



NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Introduction and Package Cover Letter

Community Preparedness in the City of Los Angeles is a complex challenge.

The City spans 472 square miles and has a population of 4 million people.

The City varies from densely packed urban apartment buildings, to multiple acre mansions, to heavy industrial areas, to single family homes from hilly areas connected by narrow single car roads, to flat gridded areas, and everything in between.

The City is home to one of the largest professional fire departments in the country and a 9-1-1 average response time of 6-12 minutes depending on where you live with a network of trauma rated hospitals that on any normal day will be able to rapidly save your life should something unfortunate happen to you.

But what happens when it isn't a normal day?

The Los Angeles region is susceptible to almost every kind of natural and man-made disaster imaginable. While we don't get hurricanes, we do get more tornadoes than any other part of the State of California. And we know we are long overdue for an 8.0 magnitude or greater earthquake along the San Andreas fault.

The problem with a large and diverse city is that every city agency and even non-government agencies has a framework for a disaster plan and agencies such as the American Red Cross, LADWP, LAFD, and LA City EMD all want you to create a plan using their framework. The Mayor's Office has mandated that each Neighborhood Council to come up with their own disaster response plans. The problem is, when there are too many plans, they are all vying for the same limited resources and there is no synergy with the responding agencies.

The Neighborhood Team Program (NTP) combines the best aspects of each from LA City Fire Department (LAFD)'s Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training program, LA City Emergency Management Department (EMD)'s Ready Your LA Neighborhood (RYLAN) which is based on Map Your Neighborhood (MYN), and LA Police Department (LAPD)'s Neighborhood Watch (NW) program. Using LAFD CERT Coordinators as the driving force behind the program, NTP can be rolled out across the city as a standard plan for any neighborhood groups looking to start to organize their own Neighborhood Emergency Response Team.

This package provides a series of step-by-step guides for organizing and deploying. The program is organized from the top by CERT Coordinators but lead from the bottom by Neighborhood Team Leaders. In a city the size of Los Angeles there is no one-size fits all program and NTP's guides and plans are designed to be customized to each neighborhood's specific needs but are written to be a working plan ready to go out of the box.

Each Neighborhood Team must be grassroots in origin and requires community members who are willing to step up and want to get organized. Because the City does not have the resources to create these teams, they must self-create and grow organically. This program exists to make it as easy as possible for a concerned resident to become a Team Leader and help their neighbors organize into a self-sufficient emergency response team.

Where other initiatives such as CERT and RYLAN have failed to gain momentum in the past is because there's not a single place to go to get prepared. EMD will train your block in MYN but tell you to get CERT trained if you want to do more. CERT will train you to be a disaster responder but tell you to find your CERT Coordinator and local team to do more.

This package of documentation is designed to help you quickly start to form an effective self-sufficient Neighborhood Emergency Team in your area with the goal of your team being able to stand up a CERT Staging Area, perform a rapid damage assessment, and report incidents within a couple hours of a trigger event such as an earthquake.

Key to this program is a centralized database of CERT graduates and non-CERT people interested in starting or joining their Neighborhood Emergency Response Team. This database is maintained by the Community Disaster Preparedness Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit, for the purpose of allowing CERT Coordinators to get in contact with their team members. All members should be encouraged to sign-up at <http://join.ntp-la.com>

We'll be there every step along the way to help you organize and plan. We'll help you set up Map Your Neighborhood training in your block, schedule a CERT class in your area, provide you with continuing education through our LAFD CERT Coordinator YouTube channel and monthly webinars, and let you know when additional training is coming up.

Neighborhood Team Program Documentation Package Contents:

0. NTP Introduction and Cover Letter (*This Document*)
1. NTP Step-by-Step Guide to Starting Your Neighborhood Emergency Team
2. NTP 9 Easy Steps to Perform After a Moderate Earthquake
3. NTP Sign Up Flyer
4. NTP Disaster Response Standard Operating Procedures
5. NTP Step-by-Step Guide to CERT Staging and Initial Response to a Disaster
6. NTP Team Organization
7. NTP Step-by-Step Guide to Two-Way Disaster Radio Communications