



STARTING A PREPAREDNESS TEAM

This information is for those not participating in a formal building or block-based program who wish to start an emergency preparedness team.

This program will assist you in translating your desire to prepare for possible energy disruptions, natural disasters and terrorist incidents into actual preparedness. It organizes emergency preparedness into three specific sets of actions. With the help of this easy-to-use workbook, five to eight neighbors form a team to support and motivate each other in putting these actions into practice. Later, the team serves as a vital support system in case of an emergency.

Many of us hold back from asking others to do something for fear of imposing. People are generally appreciative when invited by a neighbor or friend to participate in something as meaningful as a preparedness team. Further, polls indicate that many who are concerned about possible energy disruptions or terrorist incidents want to prepare, but need help.

To start a team, simply invite five to eight of your neighbors to an informal gathering at your home. Share key points from the “Introduction” section (pg. 1) to explain why household preparedness is important. Use “How the Program Works” (pg. 2) to describe the team process. Once your neighbors have decided to join the team, use the “Team-Building Meeting” section (pg. 70) to guide them through this first meeting. The rest of the program is explained during this Team-Building Meeting.

This program can also be done by groups of friends, co-workers, members of an organization, faith community or as an individual household. It is most effective, however, if done with neighbors, as it establishes the relationships so helpful in a crisis.

If some of the people you’ve invited are not ready to form an emergency preparedness team right now, continue to be a good example to them. Watching you continue your preparations may inspire them to participate in the future.