Ready Together Neighbors

Your Team Leaders are:

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
Email _____

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
Email _____

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
Email _____

The households in our group are:

Other neighbors:

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
Email _____

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
Email _____

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
Email _____

Neighborhood Meeting Place:

Pick a location that is visible and preferably covered

CERT Team Meeting Place: _____

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Introduction to Ready Together Neighbors

Hello Neighbor!

In our neighborhood, we enjoy a strong sense of community and are delighted you are a neighbor. Our Ready Together Neighbors group is based on the concept of Neighbor Helping Neighbor so that in the event of an earthquake or other disaster, no one is overlooked.

Fire, police, and emergency services authorities have warned residents in the Bay Area that we need to be prepared to take care of ourselves for 3-5 days (or more) after a major disaster, especially an earthquake, where the area affected may be quite extensive. Residents developed this program to help neighbors be prepared to help each other after a major disaster.

CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) are groups of volunteer neighbors who are trained in disaster response as part of a national program. If there is a CERT team in your neighborhood, the members will gather at a defined neighborhood location to work to find solutions to the problems (such as injuries, damage, or hazards) reported by the Ready Together Team Leaders. Not all neighborhoods have active CERT Teams, but any group of neighbors can come together and help each other as a Ready Together team.

General Preparedness

- ☐ **Connect with Neighbors:** It's not what's in your toolkit, it's who's in your toolkit.
- ☐ **Join your team's WhatsApp, Signal or other communication group**
- ☐ **Sign up for Alerts:**
  - ☐ Rich City Alerts (Nixle/Everbridge). Text your ZIP code to 888777. Consider signing up for home and work ZIP codes.
  - ☐ Community Warning System (Contra Costa County): cwsalerts.com
- ☐ **Emergency Contacts:** Create a paper version of emergency contacts, including out of area contacts.
- ☐ **Supplies:** You need supplies to get your household through the 3-5 days or more. This includes water and food.
- ☐ **Go-bags:** Put together Go-bags for all household members, including any animal companions, in case of need to evacuate.

- ☐ **Stay-box:** Create a Stay-box so that your household can safely and comfortably stay home for a week or more, possibly without access to power or running water.
- ☐ **10 Minute Evacuation Plan:** Write a list of what you would grab if you had a 10 minute evacuation order.
- ☐ **If you have a car, keep your tank at least half full & park facing out.**

Specific Hazards

🫨 Earthquakes

Preparing

- ☐ Practice Drop-cover-hold-on with all household members.
- ☐ Leave a wrench outside near the gas meter if you have access to it.
- ☐ Secure furniture and appliances that might fall in heavy shaking.
- ☐ Have sturdy shoes and a flashlight by your bed.
- ☐ Sign up for MyShake App. This can give you a 5-20 second warning of an earthquake.

Responding

- ☐ In the moment: Drop. Cover. Hold-on. Expect aftershocks.
- ☐ **Check on household member**s.
- ☐ **Check on gas:** Turn it off only if you see it (meter spinning faster than normal or bubbles coming out of wet soil), smell it (odor smells like rotting eggs), or hear it (hissing sound). Go outside and sniff around your gas meter. DO NOT TURN THE GAS BACK ON. Call a professional to inspect.
- ☐ **Make a decision to stay at home or evacuate.**
- ☐ **Hang OK/Help door hanger** (given to you with this packet).
- ☐ **Check in with the block coordinator and/or other neighbors, if safe to do so.**
- ☐ **Go to Neighbor Meeting Space (if defined).**

🔥 Wildfire

Preparing

- ☐ **Single-family home:** create defensible space around your home and remove fire risks. Learn more at wccfiresafe.org or firesafemarin.org.
- ☐ **Download apps:** Watch Duty (fire and smoke alerts); Genasys Protect to learn your evacuation zone

Responding

- ☐ **Stay informed:** tune into a reliable news source (radio stations: KCBS 740 AM /106.9 FM, KQED 88.5 FM, KALW 91.7 FM).
- ☐ **Evacuation Warning:** Consider evacuating if you have vulnerable people in your household or need additional time. Otherwise, this means be alert to changes in conditions and have materials ready to grab and go. Keep pets inside.
- ☐ **Evacuation Order:** *Leave immediately. Do not delay. Follow all official instructions about routes.* This order may come via phone or text, an announcement on the radio, or a knock on the door.

