



PALM DRIVE HEALTH CARE
DISTRICT



Gravenstein Health Action Coalition

Meet Your Neighbors FAQ

Getting Stated:

1. What is a good way to make the initial approach to my neighbors?

Depending on how well you know your neighbors here are a few suggestions:

Try to find one other person to work with in your neighborhood. Begin with what you have - email address, cell phone, periodic eye-contact. Just begin reaching out and letting neighbors know of your interest to get together about preparedness. Simply ask if you can include them in a neighborhood meeting.

2. Do I just set a date for the meeting or try to find a date that includes most neighbors?

Try to find a date that accommodates most neighbors knowing that you can't 'meet everyone's schedule', perhaps summarize the information for people who can't make the meeting.

3. How do I figure out how many homes to include in MYN group?

You decide the number of houses and the size of your group. That is a good question to pose at your first neighborhood meeting. Being able to easily respond to each other within your neighborhood matters and helps clarify how many homes to include. The MYN program suggests 20-24 homes max in a standard residential neighborhood (10-12 on each side of a block). Most neighborhoods in the Sebastopol area are not standard.

4. What do I do about neighbors who do not want to participate?

Try to find out why. If time and or lack of interest are the issues, just ask if you can keep them informed about what is happening. Offer to summarize meetings and keep them in the loop. If lack of interest is the response, you may just note who is in the household for further reference. Some people are not into meeting but will step up during an emergency.

5. How long should the meeting be?

60-90 minutes is common. Schedule the first meeting for 60 minutes. And then let the group decide about future meetings.

6. How do I protect my neighbors' confidential information?

Let your neighbors discuss and decide. If using the "cloud" to store info encryption is the best way to secure common data accessible only to specific individuals. Not everyone is comfortable with this method. You can have a member do research on the "cloud" and report back to the group. You could have a neighbor capture, adjust and hold information and then provide a single read only file to the group via email. Suggestion: store that file on your smart phone for immediate access when cell or wi fi is not available.

7. Should I use Google docs that I can share with my neighbors?

Using the cloud is not for everyone , discuss this with your neighbors(see 6 above).

Getting Support:

8. How can I find a mentor to help get started?

The Leadership Council has mentors and other participants who may assist you with questions.

9. Do you have a list of all existing MYN groups? Can I contact them?

We do collect and track MYN information through the classes and the Leader Council. We are mindful of privacy and confidentiality for individuals and neighborhoods. If you want to know if there might be an MYN group in your area, please contact Skip Jirrels.

10. Is there a local MYN resource person?

Yes, Skip Jirrels, Public Safety Outreach Coordinator for Sebastopol as well as connecting with members of the Leadership Council.

11. What do I do about my neighbors over grown bushes?

Follow suggested protocols for property disputes either with the city of Sebastopol or the County of Sonoma, they both have vegetation management positions and/or documents.

12. The 'go or stay' issues for renters may be different

Occupants of single family or multi-family units may need to go to the property owner or manager or the maintenance person to gain access to turn off gas, electric or water valves.

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

13. Do you have a basic emergency supply list I could use?

We suggest using the Sebastopol Hardware Center 16 week supplies list - available through the Leader Council.

14. Where can I go to buy my emergency supplies?

We suggest the Sebastopol Hardware Center as a local, supportive resource in our community. There are also numerous stores and outlets online which sell kits, packages, bundles and drums of emergency supplies. Once you begin to consider what your actual or potential needs are, you will be better able to decide on which supplies are right for you.

15. What should I put in an under-bed supply box?

As with your emergency supplies, a “go bag” needs consideration of your particular needs but in regards to leaving immediately. Basically though we all need protection for our feet, hands and head in order to get out of the house rapidly. Flashlight for sure. Are you on a second floor? Do you need medications? Do you have cash on hand? Which items can be put in your go kit or go bag under your bed? Which ones will go in your go bag in your car?

16. What do I need to have available for my pets?

Food, water dish, carrying case. What will allow you to evacuate your pet and have them be as comfortable and safe as possible?

17. Are there special supplies I need for seniors in my home?

What special supplies does your senior need for daily care: meds, assistive devices, hearing aids, etc. What will allow you to evacuate your senior and have them be as comfortable and safe as possible?

18. What do I do about being prepared for my special needs family member?

Consult with your special needs caregiver to understand and gather supplies that they may need.

19. Should I give someone a set of keys to my house? Who?

It is a good idea to provide someone direct emergency access, or access permission, to your house when you are not there. How to provide that access - giving a key or hiding a key, as example - is up to each household. It is possible to simply provide permission to break through a window or door to gain emergency access also.