

Building and Strengthening Disaster Readiness Among Neighbors

Remember...

Immediately following disasters, follow the 9 Steps described in this booklet.



**Oregon
Emergency Management**



Map Your Neighborhood - MYN

With thanks to Washington State Emergency Management, Public Education

Introduction to Map Your Neighborhood (MYN)

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

In this Handout you will:

1. Learn the first 9 Steps to take immediately following disaster to secure your home and to protect your neighborhood.

It is hard to think clearly following disaster. These steps will help you quickly and safely do things that really help.

2. Identify the skills and equipment each neighbor has that are useful in an effective disaster response.

Knowing which neighbors have supplies and skills helps your disaster response be timely, and allows everyone to contribute to the response in a meaningful way.

3. Create a Neighborhood Map showing the locations of:

- Each natural gas meter and propane tank.

About 67% of house fires following disasters are caused by leaking gas. Knowing where these meters are and shutting them off helps eliminate this threat.

- Each neighbor who is elderly, who has disability, and where children are who may be home alone at certain hours of the day.

Checking on neighbors vulnerable to injury and trauma helps protect them from going into shock, and helps ensure that everyone is okay.



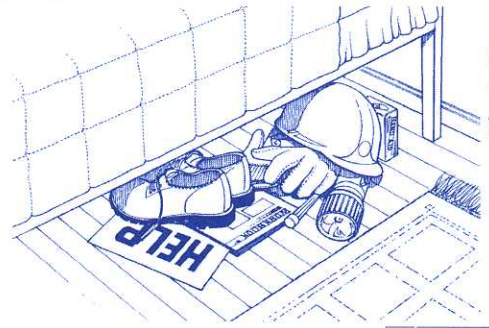
Knowing what to do in the first hours of a disaster response may help you save a life, reduce the severity of possible injuries, and reduce the amount of damage the neighborhood sustains.

Introduction

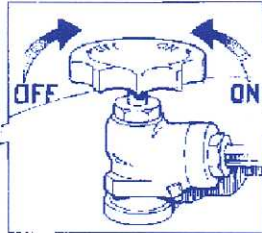
9 Steps — Immediately Following Disaster

AT HOME...

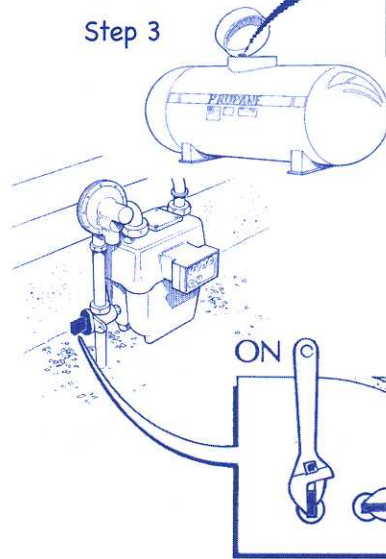
- Step 1. **Take care of your loved ones.**
- Step 2. **Protect your head, feet and hands.** A bicycle helmet or hard hat protects from falling debris. Sturdy shoes protect from broken glass. Leather gloves protect from sharp objects.
- Step 3. **Check the natural gas or propane at your home.** Shut off if necessary. This is one of the best ways to prevent fire.
- Step 4. **Shut off water at the house main** to trap water in your home and to keep pollutants out of possible drinking water, like that in your water heater.
- Step 5. **Place the Help or OK sign** (see back page) on your front door or window. Posting the sign helps your neighbors locate those who need help first.
- Step 6. **Put your fire extinguisher on the sidewalk** or where neighbors can see it. This way, if a neighbor has a small fire after a disaster, extinguishers are immediately available.



