

All Together NowSM



Neighbors Helping Neighbors Create A Resilient New York City

REAL RESULTS

Households were motivated through this easy-to-use program to prepare themselves and their families for emergencies.

- They purchased extra food, water and flashlight supplies to last at least 3 to 7 days.
- They created evacuation kits, called “go-bags,” which they could use if they had to evacuate their homes on short notice.
- They developed a plan for how to relocate their family and loved ones if they were separated.
- They learned how to shelter in place in case of a biological or chemical attack or avian flu.
- They formed teams with their neighbors to support one another in taking these actions and to serve as a support system in an emergency.
- They identified and helped the elderly and disabled in their building or on their block prepare and create evacuation plans.
- They created building or block committees to sustain these changes.
- And they got to know each other better as neighbors

Are You and Your Family Prepared for An Emergency?



Within one hour of the August 2003 blackout, food, water and batteries were sold out in many NYC neighborhoods. A number of stores could not sell these items at all because their cash registers did not work. What if this energy disruption had lasted several days, a week, or was on a scale of Hurricane Katrina? Would you and your family have been prepared?

If the avian flu or a terrorist incident occurs in New York City will you and the residents of your building or block know what to do? These threats are

not the fiction of Hollywood’s imagination, but the actual reality of our daily lives as New Yorkers. While most of us accept this as the new description of our world, according to a Red Cross survey few New Yorkers have done much to prepare themselves.

A PROGRAM TO HELP YOU PREPARE

One of the foremost lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina was that many lives could have been saved and social disorder reduced if residents had prepared themselves for that disaster. Over the past two years this is exactly what a pioneering group of approximately 4,000 New Yorkers located in 50 buildings and blocks throughout the five boroughs have been doing. Participating in a pilot program called All Together Now, they have systematically developed disaster resilient communities at the building and block level.

This program was developed by Empowerment Institute (experts in community-based behavior change and disaster preparedness) and adapted for NYC in partnership with the City’s Office of Emergency Management.

Funding for the pilot came from a congressional appropriation secured by Senator Hillary Clinton through the US Department of Justice. Borough presidents, community boards, coop and condo boards, building and block associations and a number of city agencies and community-based organizations have provided leadership and support for this initiative. Funding for the next phase is being provided by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

PERSONAL AND SHARED RESILIENCY

The premise of the program is simple. Taking prudent precautions against blackouts, natural disasters, terrorism and emergencies is nothing more than a form of insurance. The program's title, All Together Now, reflects the belief that by far the best insurance is the group insurance you get from teamwork, because our neighbors security is tied to our own.

Should we take reasonable steps to protect ourselves and families against these risks? This choice seems clear. It is better to have a plan for an emergency that doesn't happen than to have an emergency but no plan.

The steps that make the most sense in preparing for an emergency are a good idea, anyway. These actions will restore the kind of personal and community resiliency to our lives that we never intended to give up. What could be more important in today's world than to live in a building or on a block where the residents are working together to create a strong and resilient social fabric. Living in a disaster resilient building or block represents the new quality of life indicator for New Yorkers. This is not only the ultimate defense against disasters, but a great way to build relationship rich buildings and blocks that can improve our quality of life right now.

The time we live in requires us to radically rethink our urban expectation of dependency and separation. What the future will bring is uncertain, but what is certain is that being prepared and connected will enable us to face that future with greater confidence and security.

LEARN HOW TO PREPARE YOUR BUILDING OR BLOCK

To learn how you can bring this program to your building or block you are invited to attend a neighborhood information meeting sponsored by:

Organization: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

Location: _____

RSVP: _____

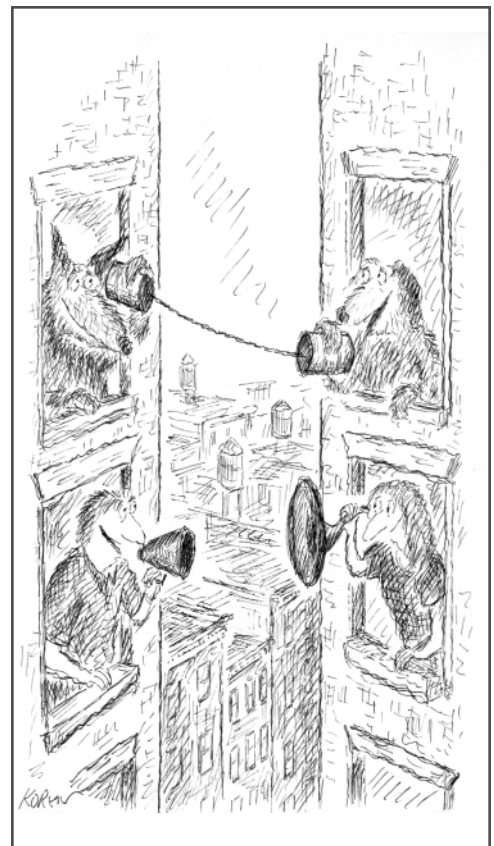
For further information contact:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

For further program information visit, www.empowermentinstitute.net/atn



WHAT NEW YORKERS ARE SAYING ABOUT ALL TOGETHER NOW

“I found the program exceptional and incredibly important. It provided structured detail on how to prepare for potential emergency situations. It was simple and did not make a stressful process overwhelming. The support and communication with my team was extremely helpful. I am so over committed in my life, if I can do this anybody can.”

— *Claresa Fisher, building leader, Coop board president*

“I was impressed with the organized layout of the materials. The individual actions were terrific. Each one was easy to do and the step-by-step outline was very user-friendly. The presentation allowed me to calm down about the ‘what ifs.’ My favorite part was the meetings. I got a lot of ideas and felt very supported by the group.”

— *Deborah Queller, participant*