

How to Develop a Community Emergency Response Plan

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Created by LA DONE Emergency Preparedness Task Force

1. **Organization**: Form a Public Safety Committee (or Emergency Preparedness Committee) in your Neighborhood Council to oversee the process of developing a response plan.
2. **Training**: Organize free emergency response training at least annually for all residents 18+ years old through the LAFD's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, www.cert-la.com. Encourage residents to also take American Red Cross First Aid classes. Email safety@asnc.us for help with scheduling classes and advertising CERT training.
3. **Drills**: Practice learned CERT skills at least twice a year through realistic drills organized by the Public Safety Committee as well as drills sponsored by other Neighborhood Councils and the LAFD.
4. **Neighborhood Analysis**: Split up your community into smaller manageable zones, and conduct analyses to determine which zones may be more susceptible to damage or destruction from a natural disaster (allowing for better preparation efforts). Establish community-meeting area(s) in accessible outdoor locations. Determine where local CERT Command Post will be located.
5. **Resources & Supplies**: Identify existing resources in the community (e.g. nurses, contractors, paramedics, psychologists, owners of tools). Also request Neighborhood Council funds for basic community emergency supplies. Determine safe, secure and accessible location for emergency supplies. A list of allowable emergency supply purchases is being developed in concert with the LAFD Disaster Preparedness Unit.
6. **Action Plan**: Develop a simple course of action for residents to take after a disaster (go to meeting area, wait for assignment, how residents can request help via two-way FRS radios, etc). Include a plan to use two-way FRS radios for CERT tactical communications, and ham radios for broad-scale communications with other communities.
7. **Outreach**: Educate local businesses, government entities, schools and residents on the important of emergency preparedness through press releases, workshops, fairs, and community meetings.