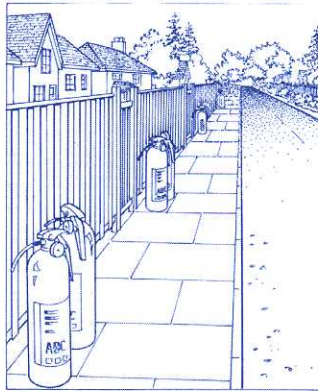
Step 2: Keep these under your bed.



Step 3



Step 6



Turn the valve 1/4 turn to shut off the gas. NEVER turn it back on once it has been turned off.

WITH NEIGHBORS...

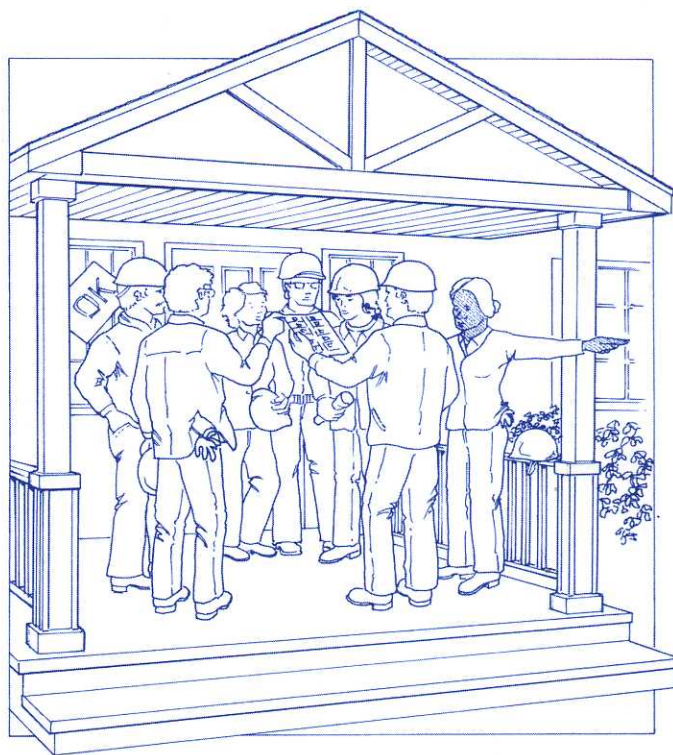
Step 7. After Steps 1-6 are completed, go to the **Neighborhood Gathering Site**. (The following page will help you choose this location.)

Write your Neighborhood Gathering Site location here:

Step 8. Form Teams at the Neighborhood Gathering Site:

- Team 1 will listen to the Emergency Alert System (AM/FM radio), or to a NOAA Weather Radio and keep neighbors informed of what they learn.
- Team 2 will check on neighbors who are elderly, those with disability, or children who may be home alone.
- Team 3 will check all natural gas meters and propane tanks, and shut off the gas as necessary.
- Team 4 will check on all homes with the "Help" card displayed on the front door or window, or with no card showing. Be prepared to give first aid. Trust your instincts. If something feels unsafe, stay out.

Step 9. After your Team has completed its work, go back to the Neighborhood Gathering Site. Share what you have done with the rest of your neighbors.



9 STEPS — *Immediately Following Disaster*

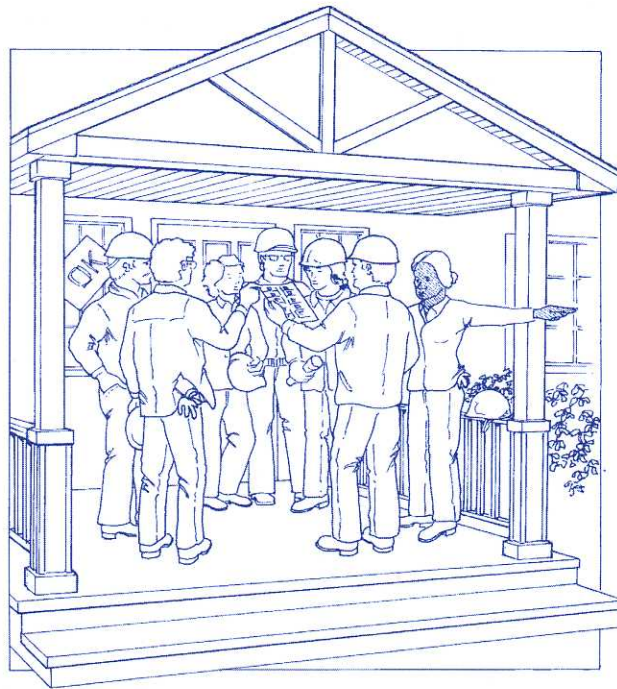
Neighborhood Gathering Site and Care Center

