

# Disaster Preparedness Plan - Community

Through the efforts of many a Disaster Preparedness Plan has been developed.

## Areas, Zones and Neighborhoods

The City has been divided into 14 geographical Areas; Each has a volunteer Coordinator. Areas have been divided into Zones. Each Zone has a Zone Leader and a HUB Box located in it. Zones are further divided into smaller geographic 'neighborhoods.'

## Disaster HUB Boxes

You may have seen white metal boxes attached to stop signposts throughout the City. These are 'Disaster HUB Boxes'. They are owned and maintained by the City. The red lettering on each identifies their location and provides some basic information. A HUB box contains a walkie-talkie radio, and up to 10 clipboards, with 8-12 assigned homes per clipboard for the purposes of damage assessment and personal injury report.

## Prior to a Disaster

### Neighborhood Coordinator

Residents in neighborhoods volunteer to be a **Neighborhood Coordinator**. These volunteers willing agree to take the responsibility for 8-12 homes. Their home is part of the group of assigned homes – all are neighbors. Prior to a disaster they visit their neighbors. They briefly introduce the 'Our Emergency Preparedness Plan' form, the purpose of the HUB box and related procedures. As it becomes available, they share additional emergency preparedness information.

***Any residents not interested are politely left alone.***

Coordinators attempt to keep their interested neighbors informed of any opportunities to further prepare for emergencies i.e., ways to enhance their food storage, good deals on where to purchase desired preparedness items, how to store a little extra water, where to find websites with pertinent and accurate information, storage techniques, changes in policy or procedure, etc. This can be done in-person, by text, phone, social media, etc.

## At the Onset of a Disaster

### Resident Volunteers

Available resident volunteers within a Zone gather to their HUB Box. The first volunteer to arrive *temporarily* assumes the role of Zone Leader. (Once the Zone Leader arrives, he/she takes control.) The HUB box is opened (no key required, a flat metal object like a coin, flat screwdriver or pocketknife can be used) and the blue clipboard containing instructions for the Zone Leader is removed and read.

### Disaster Assessments and Forms

As more volunteers arrive, each is given a red clipboard which contains forms and a map of homes for assessment. Following the instructions on the back of the red clip boards, the volunteer assesses the assigned homes for damage and the type of critical care the resident(s) may need. The volunteer returns to the HUB box and gives the clipboard and completed assessment forms back to the Zone Leader.

### Walkie-Talkie Radio

A walkie-talkie radio (tethered in the HUB Box) is used to transmit assessment information to the Area Coordinator, who relays this information by a police-style radio to the Ivins City Command Center (or County Command Center). Emergency First Responders are then dispatched. By using this system, a large amount of critical information can be gathered quickly and assessed efficiently.

## During and After a Disaster

When disaster strikes, Neighborhood Coordinators will do an assessment of those homes in their assignment and take that information to the HUB box. Afterward, they follow up and offer to assist others in need.