

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT MYN

Below are some answers to FAQS that will help you talk to others about MYN.

What Is MYN?

Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) is a unique and free program designed by the Washington State Emergency Management Department to help neighborhoods prepare for disasters – neighbors helping neighbors. This program is not about evacuations or wildfires. It's designed to save lives when you're **sheltering in place** after a disaster, such as a major earthquake.

MYN is a peer-led, team-based program that provides training and resources needed to help neighborhoods get ready for any disaster. We never know when a disaster may strike, but experts do know that the first 60 minutes following a disaster are critical for saving lives and preventing damage to our homes. Those closest to you – your neighbors – may be your greatest help; and being prepared is the first step toward a better outcome.

What's involved?

A “host” or ‘leader’ is needed to take the first step – to organize a two-to three-hour neighborhood meeting to watch a training video that teaches 9 steps to take immediately following a major disaster. Neighbors are organized as a team to gain confidence and have peace of mind that neighbors are prepared to help each other until emergency personnel can reach you.

The Map Your Neighborhood program walks you and your neighbors through a simple step-by-step process to customize an emergency plan. A wonderful benefit of the MYN program is that it's a great way to get to know your neighbors. You'll be working together as peers and learning how to protect your families, friends and property.

How do I become a host or leader?

Let us know! We'll make sure you have the MYN training DVD (or link to YouTube); enough Workbooks for your neighborhood; and a “Host Guide” that we've put together with lots of information to make your job easy. One of us will even attend your initial meeting to lend support, if needed.

How is MYN different from COPE? Does my neighborhood need both?

COPE started in 2004 to address emergency preparedness in Oakmont. It was a good start, but we've identified a much more robust program in MYN. The OVA and OEPC (Oakmont Emergency Prepared Committee) have officially adopted MYN as THE emergency preparedness program for Oakmont. **MYN is the future of Oakmont!**

MYN can use the COPE neighborhood delineations, or you can change them as makes sense – whatever works best for your neighborhood. The MYN recommendation is 15-20 homes, or the number that can be canvassed in an hour after a disaster. Also, the COPE contacts list

may already exist for those neighborhoods that have an active COPE leader. Update them and add the additional information that MYN suggests.

Significant advantages of MYN over other programs include:

- All residents in a neighborhood are involved in preparedness and share the same information;
- Personal information stays within the neighborhood and is not shared with anyone else; and
- Since everyone in a neighborhood is involved equally in the process, to the extent of their abilities, there is no reliance on one or two individuals to coordinate an emergency response.

How big should my MYN neighborhood be?

We recommend about 15-20 homes. This is a typical block, corner to corner, both sides of the street. We recommend including “line of sight” homes. When disaster strikes, we tend to respond to those things we can see.

Why does the number of houses matter?

Because we are organizing and preparing for disaster, we want to keep in mind the dynamics of an effective response. The most effective response occurs in the first hour following a disaster. It is called the “golden 60 minutes” because of its value in saving lives, reducing the severity of injury, and reducing property and environmental damage. If a group is too large, it becomes difficult to complete an effective response in that first hour.

How do I determine who to invite to my meeting?

Our goal is to be prepared to care for ourselves and for others when fire, medical, police, and utility first responders are inundated with requests for help, severely limiting their ability to get to all who need them in a timely manner. Experience shows that people genuinely want to help each other when these events occur. Imagine a major disaster occurring...such as a 7.1 earthquake. Who would you want to help? How far would you naturally extend your reach? That is whom you want to include in your group. The size should also be manageable, which is why we recommend about 15-20 homes.

Why do I need to personally invite my neighbors?

Experience is very clear on this one. A personal invitation is what encourages your neighbors to attend. A full house generates lots of enthusiasm and energy. We have included both a sample invitation and a written reminder to leave with your neighbors to remind them of the date, but to ensure a good turnout, invest the time and extend a personal invitation.

Doesn't it take a lot of time to personally invite everyone?

Many groups have found it beneficial to have two or three neighbors help with inviting. That way it will not take any one person as long. Remember, the time invested in inviting is typically rewarded with a good turnout at the meeting.

No one has a house big enough to hold our whole neighborhood. Is it a good idea to hold the meeting in a rec center?

Experience is very clear on this one, too! The answer is generally no. There is a direct correlation between where the meeting is held and the number of neighbors who will attend. Even if one of the rec centers is nearby, it creates distance. To maximize your turnout, hold the meeting in someone's home. If it's a little crowded, that's okay! The meeting is dynamic enough that most people don't mind. If you are concerned about not having enough chairs, ask people to bring a chair when you invite them.

Where can I get another DVD, Workbooks, or other resources?

Your Oakmont MYN team is ready to help! Email us at MYNOakmont@gmail.com and tell us how we can help.

How do I create a map of my neighborhood?

Maps can be roughly hand drawn or a computerized work of art. Here are three suggested ways to create maps:

1. Draw a map free hand. As long as it is clear and legible, it doesn't need to be fancy.
2. Google Maps will provide the means to focus in on your neighborhood and be able to print a map for your use.
3. Go to <https://maps.srcity.org/Html5Viewer/Index.html?viewer=sebastopol> Open "County-wide layers." Open "other useful layers." Open "Buildings." Enter "Santa Rosa" in the box and scroll to Oakmont. You will then have all the regular layers people use to develop a simple map.

Add neighborhood contact information to whichever map method you use.

How do I order a hardhat? A headlamp? Gloves? Boots?

Each neighborhood area can select their own **hardhat** and color to order. We found Amazon to have a wide range from which to choose. Here's one we used:

https://smile.amazon.com/gp/product/B0002TRBK6/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o03_s00

Adding a headlamp to your hardhat allows for hands-free maneuverability. To find a **headlamp** that fits your hardhat, we suggest you go to a retail store and ask for help finding one that fits.

The kind of **gloves** you get is a personal choice. We suggest gloves that are form-fitting to your hands but are thick enough so that you could pick up broken glass with them.

Boots are optional. If you already have sturdy shoes or boots, you don't need to buy more. You **do** need to store them under the bed with your gloves, hardhat, headlamp, and your MYN booklet.

Where can I get a gas shutoff wrench?

The OVA office sells gas shutoff wrenches for \$9. Leave your wrench near your gas meter.

What kind of fire extinguishers should I get, and where can I get them?

“A-B-C” fire extinguishers are best because they extinguish wood/paper; grease/oil; and electrically energized fires. Make sure your existing extinguishers are charged. If not sure, have them checked.

We have had good luck getting fire extinguishers at:

Fire Safety Supply, Inc.

468 Yolanda Ave. Ste. 201, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Ph: 707.575.9117 Fax: 707.575.9224

www.firesafetysupply.net

Fire Safety Supply also will test your old extinguishers.

What about walkie-talkie communications?

We’re working with OEPC’s Zone Communicators so that eventually every MYN neighborhood will have walkie-talkie communications with OEPC during a shelter-in-place disaster.

Will there be ongoing MYN support and training?

Yes! We will hold ongoing quarterly **support and training** meetings for hosts, with peer support on topics such as team building, how to create neighborhood maps, and coordinating with OEPC Zone Communicators. We’ll also include special guest speakers on related topics. Attendance is totally voluntary! Email your Oakmont MYN team for a schedule of meetings.

Questions? Let us know how we can help you get started. Email the Oakmont MYN team at MYNOakmont@gmail.com.

Katy Carrel, Ann Benson & Matt Zwerling