Neighborhood Gathering Site:

Come to the Neighborhood Gathering Site after you have completed Steps 1-6 of "9 Steps Immediately Following Disaster." Coming here will help you organize an effective neighborhood response, and reduce confusion.

The Neighborhood Gathering Site is at someone's home, though not inside because it is important that it is easily seen. The visibility will help remind everyone that they should come here. A large front porch, a covered carport, or an open garage will protect you from rain or snow.

Write your Neighborhood Gathering Site here (please also write this location in the box on the previous page):



Neighborhood Care Center:

A Neighborhood Care Center is inside someone's home. It is a place where children, those who are elderly and those with disability can be brought so they are not alone and where they can be given care.

Write your Neighborhood Care Center location here:



Neighborhood Gathering Site and Care Center

Neighborhood Skills and Equipment Inventory

Who knows what? Who has what? Who can do what?

Write the names of neighbors with these skills/knowledge and equipment/supplies:

SKILLS / KNOWLEDGE

First Aid Skills



Child Care Skills

Elder Care Skills

Search and Rescue Skills

Crisis Counseling Skills

EQUIPMENT / SUPPLIES

First Aid Supplies

Tents / Spare Bedding

Chain Saw

Generator

Fire Extinguisher



Plumber Skills



Camp Stove

Carpenter Skills

Walkie-Talkie

Electrician Skills

NOAA Weather Radio

Fire Fighting Skills



Ladder

Coordinating and Organizing Skills

Crow Bar

Strong Rope

Neighborhood Skills *and* Equipment Inventory

Guidelines for Neighborhood Mapping

These guidelines will help you sketch a neighborhood map (create the sketch on the following page).

FIRST:

Sketch the basic layout of your neighborhood.

- Include streets, building lots, and houses.
- Include house numbers.

