

Meet Your Neighbors - Neighbors Helping Neighbors



A brief introduction:

Sebastopol's Meet Your Neighbors (MYN) program is uniquely designed to help local area neighborhoods prepare for disasters. When a crisis occurs, those closest to you may be your greatest help. Unless directly impacted by the disaster, emergency personnel will likely not be available to immediately assist your area. Being prepared and taking the right course of action within the first few minutes and hours after a disaster may help protect and save lives.

The Meet Your Neighbors program walks you and your neighbors through a simple step-by-step process to customize an emergency preparedness plan for your area.

How to get started:

A wonderful benefit of the Meet Your Neighbors program is that it's a great way to get to know or reconnect with your neighbors. You'll be working together and learning how to protect your families, friends and property.

A peer-led program, we ask interested neighborhood leaders or residents to attend an MYN Leader Class, provided for free by the Sebastopol Fire Department. During this class you will explore ways to organize and connect with your neighbors, and plan for your first neighborhood meeting. An informative and detailed MYN Booklet is provided and also options for creating a map of your neighborhood will be discussed. MYN is a very simple and flexible program that provides steps and structure that each neighborhood can use and adopt as needed. The role of the Leader is to connect with neighbors and initiate working together to become more informed and prepared.

After completing the MYN Leader Class, neighborhood Leaders are encouraged to attend a Leader Council meeting to collaborate with experienced Leaders, to schedule their first

Neighborhood Meeting as quickly as time allows, and to return to the Leader Council meeting to help improve and expand Sebastopol's efforts to be better prepared for emergencies.

During the neighborhood meeting your neighbors will:

- Learn the "8 Steps to Take Immediately Following a Disaster".
- Identify the skills and equipment each neighbor has that would be useful in a disaster response.
- Create a Neighborhood Map identifying the location of the gas, electric and water shut offs.
- Create a contact list to help identify needs and skills within the neighborhood. And to catalogue equipment, tools and supplies that are available incase of an emergency.
- Learn how to work together as a team to evaluate your neighborhood during the first hour following a disaster.

We never know when a disaster may strike, but we do know that being prepared is the first step toward a better outcome. The first hour following a disaster is critical for survivors. The Meet Your Neighbors Program promotes understanding neighborhood resources and needs to help all neighbors be better prepared for an emergency or disaster.

For further information about the MYN Program, to sign up for an upcoming MYN Class or to be added to our MYN email list, please go to www.SebastopolReady.org

You can also email directly to:

Skip Jirrels
Sebastopol Fire Department
Public Safety Outreach Coordinator
sjirrels@cityofsebastopol.org
707 799 2204