

PREPAREDNESS: THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

FACILITATOR GUIDE



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ACTIVITY: PLANNING FOR AND PRACTICING EVACUATION

Purpose: The purpose of this activity is to encourage participants to become involved in community preparedness.

Objectives:

- Identify the emergency preparedness roles and responsibilities of community members.
- Develop an action plan for becoming involved.

Preparation and Needed Materials: Prior to conducting this activity, you may want to:

- Invite representatives from all departments involved in local emergency management within your community.
- Gather literature about volunteer opportunities within your community. Invite representatives of nongovernmental organizations to attend the session.
- Arrange for a tour of the emergency operations center, dispatch center, fire station, or public works facility, if possible.

Presentation Tips:

- Welcome participants to the session. Explain that by the end of the session, they will learn how the whole community contributes to emergency preparedness. In addition, participants will identify how they can become involved.
- Distribute the handout titled “The Whole Community.” Refer to the graphic on the handout.
- Ask the participants the following discussion question: Why is it important for the whole community to be involved in preparedness?
- Acknowledge the answers and then present the following key points:
 - If a disaster strikes, people in local communities have the best understanding of what they need to protect themselves and loved ones. Therefore, effective planning for disasters for everyone in a community must include people of all ages and those with various access and functional needs.
 - During a crisis, it is unrealistic to expect governments (at the local, State, and Federal levels) to do everything. Governments cannot meet the spectrum of needs without help from all community members.

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FEMA

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Presentation Tips: (Continued)

- Review the role played by the local government. Have representatives from each function (emergency management, law enforcement, fire/rescue, emergency medical service, public works, and human services) provide a brief description of their services. Optional: If possible, arrange for tours of each department's facilities.
- Next, review the roles played by the private and public sectors. Provide examples of how the private sector and nongovernmental organizations have contributed to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.
- Refer the participants to the roles of individuals and households. Ask the participants if there is anything they would add.
- Present information about how to get involved in the local community. Provide examples of volunteer opportunities in your community. Optional: If you offer Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Programs, arrange for volunteers to do a demonstration of what they learned in CERT.
- Conclude the session by asking if participants have questions. Ask participants to identify one action they personally plan to take to become involved in disaster preparedness. Thank the participants for attending the session.

PREPAREDNESS: THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

THE WHOLE COMMUNITY: HANDOUT

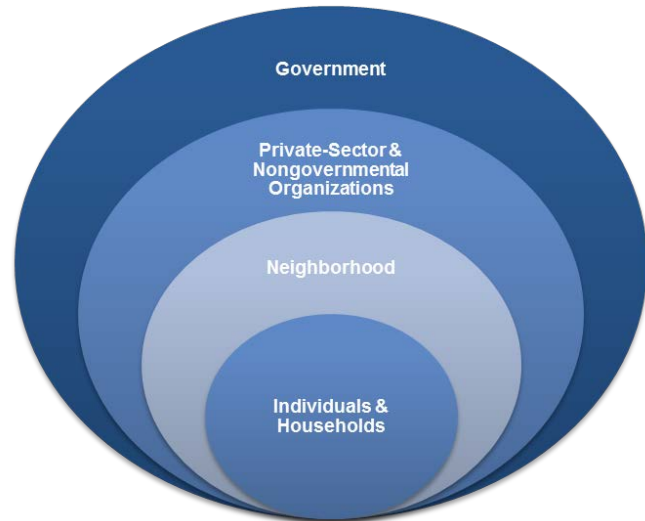


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Community preparedness is a key priority in lessening the impact of disasters. It is critical that all community members take steps to prepare in advance of an event.

Effective community preparedness occurs at all levels including:

- Government
- Public and Private Sectors
- Neighborhood
- Individuals and Households



Government

Government has the responsibility to:

- Develop, test, and refine emergency operations plans.
- Ensure emergency responders have adequate skills and resources, and provide services to protect and assist their citizens.
- Involve the community in the planning process.
- Provide reliable, actionable information.
- Encourage training, practicing, and volunteer programs.

