

ACONA Meeting Notes January 27, 2015

Following introductions, the following topic was discussed: Map Your Neighborhood

Presenters:

Steve Reagan, Map Your Neighborhood committee chair

Nancee Darling, ALERT

Deb Halberstadt, CERT

This is the 2015 launch of CERT/ACONA/Altadena Sheriffs/American Red Cross San Gabriel Valley Chapter/Altadena Point's project to map Altadena neighborhoods

What is it?

Builds disaster readiness among neighbors, preparing them to respond to disasters.

Helps build more Neighborhood Watch programs

Helps build neighborhoods -- getting to know your neighbors

Nine steps to take immediately following a disaster

Shingle: a booklet outlining the steps, given as part of the training

Develop inventory of neighborhood skills and equipment

Identify areas of concern — water, gas, electricity, elderly, special needs — so neighbors can respond to them

Why it's important

Scenario for 7.8, 2-minute earthquake (Northridge earthquake lasted 7 seconds): gas, water, power will be gone; massive property damage; high potential for fires; no outside help

Evacuation or shelter in place

Know who is prepared and who isn't

Shared resources

Cooperation, communication, care

ALERT Net Communications - Nancee Darling

ALERT: Altadena Local Emergency Radio Team formed November 2013. They practice every night on a repeater on Mount Wilson.

FRS (Family Radio Service), GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service), MURS (Multi Use Radio Service), HAM (Amateur Radio) radios. Walkie-talkies set to an agreed-upon channel work well in neighborhoods - they are FRS radios

During a serious emergency, the cell network will be disconnected. Radios will still work. You need at least GMRS to communicate outside your immediate neighborhood; license is \$85 for five years. To get a HAM license you have to take a test and pay a fee.

Partnership for Success

CERT/ACONA/Altadena Sheriffs/American Red Cross SGV/Altadena Point

Map Your Neighborhood license to reproduce materials

Delivery of Shingles, DVDs and promotional materials

Looking for funding for training, overhead and operational expenses in the \$6,000 range.

Training and Supporting the facilitators

Want to train ACONA members, Neighborhood Watch captains, anyone motivated to learn and apply the knowledge.

There are 45 Neighborhood Watch programs in Altadena, and they are MYN's first target groups.

Altadena has 11 CERT zones and MYN wants active groups in each

Next Facilitator Training Feb 23 6:30-8:30 at Altadena Community Center

What you learn as a facilitator: how to put a kit together; make a plan specific to your neighborhood

By the bed kit:

Sturdy shoes, heavy duty gloves (leather recommended), flashlight, hard hat, glasses

Map Your Neighborhood:

Improve readiness at neighborhood level

Teach neighbors to rely on each other

One person from a neighborhood can begin it

90 min neighborhood meeting facilitated by a DVD

Fills the gap between CERT and individual preparedness

Neighborhoods know best:

Shelter in place: protect people, animals, property, look out for those who are traveling

Source and share food, water, meds, light, heat — care for everybody. Psychological support as well.

Fire department will triage the neighborhood in the first 48 hours and not responding to individual problems, so neighborhoods need to shelter in place. Help may not come for days, if not weeks, in a major disaster.

Prepare to evacuate: fire or flood, no water, numerous aftershocks. Communicate by radio to find where is the safest place to go.

"Go" Bag — essentials, keepsakes, communications — should be kept close to your exit

Shingles (printing cost is 34¢ each) gives a step by step guide to preparation, from personal to neighborhood

Set up a meeting in a private home with 15-20 of your immediate neighbors for a 2-4 hour meeting to go over the steps and make a plan

Steps 1-6: take care of yourself, our family & your home

Steps 7-9 Meet up, teams, survey, report

Includes a map of each home, shutoffs, hazards

Window signs: HELP or OK

DVD is step by step instruction

Goal for Neighborhoods:

Hold first MYN meeting; contact neighbors who couldn't attend

Different neighbors host social gatherings once each quarter

Anniversary of the first meeting: Update plan, invite new neighbors

Join Neighborhood Watch

Q&A

Website nextdoor.com is a bulletin-board type site supported by Altadena Sheriffs for any neighborhood issues (lost dog, suspicious characters...) [downside: information is in a neighborhood silo, so the word doesn't get beyond the neighborhood]

Altadena CERT has presence on social media: www.facebook.com/AltadenaCERT.

Fundraising is through Altadena Sheriff's: send to Altadena Community Center attn Sheriff's Support Group (checks to Sheriff's Support Group of Altadena earmarked for Map Your Neighborhood)

Map Your Neighborhood's email address: myn@altadenacert.org — Will answer questions about MYN, signing up for facilitator training.