🌧️ Flooding and Extreme Storms

Preparing

- ☐ Consider having sandbags on hand at home.
- ☐ Clean gutters ahead of expected storms.
- ☐ Be prepared to stay home: food, backup energy, stored water, and activities.
- ☐ **Alert:** Sign up for info about safety of drinking water ebmud.com/customers/alerts.
- ☐ Don't park under trees if you can avoid it when high winds are predicted.

Responding

- ☐ **Listen to reliable information sources** (radio stations: KCBS 740 AM /106.9 FM, KQED 88.5 FM, KALW 91.7 FM).
- ☐ **Stay home unless ordered to evacuate or danger is imminent.**
- ☐ **Don't walk in flood water.** It is contaminated with human waste, chemicals, and may contain sharp objects and could be electrified. 6 inches of moving water can knock you down.
- ☐ **Don't drive through flooded streets.** 12 inches of moving water can float a car.
- ☐ **Stay away from downed power lines.**
- ☐ **Food:** Dispose of any food that came in contact with flood water.
- ☐ **Sanitize or dispose** of any objects that come in contact with flood water. Check with authorities on how to dispose of sandbags safely.

🔦 Planned and Unplanned Power Outages

Various disasters may result in unplanned power outages (storms, earthquakes, etc.). A planned power outage, Public Safety Power Shut Off (PSPS), is a strategy used by PG&E to reduce the risk of wildfires during high winds and can last from hours to multiple days.

Preparing

- ☐ **Alerts:** Sign up for alerts from PG&E at pge.com.
- ☐ **Backup power:** Create a plan for backup power if a household member is medically dependent on powered devices or refrigerated medicine.
- ☐ **Lights and radios:** Have a battery powered, hand-cranked, and/or solar powered lights (but beware that solar won't be able to recharge during rainstorms).
- ☐ **Food**: If you have an electric stove, have food on hand that does not require cooking.
- ☐ **Communication:** If alerted of a potential upcoming outage, charge your devices.

Responding

- ☐ Use a battery-, solar- or hand-powered radio to stay informed.
- ☐ Do not leave candles unattended.
- ☐ Minimize opening the fridge or eat perishables quickly.

🌡️ Heat Waves

Preparing

- ☐ **Learn the signs of heat illness** (heat cramps, exhaustion, heat stroke).
- ☐ Close up your home during the hot part of the day; open in the evening and morning to let hot air out and bring in cool air.
- ☐ Plan ahead for where you can go to get some relief if you don't have air conditioning.

Responding

- ☐ Check on elderly or vulnerable neighbors.
- ☐ Stay hydrated and physically cool (wear loose, cool clothes, go to a cool space).
- ☐ **Call 9-1-1** if you suspect heat stroke, which can be deadly. While waiting for emergency responders, move the person to shade or cooler space, loosen any tight clothing, remove extra layers, cool their skin with cool water or ice.

🐱🐶 Animal Companions

Preparing

- ☐ **Chip and register:** Make sure you also have current and a backup number.
- ☐ **Window sticker:** Free sticker available at secure.aspca.org/take-action/pet-safety-pack**.**
- ☐ **Label pet carrier:** Attach a label with contact info, including an alternative contact, the animal's name, and a picture of you and the animal.
- ☐ **Animal go-bag**: Include food, water, leash, meds, toys, waste bags and/or litter.

Responding

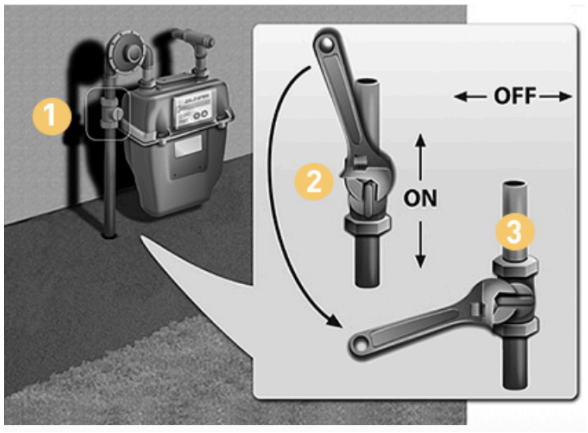
- ☐ **Shelters:** Many emergency shelters don't allow pets. Consider how you will handle this.
- ☐ **Emotional awareness:** Stay calm to help your animal stay calm.

