

NPC/BPC Protocols for Emergencies/Disasters

Purpose: Guidance about when NPCs and BPCs should

- turn on their FRS (and MURS) radios,
- what to do if they cannot reach anyone on the radio AND something urgent comes up

Ground rules:

- Neighbors helping neighbors is essential
- Self activate when appropriate, no need to wait for official notification
- Contact those people who may need power for life support issues to determine if they need additional assistance & any other vulnerable neighbors

Times for NPC/BPC to ACTIVATE

- 1) If the event is **outside immediate** area, fire, water or power failure, etc., do **NOT** activate until they are contacted by some authority, i.e. NPC, AlertSCC, etc.
- 2) If the situation is immediately known to the BPC without outside advice and affects their **immediate** area/neighborhood. See, hear, smell, etc., **Activate**
 - a. Turn on FRS/MURS radio and check-in/communicate
 - b. Turn on radio to KZSU and/or KCBS
 - c. Check on vulnerable neighbors
 - d. If in doubt, call nearest designated NPC, then self activate.
 - e. If no communication from AlertSCC, FRS, KZSU – after 45 minutes NPC makes decision to end incident. Note: To end incident, NPC uses best judgment, or connects with the ICC.
- 3) If NPC gets a call from AlertSCC or MURS message telling to activate, **Activate**

Method of Activation

- Self activation - BPCs activating their own blocks (at their discretion), even if the NPC is not reachable.
- AlertSCC broadcast to NPC/BPC
- FRS announcement
- Monitor KZSU (90.1 FM) or KCBS (740AM/106.9 FM)
- Monitor the Palo Alto ARES/RACES ham radio channel 147.540 (simplex).
- Monitor via handheld – cell, PDA etc
- Turn on TV to KCBS
- Send a "runner" to the local fire station for status

TASK	BPC	NPC
1 Dress appropriately for weather, time of day. Put on boots/sturdy shoes. Don't become a casualty from broken glass.	X	X
2 Turn on radio - gather equipment (should have put together already.)	X	X
3 Check on household members (injuries, etc.)	X	X
4 Inspect dwelling, pets. Take appropriate action. (<i>Be prepared to cope with untrained neighbors trying to help.</i>)	X	X
5 Check in with NPC	X	
6 Start the net. Call for a check-in from BPCs. Ask BPCs for critical incidents and share info from city.		X
7 Self-initiate action for area of responsibility per training.	X	X
8 Walk neighborhood & report critical incidents to NPC. Ask for information/action needs	X	

DEFINITIONS:

NOTE: If emergency occurs at night, use discretion about waking neighbors, unless instructed or unless the threat is imminent and serious enough to justify so doing.

Local means in your neighborhood - say less than 2 or 3 blocks away.

Area means in your and/or adjacent neighborhoods. This will require agreement on how far to go. May be determined at the time.

Regional means including adjacent communities - probably not a factor unless called upon to help in the affected areas.

Earthquake: day or night: Almost a no-brainer. Each person self-activates and tries to check in with his/her NPC and alternate. If they can't be reached, try to reach the Incident Command Center at your District Fire Station.

Fire: You see it or hear of it from AlertSCC, radio, your BPC/NPC, neighbor, etc. Go into full BPC/NPC mode, i.e. contact your alternate and NPC and await directions if the fire is not local. If local, warn your block to be prepared to cover for missing BPCs.

Utilities, power, water or gas: daylight or nighttime hours. You hear of it from AlertSCC, etc. Go into full BPC/NPC mode as done for fire. Depending on information received, e.g., local, area, etc., use judgment in alerting the neighborhood.

After the first response is completed, again contact any homes that may need further help or you were unable to get a response the first time. Check with the NPC for further instructions. If possible have your alternate monitor the (battery operated) radio fairly constantly. This will supplement any instructions from the emergency network.

All of the above assumes each BPC and NPC has been trained. This means how to contact each other as well as alert the neighborhood and Incident Command Center if necessary. It also means you are not to enter dwellings that are damaged or where there are possible gas leaks or downed power lines.