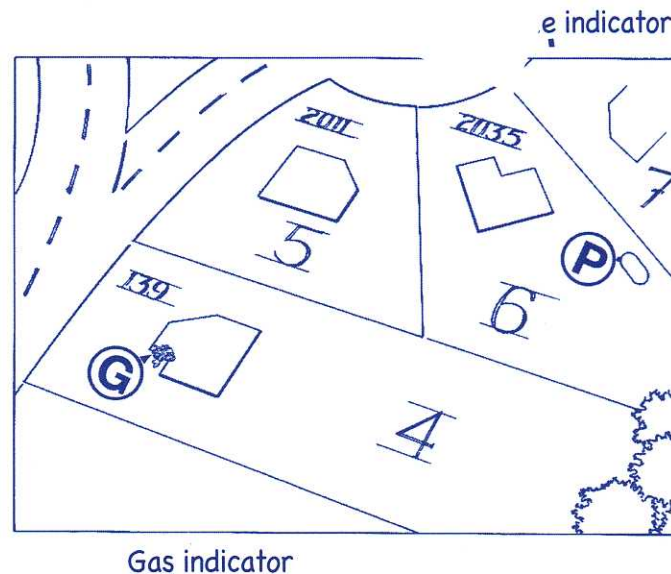
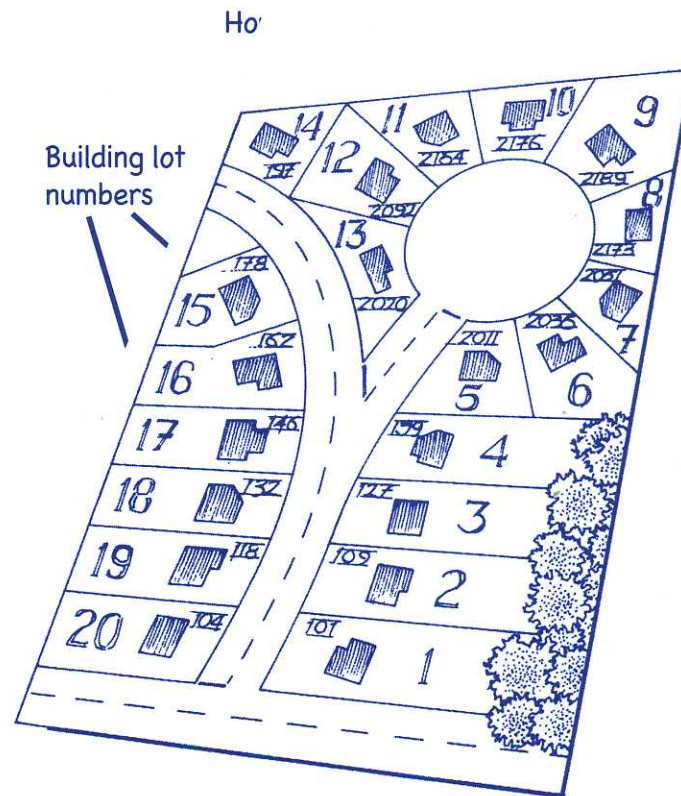
SECOND:

Number the building lots in order. This will allow you to easily match each house to the information on the Contact List (see FOURTH step).

THIRD:

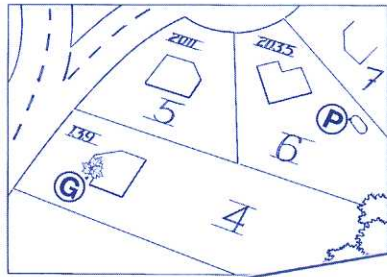
Mark the exact location of each natural gas meter or propane tank on your map.

- Explain the location of your gas meter to your neighbors. For example, "behind the lilac bush on the front corner of the house."
- Suggestion: At the end of the meeting, actually walk your neighborhood and identify each meter. It is useful to see where each meter is located.

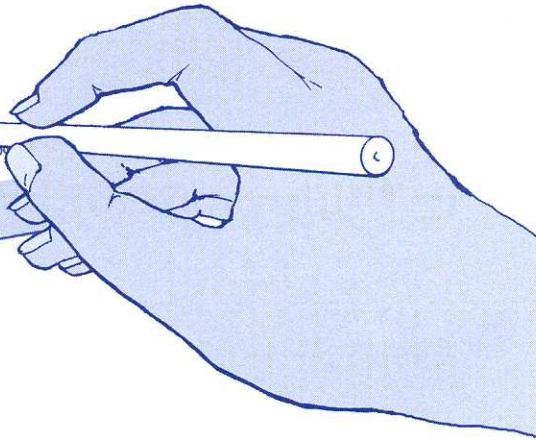


FOURTH:

- In the tinted box on the Contact List, write names of those who may need extra help during disasters (neighbors who are elderly, neighbors with disability, and children who may be home alone at certain hours of the day).
- Match **1** on contact list with the lot that you numbered "1," match **2** with the lot that you numbered "2," match **3** with "3," match **4** with "4," etc.



HOUSE 4
Adult Name(s) Kim, Lynn, Pat Blackwell
Children Name(s) BJ & Junior
Best Phone 222-672-0099
Email kim@network.com
Pet(s) and kind(s) Fluffy, a friendly dog
Any person with specific needs
PAT oxygen tank



In the next 48 hours, complete the Contact List as shown above.