Gas Meter Shutoff Instructions

Turn of the gas if you:

- ☐ **See it:** Meter is spinning faster than normal or bubbles coming out of wet ground
- ☐ **Smell it:** Odor of rotten eggs
- ☐ **Hear it:** Hissing sound

DON'T TURN IT BACK ON!
Have PG&E or a qualified professional inspect & restore it.





Multi-Tool for Gas/Water

Locate the Main Gas Shutoff Valve

The main gas shutoff valve is normally located near the gas meter. The most common places are on the side or front of a building, a cabinet located inside a building or a cabinet outside a building.

Have a Wrench Handy

Keep a 12- to 15-inch adjustable pipe- or crescent-type wrench or other suitable tool near your main shutoff valve so you don't have to search for one in times of emergency. If you have a multi-tool (shown above), still keep a wrench handy for tight spots.

Give the Valve a Quarter Turn

The valve is closed when the tang (the part of the valve you put the wrench on) is crosswise (perpendicular) to the pipe.

If your gas service is set up differently from the one described and you wish to know how to turn off your gas, please contact PG&E at 1-800-743-5000.

From https://www.pge.com/en_US/safety/gas-safety/gas-safety-tips.page#p3

Disaster Water Purification

⚠ Important Notice

Disinfection kills bacteria, viruses, and protozoa that can make you sick.
It does NOT remove heavy metals, salts, or chemical contaminants.
Use disinfected water for drinking, cooking, prepared drinks, dishwashing, and brushing teeth.
Tap water may be unsafe during a flood or after an earthquake. Listen to official reports about water quality, or take precautions if unsure.

🔥 Method A: Boiling (Most Effective)

Boiling is the most reliable method for purifying water that has microorganisms. If your water is cloudy or colored, let it settle, then filter it through a clean cloth, paper towel, or coffee filter before boiling. Bring to rolling boil for 1 minute.

🧪 Method B: Household Bleach

Use **UNSCENTED *REGULAR*** liquid chlorine bleach containing 6% or 8.25% sodium hypochlorite. *Do NOT use scented, color-safe, concentrated, or splashless bleaches.*

- If your water is cloudy or colored, let it settle, then filter it through a clean cloth, paper towel, or coffee filter before disinfecting.
- Use a clean dropper from your medicine cabinet or emergency supply kit.
- Use fresh liquid chlorine bleach that has been stored at room temperature for less than one year.

Volume of Water	Volume of Bleach
1 Quart/ 1 Liter	2 drops
1 Gallon	8 drops
2 Gallons	16 drops (1/4 tsp)

- Add the same amount of bleach if the water is still cloudy, colored, or cold.
- Stir and let stand for 30 minutes. The water should have a slight chlorine odor. If it doesn't, repeat the dosage and let stand for another 15 minutes before use.
- If the chlorine taste is too strong, pour the water from one clean container to another and let it stand for a few hours before use.

🏕 Method C: Camping Filters

You can use a camping filter to purify water to remove microorganisms.



Countertop water purifiers DON'T remove microorganisms.
Use one of the methods above to keep your water safe.

CERTRichmond.org

Info from EPA's "Emergency Disinfection of Drinking Water" handout

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Emergency Toilet

Protect Your Family's Health



After a strong earthquake you may need to live without a working toilet for weeks or months.
Disease is spread when human waste - POO - is not handled and stored safely.

Twin Bucket System

Separating PEE lessens volume and ordor, making bucket contents safer and easier to store & dispose.

PEE - Liquid waste

- Use **PEE** bucket.
- Place **toilet paper** in **POO** bucket.
- Add water to contents if possible.
- Pour on lawn, garden, or ground.



POO - Fecal waste

- Line bucket with heavy duty 13 gallon trash can.
- Use **POO** bucket.
- Cover each use with bark chips, shredded paper, etc. to help dry the waste.
- Fill bucket no more than half full of waste.
- Double-bag and store separate from other garbage and away from food and water.
- Secure waste from pets, rats, flies, etc.

