

Notes from Area Coordinators Meeting, November 20, 2014

Reports on Summer 2014 Emergency Prep Meetings

Heritage Hills – Chuck Vermillion (report prepared by Jill Schuman)

1. Attendance: Heritage Hills has 26 homes. One house was for sale at the time. So out of 25 potential homes, 7 (including us presenters) homes were represented, and 9 people attended.

2. Dates, Notices and Invitations? Our meeting was held on June 7, 10:30 am at the home of Ann Chilcote. (We had intended to hold a 2nd meeting on July 19, but I had to cancel due to a trip.) Ann invited neighbors about a month beforehand via email.

3. Outline Useful? Yes, your outline was helpful. Ann chose to share her knowledge about sanitation (Home Depot bucket & REI lid), and that was a hit! We brainstormed ideas around that subject. We called our meeting "Pee-ka-Poop". Catchy and fun. And that was our goal - to make our block meeting fun, informational, & time-worthy.

We created 2 interactive activities. One was to do an actual Earthquake drill. We all know to drop, cover & hold. But to actually find a smart location, crawl under (at our older ages), and stay is taken for granted. Before the drill, neighbors were assigned a room (bless Ann for allowing this). They were told to stay in their safe place until Ann or I found them. Then we all gathered back at the meeting area to share our safe places & discussed the reason. I blew a whistle, they scattered. One neighbor had to duck beside a couch & cover with pillows, because it was his safest location. The overall lesson/experience was to investigate your home and office, designate where it's safe to duck, cover & hold, and be prepared for the after disaster. We gave each household wrapped 2 AAA batteries as their parting gift.

4. Refreshments: Ann provided coffee, tea, and simple snacks.

5. Do differently next year? For our next block meeting, we'd like a higher attendance.

6. Advice? No advice. For Heritage Hills, maybe we can try meeting in pods of neighbors - 5/6 houses at a time. We can't fix 26 homes into one, and it's difficult to nail down one date for majority of homes, so maybe it would be convenient for smaller meetings, and then hold one big meeting with one lead from each pod. And I would like our neighbors to attend the WNA EP meetings, just one new neighbor per month. I think this will cause the neighbors to be aware of their own EP preparedness, and then want to share with their neighbors.

Trillium Woods – Christ Battista

1. Attendance: 34 units, of which 3 sold in the last 3 months of whom I have talked to 2. 6 or 7 turned out from 5 units. Brad Horton was there.
2. Dates, Notices and Invitations? We held our meeting [Sunday] August 24 in the Lutheran Church. We had originally invited people for the 21st, but we changed it.
3. Outline Useful? The Outline was helpful – we followed the document in a relaxed atmosphere.
4. Refreshments: Power Bars. Water, and Cheryl made muffins.
5. Do differently next year? That depends on who shows up – kids or not.
6. Advice? Having a co-chair is nice in case one of us has to miss a meeting – or is absent when a disaster actually happens.

Country Woods Court – Jason Lang

1. Attendance: 10 HH, 7 attended; there are 2 new renters on the block, Newcomers and new single woman in Scotts' house.
2. Dates, Notices and Invitations? Meeting was held in Aug. 9, 10:00 a.m. Saturday in Jason's driveway.
3. Outline Useful?
4. Refreshments: Served coffee, juice, muffins from Albertson's.
5. Do differently next year?
6. Advice? We need something new – water, life straws, tools, books – or each person bring a piece of equipment and talk about it.

The power outage was a wake-up call. We experienced lacking in preparation.

Galewood and Quarry Road - Steve Allaway and Kathryn Purzer

1. Attendance: We combined with Quarry Road. Out of 7 HH on Galewood & Quarry, 3 new people showed up.
2. Dates, Notices and Invitations? We held our meeting Saturday, July 19, from 4:00 to 5:30 in East Waluga Park. We distributed 2 sets of flyers and knocked on doors without leaving flyers.

3. Outline Useful? We followed the outline and added some material – e.g., talked about disasters in general – and we brought props, the map of our neighborhood, and an example of an emergency box.
4. Refreshments: We had food including punch, juice, and cheese and veggie trays, and we gave away flashlights.
5. Do differently next year? It would be good to add new elements – for example, a generator. When the power went out was a teachable moment.
6. Advice? None

Oakridge Park Apartments – Jan Hilderbrand and Suzanne Causer

1. Attendance: 45 units in the building on 4 floors. We have monthly meetings that normally attract 2/3 of the residents.
2. Dates, Notices and Invitations? N/A
3. Outline Useful? At our last meeting, Virginia presented from the RC book (?). We have lots of water stored. We asked questions about locating things – for example, “Where is the water stored?”, “the food?”, and “the hot water tanks?” Then we buddied up and opened the fire extinguisher cases and demonstrated the pins and lids. The last power outage came during our monthly birthday party. So everyone was gathered in this room. We made stone soup and barbequed a salmon outside on the grill. We have a coordinator for each floor and 4 radios.
4. Refreshments:
5. Do differently next year? N/A
6. Advice? Showed a small flashlight to attach to key ring that might be a good give away to others.

Harvey Way – Rett Russell

1. Attendance: 20 HH, 5 people came.
2. Dates, Notices and Invitations? We held the meeting Thursday evening, July 24. We emailed everyone 2-3 weeks ahead of the meeting.
3. Outline Useful? The article in the Portland Monthly magazine was better than the outline you provided. The big interest was citywide communications.

4. Refreshments: We served chips and dip and wine, but people didn't drink much.
5. Do differently next year? We'd hope more people would come
6. Advice?

Other Notes:

1. Jason explained some of the limitations of earthquake insurance coverage for residences. We could invite him to the block meetings to explain how it works – the payout discounted 10 or 15% from full coverage.
2. Invite Dr. Rizzo to come and talk to our next neighborhood association annual meeting.
3. Ask several people to bring equipment to demonstrate at the block meetings to show everyone what they can provide.
4. Going to the water storage, food storage, etc. and practicing with the fire extinguishers – think about how to apply that principle to the other block meetings.
5. Jim will investigate buying toilet seat lids for buckets in bulk so everyone can have one.

Radio Practice

We agreed to practice communicating on the Tuesday before our monthly meetings, which will be the Tuesday before the 3rd Thursday of each month.

Since we will not have a meeting in December, we will set our radio drill arbitrarily on

December 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Instructions for this drill will be emailed to all of you in early December.

Our next Area Coordinators Meeting will be January 15, the 3rd Thursday, and radio practice will be Tuesday, the 13th.