



HOW TO KICK START A LAPSED NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP

1. Hold a potluck block party. Social events can help rejuvenate your Group.
2. Contact via email, phone, or personal visits all households to update (or organize) the household contact information list (i.e., address, names, phone numbers, email addresses, pets, tenants, location of gas and water shut-offs, out-of-state contact info) and to invite to a block meeting.
3. Hold a meeting for the group, with a let's-get-reorganized agenda; possible topics include:
 - What does each household need or want at this point?
 - What does the neighborhood need in its supply stash?
 - Speaker for a particular topic:
 - a fire department rep
 - your beat officer to talk about crime
 - Red Cross CPR instruction
 - Office of Emergency Services* rep
 - Someone from your local elementary school or church to describe their emergency plans and resources
 - Plan a group drill (see "Basics of a Disaster Preparedness Drill" on the BDPNN website.)
4. Have each neighbor pick an area of interest (fire suppression, first aid, search and rescue, communication), sign up for CERT (Community Emergency Response Training)* and contribute toward the neighborhood stash in that area of interest.
5. Set priorities for neighborhood, make plans establish schedule for 2-4 events for the next 12 months.
6. Two events related the disaster preparedness have been popular with some Groups:
 - *Weekend fire extinguisher servicing.* BEST Equipment (510-655-8882) will bring a truck on a Saturday morning to a central location in the neighborhood to check (free), recharge, or replace extinguishers at a discount.
 - *Automatic gas shut-off valve installation campaign.* Make arrangements for a group installation with one of the companies that provides and installs these valves. For example, Larry Guillot at QuakePrepare(707-965-3299) has worked with several Berkeley neighborhoods to install Affordable Safety Solutions valves (ASSI) for \$199 per house, valve and installation.
 - *Register as a Neighborhood Watch Group:* Register with Community Services of the Berkeley Police Dept (510-981-5808). If you have two meetings with a rep from the Police or Fire departments in a calendar year, your neighborhood will qualify for a free dumpster!

* call Berkeley's OES at (510) 981-3473 or go online to <http://www.cityofberkeley.info/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=57314>