

CORE Citywide Emergency Response Functional Exercise

Saturday, April 25, 2009, 9:00am - 11:30am

Helpful Hints #3

Objective:

Integrate untrained neighbors as Spontaneous Volunteers

ALL Groups:

- Talk to your CORE group members about how comfortable you feel incorporating un-affiliated volunteers, whether they are just other neighbors who never came to your meetings, or complete strangers offering assistance. If there is much discrepancy among the group members, try to come to a compromise your group can agree upon. (I.e., if someone comes forward offering to help but who makes you feel unsafe, how will you deal with it? Will you ask the person to leave? Is there a way to use him or her for the good of your group, perhaps a way that separates the individual from those who are uncomfortable or fearful? Your group should agree about how to handle this type of situation.)
- Review CORE's Suggested Activities for Spontaneous Volunteers.
- Review CORE's Sample Volunteer Intake Form and adapt it to your neighborhood as needed. When used in a disaster, this form will help you integrate individuals who offer their help but are not already members of your CORE group. It will help you determine who they are as well as what skills and equipment they might contribute. This form can also help you track the personnel involved in your response efforts.
- Bring someone new to a CORE group meeting (such as a friend or relative) and practice interviewing them to identify if and how they could be of use to you in an emergency. Consider combining this activity with a tabletop exercise.
- Create a resource backpack for each Response Team before the disaster occurs. Contents should include both the tools and the forms needed to carry out the duties of each Response Team. You may also want to write out directions or a simple checklist in your own words to highlight the team responsibilities. These pre-assembled backpacks will make it easier for volunteers to serve on Response Teams without already being CORE-trained.

Average to Advanced Groups:

- Create interview questions ahead of time to use with Spontaneous Volunteers who are unknown to the neighborhood. These questions may supplement a Volunteer Intake Form or be used on their own in place of a standard form.

New or Small Groups:

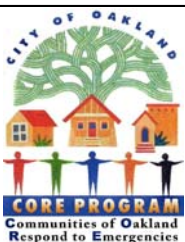
- Assemble a backpack or container of Neighborhood Incident Command Center (NICC) supplies. Do more for the NICC, and start on backpacks for the Response Teams if you can.

Groups in Multi-Unit Buildings:

- Identify tasks that may be appropriate for a Spontaneous Volunteer, considering your building's specifics on security.



*Still have questions?
Contact the CORE Coordinator!*



For more information about the CORE Citywide Exercise, please call 510-238-6351 or email core@oaklandnet.com.

Citywide Exercise resources are also available online at <http://www.oaklandnet.com/fire/core/citywide.html>.