Supplies

- ☐ 5-gallon buckets (2) & seats
- ☐ Heavy duty 13 gallon trash bags (0.9 mil or thicker)
- ☐ Bark chips, saw dust, leaves, grass clippings, shredded paper, etc.
- ☐ Toilet paper
- ☐ Soap or alcohol-based hand sanitizer

EmergencyToilet.org

Ready Together Neighbors

Emergency Contacts

Revised: / /

Download this handout at **CERTRichmond.org**. This will make revisions and copying easier.

Name	Phone	Email

Out-of-Area Contacts

Name	Phone	Email

Medical Alerts

Name	Allergies (Food & Antibiotics)	Emergency medical conditions/medications

Family Reunion Procedures

Identify places where your family will meet if your home cannot be entered. Think of places that everyone can easily find if people are separated (a landmark, a friend's home)

Location near our home:
Location outside our neighborhood:
Location outside the region:

10-Minute Evacuation List

Item	Location	Item	Location

ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY INFORMATION SOURCES

- **National Weather Service** issues **Red Flag Warnings & Fire Weather Watches** www.weather.gov/mqt/redflagtips **Twitter** handle is **@NWSBayArea**
- **Watch Duty** https://app.watchduty.org/ Real-time fire updates, wind direction, air quality, fire status updates, evacuation info, flood info
- **CAL FIRE** Preparation resources and fire updates at www.readyforwildfire.org/
- **Twitter** Richmond Fire Department **@RFDCAOnline**; Cal Fire **@CAL_FIRE**
- **Red Cross** has several mobile phone apps, including First Aid, Pet First Aid, Childcare. Text “GETFIRST" to 90999
- **CERTRichmond.Substack.com** Sign up for the CERT newsletter to get disaster preparedness tips and to learn about upcoming classes. Follow on social media **@CERTRichmond**.

NOTES:

Evacuation Plan

Evacuation doesn't start on the road. There are three steps:

RECEIVE EVACUATION ALERT	GET OUR HOUSEHOLD READY TO LEAVE	ESCAPE HAZARD AREA

Speed up your evacuation by completing this worksheet.

Sign up for Evacuation Alerts

☐ **CWS Alert**
Sign up to get detailed alerts via call, text, and email: **www.CWSalerts.com**

☐ **Genasys Protect App**
Download for real-time smartphone alerts: **Protect.Genasys.com/Download**

☐ **Richmond Emergency Map**
Bookmark to see current evacuation alerts and check your zone: **Protect.Genasys.com**

My EVAC ZONE is: ___ ___ ___ - ___ ___ ___

Evacuation Alerts You Might Receive

EVACUATION WARNING
Potential threat to life/property. Leave now if you need extra time to evacuate or have pets.

EVACUATION ORDER
Immediate threat to life/property.
This is a lawful order. Everyone must leave now.

Plan Places to Go

Talk to neighbors, friends, or family members about staying with them. Also consider hotels/motels Include addesses and contact information below.

In Richmond

Outside Richmond

○ I do not have any options. I plan to wait for a government shelter to be set up. I understand this shelter may be outside of Richmond.

Evacuation Plan

Plan Evacuation Routes

During a major urban evacuation, be ready to follow instructions and use any available streets to get out. Spreading out traffic helps everyone escape more quickly.

☐ **I know at least two ways out of my neighborhood.**

Connect with Neighbors to Help Each Other

During an evacuation, your normal helpers may not be able to reach you. Your neighbors are your best option for help in a moment's notice.

Which neighbors can help you:

Pack and/ or leave?	
With kids or pets?	
Carpool options?	
Other help?	

Pack a Go-Bag

Bring only what you need to safely evacuate. Keep it light enough to carry. ***Bring pets inside.***

Pack Now:

- ☐ Phone charger
- ☐ Important documents
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Map
- ☐ Flashlight

Add Last Minute:

- ☐ Wallet
- ☐ Keys
- ☐ Phone
- ☐ Glasses, medications, prescriptions, and/or medical devices

Plan for Wildfire

If your home is in a higher risk wildfire zone, think through additional details, like when to leave, and whether to walk, bike, or take a car. Check your zone at ***Protect.Genasys.com.***