

## Prepare for Emergencies with CERT

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members are volunteers who are trained to help communities prepare for, survive during, and assist and recover after an emergency. Today we are distributing a Disaster Preparedness Checklist, and an OK – HELP sign designed to assist with your preparedness efforts. You can use these to help you and your family prepare for an emergency.

In any emergency, your best hope for a quick response is to call 911. However, after a large-scale disaster it is possible that phone service (both land-lines and cell phones) will be unavailable. In addition, emergency responders within our city (Police, Fire, Ambulance, etc.), may be overwhelmed by the need for their services throughout our city.

This is why it is important for each home to be ready to survive for the first 72 hours (or longer!) on their own, using their own supplies! YOU should have an adequate supply of water, food, and necessities to meet your own family's needs.

If our City's emergency response personnel are not able to immediately respond to our neighborhood following a large-scale disaster, our resident CERT volunteers will attempt to survey the neighborhood for fires, hazards, building or infrastructure damage, and most importantly, injuries to people. CERT volunteers will relay this information to emergency responders. If the right mix of volunteers is available, CERT volunteers will then attempt to extinguish small fires, help those who are trapped, need minor medical attention, and warn residents away from hazardous situations.

To help CERT volunteers with this survey, we request that, after an emergency, you post the provided OK-HELP sign in a front window or where it can be seen by CERT volunteers from the sidewalk/street. Please keep this sign somewhere you will be able to find it easily after a large-scale emergency (earthquake, etc). This will help our volunteers (or professional responders as they are able to make it to our area) to quickly assess whether or not a particular home's occupants need help or are okay. Please note that the HELP sign does not replace a 9-1-1 call. You should always call 9-1-1 in an emergency!

After an emergency, once you have determined that you, your family, and your home are okay, if you wish to volunteer, you may report to the neighborhood CERT Command Post (CP) noted below.

Thank you for helping our community stay safe and be prepared. Provided by:

Name:	<b>Cooper Neighborhood</b>
Contact(s):	Chris Hildebrand, 650-962-1019
Boundaries:	Grant Road east to 85/Stevens Creek and from Sleeper Avenue and cul de sacs north of Sleeper, south to April Lane/Levin Avenue.
C Post:	Cooper Park, old Snack Shack & Tennis court
Web Site:	<a href="http://cooper-cert.org">http://cooper-cert.org</a>
Info:	Regular monthly meeting at 7:00 pm on 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday each month except Nov. & Dec. Regular FRS radio check-in on 1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 PM, channel 17.