

“3-3-3” - THE WHOLE COMMUNITY APPROACH

The purpose of the “3-3-3” Whole Community Approach is to provide a natural or man-made disaster preparedness strategy for citizens and first responders.

FEMA has always been very proactive in encouraging government agencies, first responders and citizens to prepare for disasters. In the process of creating these plans, it soon becomes obvious that the ratio of first responders and resources to the number of citizens needing assistance will quickly overwhelm the first responders and the government. Moreover, high-demand supplies such as water, food and medicine required to sustain life and community are needed by everyone - all at the same time.

To ensure citizens’ needs are met in a prompt manner, a “3-3-3” concept is proposed. “3-3-3” was developed to help citizens and first responders identify the three essential strategies they need to implement to prepare for any emergency. “333” is divided into three sections.

First Section: READY 3

In any emergency, first responder staff and supply resources are limited. Depending upon the scope of the emergency, the number of citizens affected and the local first responder resources, assistance may be delayed for hours or days.

READY 3 for Citizens:

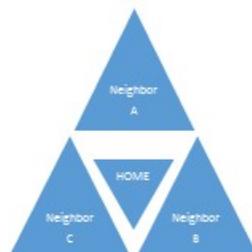
1. Keep a 3-day supply of food, water, medicine and “essentials” (e.g. baby food / diapers; medical equipment supplies).
2. Advise your local fire station or government about any special family or medical needs.
3. If you have adaptive or functional needs, notify your local fire department about those needs.

READY 3 for First Responders:

1. Ensure that your department’s line of communications to all community response agencies are current, accessible and known by all agencies.
2. Maintain a list of citizens with adaptive or functional needs
3. Once a year, have a table top exercise with all community department agencies to identify decision makers and resources available in the event of an emergency.

Second Section: KNOW 3

KNOW 3 is knowing 3 neighbors. The best practice is to know your neighbor to your left, the neighbor to your right and the neighbor in front of your home. The plan is to create a triangle where each resident is at the base of the triangle and each corner represents a neighbor.



This strategy is based on the understanding that prior to getting government help, a neighbor is the person most likely source of help until help arrives. By knowing 3 neighbors, we create a union that, in the event of an emergency, neighbors will be able to rely on each other for assistance. Ultimately the neighborhood becomes a self-sustaining co-dependent chain of support and assistance.

The idea of the triangle and the chain is to help share resources. As an example, neighbor A has a generator, and Neighbor B has fuel. Independently, each of the resources is useless. But in a triangle, both the generator and fuel work to create power that can help keep one refrigerator going and ultimately provide food for three families.

KNOW 3 for Citizens:

1. Develop a trusting relationship with each of your three neighbors.
2. Identify and list what resources each neighbor has and can share with each other.
3. Once a year, meet with each of the three neighbors to update each other on what current resources you all have and can share.

KNOW 3 for First Responders:

1. At each meeting or community event, encourage residents to establish a relationship with each other. Use the “Mutual Aid” example that first responders regularly use as an example.
2. Create community events that explain the 3-3-3 concept.
3. Practice the 3-3-3 concept with your neighboring first responders and make sure that your community is aware of your efforts.

Third Section: PREPARE FOR 3

PREPARE FOR 3 is a strategy to remind every resident that they prepare to have 3 DAYS of water, food, medicine and personal needs requirements. When a disaster strikes, it is every citizen’s instinct to call 911 for assistance. This creates a demand that overwhelms the response system because everyone is asking for help at the same time. In order to sustain life and community, residents and neighbors must provide for their own needs until government arrives.

PREPARE FOR 3 for Citizens

1. Keep 3 items that might be needed in your neighborhood that are not necessarily needed on a regular basis. As an example, nails, tarps, first aid kits, hammers, hand saws.
2. Identify fuel requirements for generators, small outdoor tools and fuel driven appliances.
3. Given imminent weather approaching, identify three items other than food, medicine and water that your family might need to maintain a functional home.

PREPARE FOR 3 for First Responders

1. Identify three tools that can be utilized regularly based on experience and possible imminent weather possibilities and ensure that you have enough for three teams. As an example: chainsaws.
2. Create community events that help remind citizens how to rely on each other until emergency response arrives.
3. Once a year, develop a table top exercise with local agencies to ensure that each department identifies resources that can be shared.