

How to Get Started

You do not have to be the block captain to prepare your block but you do need to be a Manhattan Beach resident to attend a ninety minute training presented by Manhattan Beach Fire Department.

At this training you will learn how to develop a skills and equipment list and to locate areas of concern such as gas meters and water shut offs. You will learn to identify which neighbors require extra help, including the elderly, those with special needs and children who may be home alone during certain hours of the day.

After completing the training, you will gather your neighbors together to learn what steps to take immediately following an earthquake. You will make plans for communicating what help your block needs to City volunteers who will in turn notify the Emergency Operation Center.

Your block will have the opportunity to participate with other Neighborhood blocks and CERT volunteers in the "ShakeOut" Earthquake exercise annually in October.

To enroll in a
"Map Your Neighborhood"
training class
Call MBFD at (310) 802-5203



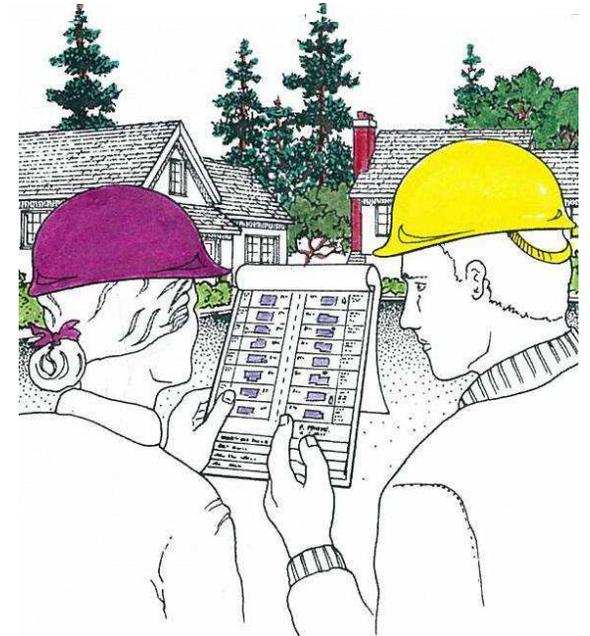
Map Your Neighborhood

Our thanks to LuAn Johnson, PhD,
Public Education Manager
Washington State Emergency Management
for creating the MYN program.

Manhattan Beach Neighborhood Watch
In partnership with the
Manhattan Beach Fire Department



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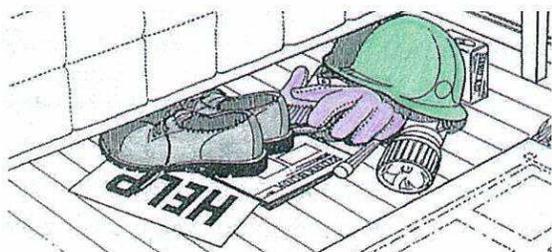
Design a Disaster
Response Plan
With Your Neighbors

Why Map Your Neighborhood?

The reality of a major disaster is that emergency responders will not be available or accessible right away. Neighborhoods may need to respond to a range of situations from turning off gas meters and water, if needed, to dealing with minor fires and injuries.

Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) is a program created to help neighbors design a plan for responding to disaster situations on their block.

Learn the “9 Steps to Take Immediately Following a Disaster.” It is hard to think clearly after a disaster and learning these steps will help you to respond in a timely manner.

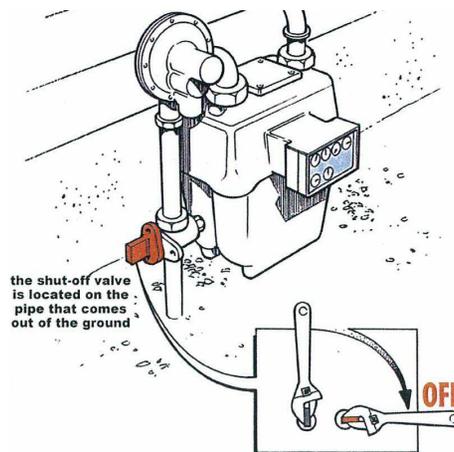


keep sturdy shoes, a hard hat, and leather gloves under the bed – that way, you will always be ready

Identifying the specialized skills and equipment that your neighbors have will be useful in a disaster response and allows everyone to participate in a meaningful way.

Create a contact list to help identify those who have special needs such as the elderly, disabled, and children who may be home alone during the day.

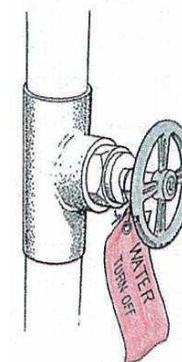
In a disaster or an emergency it is important that you know where, when, and how to turn off your main water valve and gas meter.



Shut off the gas immediately if you smell an odor like rotten eggs, hear a hissing sound, or you notice the dials on the gas meter spinning more rapidly than normal.

Never turn the gas back on once it has been shut off. You could create a gas leak in your home. Only a certified plumber or crew member from the gas company knows how to safely relight the pilot lights and to inspect your system for leaks.

Water quickly becomes a precious resource following a disaster.



To shut off the water:

- find the master shut-off valve (possible locations include the garage, basement, or near the water heater)
- turn the valve to the right until the water is completely shut off
- it is a good idea to label this valve and to make sure that all household members know where it is located
- *NOTE:* this is *NOT* the valve located in a cement box near the street

Turn off the water at the main water valve to keep contaminants from polluting the water supply and to prevent gravity from draining the water heater and toilet tanks.

Turn your water back on when you hear from the authorities that it is safe for drinking.