

Neighborhood Lessons Learned:

Neighbor helping neighbor is absolutely essential!

- 1) Sign up for Emergency Notifications (AlertSCC). You can choose to be notified by any or all of the following: email, text, cell, work and/or home. To sign up for AlertSCC, go to www.cityofpaloalto.org, click the Emergency Information tab, click To receive Emergency Notifications, sign up for AlertSCC .
- 2) Have a Family Emergency Plan, talk to your family about escape routes and where to meet up. See <http://www.mimi.com/mra/pan/ep/prepare/famplan.pdf> and http://www.ready.gov/america/downloads/fep_download/FamEmePlan_Adult.pdf
- 3) Have an Emergency Supply Kit. Put one together or just simply buy a ready made one. See the PAN (Palo Alto Neighborhood) web site for supplies: <http://www.mimi.com/mra/pan/ep/supplies/supplies.htm#buy>. I recommend Quakekare products as the best buy. Costco also has some excellent buys. See <http://tinyurl.com/ybgut77>. Also check Emergency Essentials: <http://www.beprepared.com>

For brochures that list detail supplies see: <http://www.mimi.com/mra/pan/ep/supplies/homekit.doc> and <http://www.mimi.com/mra/pan/ep/supplies/gokit>. Don't forget to prepare a kit for your animal. See <http://www.uan.org/applications/store.cfm?navid=157>
- 4) Plain Old Telephone Service (your AT&T wired landline): In the event of a power failure, it is good to have an ordinary telephone in your house that does not require any power. Any phone -- cordless phones, answering machine phones -- that requires electricity will not work. Note: If your cell phone does not work at your house; try walking to another location, such as a park.
- 5) In an emergency, stay tuned to local radio stations such as KZSU 90.1 FM for local information and KCBS 740 AM/106.9 FM for the latest weather and storm information. To do so, make sure you have an emergency radio that works on batteries or buy a special one that is solar/crank/battery powered. See Quakekare: <http://www.quakekare.com/index.asp?PageAction=VIEWPROD&ProdID=57>.
- 6) Stash a supply of batteries & propane. Your laptop and phone can be charged with by your car battery by use of a device called an inverter. It converts 12-volt DC power from a vehicle battery into 120-volt AC power, allowing you to power your mobile devices when the battery runs low. Purchase at Best Buy, Fry's etc.
- 7) A laptop, lanterns and lights that are battery operated are good to have. Again stock extra batteries. A camp stove, with sufficient propane, is useful for long outages.
- 8) For power outages: Unplug all sensitive electronic equipment prior to restoration of power and turn on one light switch so you know when power has been restored.
- 9) Keep a hard copy of all important numbers and important contact information.
- 10) Stash a supply of cash with small bills. ATMs will not work, if the power is out
- 11) Emergency Generators are a bit expensive, but are an excellent way to keep your refrigerator powered.

- 12) Many folks asked about food safety with a power outage. See this site from the Red Cross for tips. <http://tinyurl.com/ye9bfa9>.
- 13) Have sufficient water on hand. The current recommendation is for 7 days - 1 gallon/person/day to use water only for essential needs. The City's water transmission is dependent on power; utility pumps are electric. Currently, the City has limited reserves in the water system.
- 14) If you have children enrolled in Palo Alto schools, please follow the District release guidelines. All schools have emergency cards with the names of people the kids can be released to in the event of an emergency. They won't release the children to anyone not on the list, so a block coordinator cannot go to a school to pick up kids. All schools have enough emergency supplies on site to keep the kids fed and comfortable until they are released to the approved adults on the emergency cards.
- 15) If you have young children or anyone with "special needs" that you would like to have checked on during an emergency, please let your Block Preparedness Coordinator know the details.
- 16) Make sure that you have a Block Preparedness Coordinator (BPC) for your street. Become one yourself or recruit one (see <http://www.mimi.com/mra/pan/ep/bpc/bpc.htm>.) Also consider becoming a first responder (CERT). See <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/info/news/details.asp?NewsID=193&TargetID=60>
- 17) If you are driving under disaster/emergency conditions, be a courteous driver. Treat ALL intersections as 4 way stops.
- 18) Additional training useful in an emergency is CPR and First Aid. Red Cross teaches these classes periodically. See their web site. <http://www.siliconvalley-redcross.org/>
- 19) Key numbers for the City of Palo Alto:
 - a. Updates in citywide emergencies call 329-2420 to hear a recorded message
 - b. Utility/Electric information 496-6914
 - c. Non-emergency city assistance 329-2413