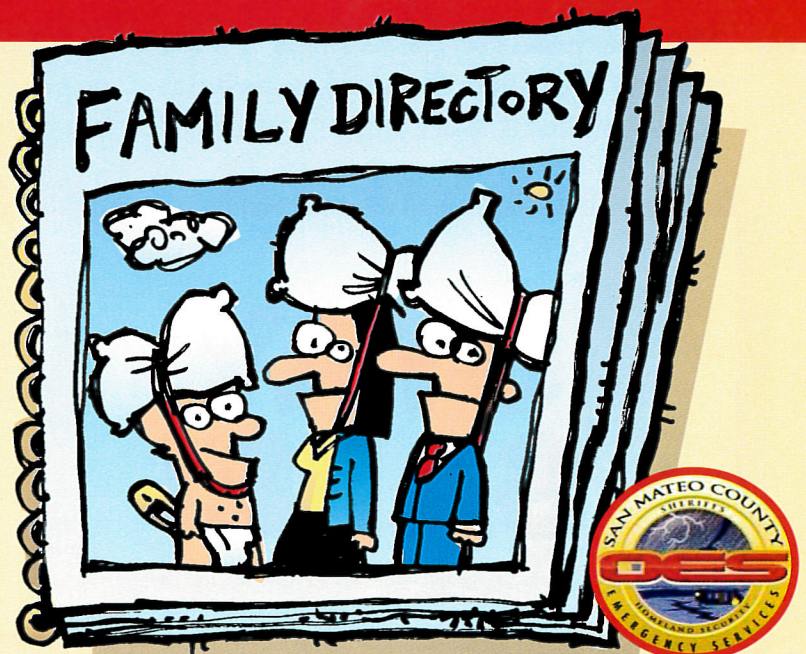


Forming a Neighborhood Association



The Sheriff's Area Office of Emergency Services encourages citizens to work cooperatively in neighborhood teams to prepare for disasters. In the process of getting better acquainted, neighbors are inspired to plan social events such as block parties and holiday get-togethers. Their sense of community fosters a "Neighborhood Watch" awareness that helps prevent crime.

Residents of San Mateo county have formed Neighborhood Networks to help prepare neighbors to be self-sufficient after a disaster until organized emergency teams might assist them. They gathered information about each family for two directories: a public one that families approved for distribution to everyone on the block and a private directory with emergency contact information that is used only by block captains and safety personnel during disasters.



Forming a Neighborhood Association



In addition to publishing directories, Neighborhood Associations:

- Sponsor neighborhood meetings to talk about Public Safety, and Emergency Procedures
- Deliver fliers that invite residents to become better prepared for disasters
- Coordinate emergency preparedness presentations in the neighborhood
- Send regular e-newsletters with neighborhood news and crime prevention information

- Encourage neighbors to sign up for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, First Aid and CPR
- Urge neighbors to sign up for the SMC Alert network to receive safety advisories
- Plan regular social events in the neighborhood



NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORKS also help neighbors become better prepared for emergencies by urging them to assemble emergency kits, agree upon family meeting places and designate an out-of-state contact person for family members to check in with after a disaster.

- Residents become more aware of who belongs in their neighborhood and help prevent crime.
- Neighbors become better acquainted and look forward to social events.
- Neighborhood Networks foster a sense of community that benefits everyone. This community spirit is the fabric that makes societies stronger and better able to withstand emergencies. It also makes it more fun to live in your community.

**STAY
SAFE!**

