Palo Alto Neighborhoods
Block Preparedness Coordinator
Curriculum Descriptions

Course One: Introduction

This course is an introduction to the Block Preparedness Program.

It defines the roles of Block Preparedness Coordinator (BPC) and Neighborhood Preparedness Coordinator (NPC) and explains the organization structure and communication procedure that Palo Alto Neighborhoods (PAN) has developed with the City of Palo Alto.

A PowerPoint presentation sets the stage for why this role is needed in a disaster "a time when local resources are significantly overwhelmed, usually for an extended period of time." Because police, fire and other first responders are prioritized to other incidents, neighbors become the best source of help.

Course Two: Initial Disaster Assessment

This course describes how to assess what crucial information needs to be communicated in an emergency and how to report it. It includes a description of the critical items to be communicated from the block coordinator to the city's disaster nerve hub--the Emergency Operation Center (EOC)--including which roads are blocked, where fires are out of control, and where immediate medical assistance is required.

NOTE: This module is applicable for CERT members (AKA PANDAs), as well as for BPCs.

Course Three: Communications in a Disaster

This course explains the technology used for communication during emergencies and includes training on its use. BPCs use a walkie-talkie device called a FRS radio (Family Radio Service). Time is allotted for practice with the FRS unit.