

September is National Preparedness Month

Week #2 – Sept 11 –17 Neighbors Helping Neighbors Through Preparedness

Comprehensive preparedness requires the whole community to participate and FEMA places tremendous value on communities that embrace a local "*Neighbors Helping Neighbors*" approach. *Neighbors Helping Neighbors* empowers community leaders to involve and educate individuals from their community about simple steps one can take to become more prepared. Forty-six percent of individuals expect to rely a great deal on people in their neighborhood for assistance within the first 72 hours after a disaster. When the whole community comes together to respond to and help recover from these emergencies - *neighbor helping neighbor* - we can often meet the needs of everyone.

The Neighbor Helping Neighbor approach seeks to support state, tribal and local agencies, civic organizations, faith-based groups and other community organizations that serve the whole community. FEMA works to provide these organizations with additional tools and preparedness training opportunities so they can become more prepared.

Invite your neighbors to a planning session to discuss what you can do to help each other if a disaster strikes.

- Does anyone have any special skills or training?
- Are there elderly who may need help or those with special needs?
 - Who can check on them?
- Decide on a way to communicate with each other to notify your neighbors that you are okay or if you need help if phones are not working.
- What resources can you share?
- Sign up for a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) class
- Get involved with your local Citizen Corps organization