Government emergency service providers include:

- **Emergency Management:** Prepares for and coordinates response and recovery to disasters.
- **Law Enforcement:** Maintains law and order.
- **Fire and Rescue:** Protects life and property.
- **Emergency Medical Services:** Provides preventative and emergency medical services.
- **Public Works:** Maintains and repairs infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water, sewage, utilities, etc.
- **Human Services:** Provides food, shelter, and counseling following a disaster.

PREPAREDNESS: THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

THE WHOLE COMMUNITY: HANDOUT



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Private-Sector and Nongovernmental Organizations

The private and public sectors have a responsibility to participate in community preparedness.

- **The private sector** is a key partner in incident management activities at all levels. The private sector:
 - Is responsible for most of the critical infrastructure (i.e., telephone services, banking) in the Nation and thus may require assistance in the wake of a disaster or emergency.
 - Provides goods and services critical to the response and recovery process, either on a paid basis or through donations.
- **Nongovernmental and voluntary organizations** are essential partners in responding to incidents. Nongovernmental and voluntary organizations assist in providing:
 - Sheltering, emergency food supplies, counseling services, and other vital services to support response and promote the recovery of disaster victims.
 - Specialized services that help individuals with special needs, including those with disabilities.

Individuals and Households

Individuals and households play an important role in the overall emergency management strategy by:

- Reducing hazards in and around their homes.
- Preparing an emergency supply kit and household emergency plan.
- Monitoring emergency communications carefully.
- Volunteering with an established organization.
- Enrolling in emergency response training courses.



PREPAREDNESS: THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

THE WHOLE COMMUNITY: HANDOUT



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Individuals and Households (Continued)

All members of the community should:

- Learn about community alerts and warnings, evacuation routes, and how to get critical information.
- Take training in preparedness, first aid, and response skills.
- Practice skills and personal plans through periodic drills in multiple settings.
- Network and be able to help others.
- Participate in community feedback opportunities.
- Report suspicious activity.
- Volunteer.

Engaging the Whole Community

Citizen Corps is the grassroots movement to strengthen community safety and preparedness through increased engagement of all sectors of the community. Citizen Corps is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, but implemented locally. The goal of Citizen Corps is to make communities safer, more prepared, and more resilient when incidents occur.



Citizen Corps Councils bring government and community leaders together to ensure emergency plans more effectively reflect the community. The goals of the Councils are to:

- Tailor activities to reach all sectors of the community.
- Identify and build on existing strengths.
- Increase collaboration between government and community.
- Expand integration of community resources into plans and protocols.
- Encourage personal/organizational preparedness through outreach, training, and exercises.
- Promote volunteer opportunities for ongoing community safety and surge capacity in disasters.

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THE WHOLE COMMUNITY: HANDOUT



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Get Involved

Preparedness requires active participation from all.

- Start the process by talking to your friends and family about the hazards in your area and what steps you all need to take to be able to help each other in a crisis – large or small.
- Ask about emergency planning at your workplace, your schools, your place of worship, and other social settings.
- Make sure government officials have a plan and are connected to community authorities on emergency management and planning.
- Consider volunteer opportunities to get your community better prepared for any emergency, including:
 - Become a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) member. The CERT Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may affect their area. The program trains team members in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.



Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. For more information go to:
<https://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/>

- Volunteer with a nonprofit organization and be trained before the next disaster. There are many organizations and faith-based groups in your community that have active disaster programs and need volunteers. The following groups offer a wide range of services following a disaster:
 - <http://www.nvoad.org/>
 - <http://www.serve.gov/>
 - <http://www.citizencorps.gov/>
 - <http://handsonnetwork.org/>
 - <http://www1.networkforgood.org/>
 - <http://www.redcross.org/en/volunteer>