flyer, brochure, reporting tool, and database.
- Personal Preparedness: Prepare in a Year (PIY) and Getting Ready Home programs offer step-by-step instructions, compelling photos, and streaming videos which educate people on how they can prepare their families and homes to better survive disasters (only available online).
- Preparedness Website: conceptualized to support the Preparedness Strategic Plan of “enabling and empowering preparedness activity in communities,” averaging 900,000 hits per month.

### Additionally:

- Partners in forty-three (43) states, including Washington, have found MYN to be a cost effective and time efficient approach to neighborhood preparedness. MYN has partners in the following states: AK, AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, HI, ID, IL, IN, IO, KS, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, MT, NC, NE, NH, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, WI, and WV.
- MYN has a proven track record. The program was first utilized during the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake in Sunnyvale, California. During the 2001 Nisqually earthquake, 92% of 460 organized neighborhoods in Seattle reported responding in a timely and organized manner to the needs of their neighbors.