



AFTER A DISASTER

emergency services are quickly overwhelmed. Your most immediate source of help are the people living around you.

The Northridge earthquake shook the greater Los Angeles area at 4:30am on January 17, 1994. At the Northridge Meadows apartment complex, the first floor of a building collapsed. Neighborhood volunteers began search and rescue efforts, and "By the time fire and rescue teams arrived, as many as 180 occupants had already gotten out of the building on their own or with the aid of their neighbors."

- Published by NEHRP, 2008

Neighborhood emergency programs are proven to work! To find out how you can start an Emergency Watch program in your neighborhood and receive training in emergency preparedness and response, call or email the Office of Emergency Management. Additional information also available on the web.



Emergency Watch is a neighborhood program to help communities be self-reliant during the first 5-7 days following a disaster.

During the hours or days that may pass before first responders can help, residents must rely on themselves and their neighbors for assistance.

Communities who have prepared for disasters are more likely to know what needs to be done and how to do it, which may save a life and reduce the amount of damage you and your neighbors sustain.



Office of Emergency Management
emergency watch neighborhood program

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www.muni.org/oem/emergencywatch.cfm

Emergency Watch is funded in part by a grant from the Alaska Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Be prepared

to help each other
to pull together
to be a community

It takes just one person.

ONE PERSON CAN INSPIRE AND EDUCATE A NEIGHBORHOOD

Be the reason your neighborhood is prepared!

Attend the Neighborhood Leader Orientation to learn how to start your neighborhood program, recruit neighbors, create a plan, and map your neighborhood. The Leader Orientation requires no commitment, but will give you everything you need to get started and maintain your neighborhood's program. The Orientation is just 2 hours and is held at the Emergency Operations Center or groups may request an alternate location.

ANCHORAGE DISASTER STATISTICS

- ONE MAGNITUDE 7 TO 8 EARTHQUAKE EVERY YEAR IN ALASKA
- 5 ACTIVE VOLCANOES SURROUND COOK INLET
- 97 WILDFIRES IN ANCHORAGE AND MAT-SU IN 2009

reduce the serious consequences of disasters

NEIGHBORS LEARN HOW TO create a family plan, respond to specific hazards such as an earthquake, shut off natural gas and propane to reduce the likelihood of fire, shut off water and electricity, safely use water from the hot water tank, use a fire extinguisher safely, perform basic search and rescue procedures

ANNUAL EXERCISE SUPPORT Each year Emergency Watch neighborhoods conduct an exercise to test and practice their plan. The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) can help you create and conduct your annual neighborhood exercise. For your first annual exercise, we will also invite the Anchorage Police Department and the Anchorage Fire Department to attend.

PREPARE AT HOME
Learn the 9 step response plan, prepare a family plan, check your home for hazards, and get a disaster supply kit that will last 5-7 days

PREPARE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD
Recruit help to map your neighborhood, locate local shelters, identify skills and equipment that may help during a disaster, and create a neighborhood emergency plan

PRACTICE YOUR PLANS
You don't want to test your plan after a disaster has happened! Practice family plans quarterly and neighborhood plans annually.



NEED SOME HELP GETTING STARTED OR CONDUCTING AN EXERCISE?

Get help from the pros! Call the OEM to schedule your exercise or meeting.