



Neighborhood Evacuation Drills

A How-To for Neighborhood
Groups



Getting Started



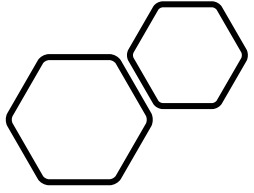
Your group/organization, even a few folks with some time, can champion the effort for an evacuation exercise



Realize, it doesn't have to be a complicated event – 1 or 2 hours, that's it.



Neighborhoods are interested and want to participate and have conversation – neighbor to neighbor



What you need



Date

When can most (or all) participate?
Consider weekends/holidays.



Time

Does morning or evening work better for the neighborhood?
You will need a 2-hour block of time for the drill – talk about it as a group.
Don't forget to have some fun getting to know the folks **you** may depend on in an emergency



Where to go/meet

If your group has an established rally point, use that in the practice.
Or identify a point where neighbors go to during the drill.
Use that place or have a meeting location for discussion on how it went after (it could even be in someone's front yard)

Prior to the date



Talk with neighbors and let them know about the exercise

Publicize in flyers or neighborhood email/social media groups

Or simply go door-to-door – a personal invitation from a neighbor goes a long way!



Provide preparedness information as an icebreaker

What to have in a go-bag

Considerations for home evacuation

- Can you get your garage door open with no power?
- Can you master two exit routes (this may be a freeway alternate for some evacuations)

Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management has materials for you, just ask!



Inform your local public safety agencies - let them know what is happening

Can they support in some way? If they can, great!

Remember, the important ingredients here are you and your neighbors.

Day of event



Consider ways to notify the group

Maybe going door-to-door to announce the start
Or maybe a group text message reminder



Neighbors should be going about their routine

No head starts on getting ready to leave



At the selected time:

Neighbors get their go-bag
Prep their house to leave (lock doors, etc.)
Load their car as they would need to
Leave their house
Exit the neighborhood

Wrapping it up – grow the neighborhood connection

At the meeting location:

- Consider having a snacks & drinks potluck to get neighbors to stay and chat
- Talk about the experience
- What did neighbors learn
- Any neighbors who might need help leaving
- Traffic/road issues
- What the group will do next
 - 5 neighbors list (3 across the street & 1 each side)
 - Open your garage door exercise



Planning Checklist

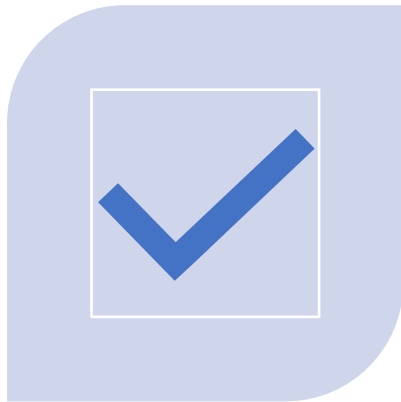
Before the Event

- Date
- Time
- Meet Location
- Advertise event
- Get collateral materials ready
- Inform local public safety agencies

Day of Event

- Text or door to door reminder if possible
- Everybody OUT
- Meeting location - refreshments if appropriate
- Designated person to lead short discussion (page 6 for ideas)
- Designated person to take notes
- Plan a follow up meeting

Remember



KEEP IT SIMPLE



KEEP IT SHORT



KEEP IT STIMULATING





This How-To Guide was created and provided by the Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management

For Preparedness, Emergency and Recovery Information:

[SoCoEmergency.org](https://www.socountyemergency.org)

For emergency alerts and warning, register at:
[SoCoAlert.com](https://www.socountyalert.com)

