

LB CERT - Naples Chapter

An Initiative of the Naples Improvement Association

In Affiliation with the LBFD and the City of Long Beach's CERT Program



ISLAND-WIDE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN —OVERVIEW—

Community Emergency Preparedness and
Volunteer-Based Emergency Response on Naples Island

*Do the greatest good
for the greatest number of people
in the shortest amount of time.*

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What is LB C.E.R.T.-Naples?

LB CERT-Naples is a team of volunteers dedicated to championing Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Management on Naples Island. In the event of a large-scale incident, such as a massive earthquake or devastating tsunami, the team of islanders will mobilize residents, employees and visitors to serve as first responders until professional responders are on the scene. Priorities will include:

- Light Search and Rescue
- Fire Suppression
- Medical Care
- Pet Care
- Child, Senior and Special Needs Care
- Emotional Care
- Assisting Island Visitors
- Coordinated Evacuation
- Water Rescue and Ferrying on/off the Island

LB C.E.R.T.-Naples is shorthand for:

Long Beach Community Emergency Response Team - Naples Chapter

C.E.R.T. is a national program of FEMA administered by local municipalities. In Long Beach, the C.E.R.T. program is spearheaded by the Fire Department. Dedicated LBFD staff train community volunteers to become “first responders” during the time between a catastrophic event and the arrival of professional emergency responders.

In Long Beach we have 1 firefighter per 5,000 residents. If a strong earthquake hits the city, the resulting structural and medical crises will overwhelm emergency response systems. It could take days for emergency responders to get to the island. LBFD recommends that residents prepare to be on their own for 3 - 7 days. This means having ample items such as water, food, medical and pet supplies; as well as having trained volunteers who help extinguish small fires, tend to the injured, and provide a central point of communication to the city. In 2018, the NIA, in collaboration with LB CERT, proactively stepped up to develop a comprehensive plan that will be widely distributed and rehearsed. It's all about directing, educating and empowering.

Many LB CERT-Naples volunteers have graduated from the city's official CERT training.

What does it mean to be C.E.R.T. certified?

Volunteers are C.E.R.T. certified when they have completed the city's C.E.R.T. training program. The program was created on the national level by FEMA and teaches community volunteers to fend for themselves following strict safety and communication protocols that comply with professional emergency responders' standards and expectations.

How can you become C.E.R.T. certified?

Through the LBFD, Long Beach residents can enroll for Community Emergency Response Team training. The course typically is held in one of two formats: 1) one evening per week for 7 consecutive weeks + a Sunday roleplay and commencement, or 2) concentrated 3-day immersion, Friday-Sunday. In all, participants receive approximately 24 hours of emergency response training. There is no charge for the training.

LBFD usually offers 3-4 training sessions per year at the Fire Training Center • 2249 Argonne Avenue. Each session accommodates approximately 35-40 participants. Upcoming class dates and registration information can be found online at LongBeachCERT.site-ym.com or you can call the office at 562.570.2525 for more information.

CERT-Trained Volunteers and Community Volunteers Working Together

In response to an impending threat (tsunami) or aftermath of a major disaster (earthquake), CERT-trained volunteers will unite all islanders (residents, employees and visitors) to follow a prescribed emergency response plan while we're waiting for professional responders to make their way to the island. ALL ISLANDERS will be included in the plan. Everyone will have an opportunity to assist those who have been CERT trained and those who have learned and rehearsed Naples' emergency response plan. Whether you have been CERT trained or not, there will be a role for you to play in fending for our community.

Scenario: The Case for a Community-Based Emergency Response Plan

It is estimated that at any point in time there will be 4,000+ residents, employees, students, visitors and passers-thru on Naples Island when a major disaster strikes. This number can balloon up well over 5,000 during special events such as the Boat Parade and Halloween.

Envision this sample scenario:

It's 3:00AM, the middle of a moonless night. A 7.3 earthquake (stronger than the quake of 1933) strikes the coast. Long Beach and Orange County are hit hard. The Long Beach Fire Department is responding to hundreds, if not thousands, of emergencies across the city. It may be days before they make it to Naples. Your loved ones are off the island. Cellular/Data is out. No phones. No texts. Power is out - it's pitch black. Water pipes have burst. Gas pipes have ruptured and fires are breaking out. Two of the bridges onto the island have collapsed and the third is seriously compromised. There is no island access by automobile. It's high tide, Duffy's cannot navigate the canals. Many docks have been destroyed or detached from their wall structures. Dangerous debris and rubble are floating, or hidden just below the water's surface. "Liquefaction" has caused portions of sidewalks and structures to sink several feet. Downed trees, wires and structures litter the roadways. Your neighbor's frightened dogs are wandering the streets having slipped through a busted window. Several of your neighbors are seriously injured. This is a common refrain across the island.

The first hours following an earthquake are the most crucial. Having a community-based plan (neighbors helping neighbors in structured teams, following safety precautions, prioritizing tasks, sharing resources, assisting the wounded) can save lives and ensure everyone safely navigates the crisis.

LB CERT's Mission:

***"Do the greatest good
for the greatest number of people
in the shortest amount of time."***

Naples Emergency Response Plan

In early 2019, the LB CERT-Naples Committee, in collaboration with the Long Beach Fire Department, formalized a volunteer-based emergency response plan to help islanders fend for themselves from the time disaster strikes to the time professional emergency responders arrive on the scene. The plan relies upon CERT-trained volunteers and untrained volunteers working together with constant communication and the greatest adherence to personal safety to address manageable issues before they become crises. The plan incorporates FEMA's proven "Incident Command Structure" to organize volunteers and deploy teams. The plan also follows structured communication and documentation protocols employed by professional emergency responders.

Naples' Plan

To canvas every corner of the island, streamline communications, prioritize tasks and allocate resources, the island has tailored an "Incident Command Structure" that will link all islanders:

- **Individuals** (Residents, Employees, Visitors) report to designated **Block Captains**
- **Block Captains** (50-60) report to **Division Supervisors**
- **Division Supervisors** (6) report to the **Island's Incident Commander**
- The **Island's Incident Commander** works directly with LBFD, City of LB, and others.

The island's Plan includes:

- Coordinated Communications
 - Across the Island
 - Directly with City and Professional Responders
- Search and Rescue
- Fire Suppression
- Medical Care
- Pet Care
- Child, Senior and Special Needs Care
- Emotional Care
- Assisting Visitors
- Coordinated Evacuation
- Water Rescue and Ferrying on/off the Island

Naples Emergency Response Plan (cont.)

At the Block Level

Via the plan, Naples has been divided into approximately 50 "Blocks." Each Block contains roughly 30-40 households, and will have a dedicated volunteer Block Captain. Prior to a major disaster, Block Captains will help their constituents become as prepared as possible by sharing information, sources for emergency supplies and facilitating connections among neighbors. Following a major disaster, Block Captains will work with able-bodied residents to form teams to conduct light search and rescue, extinguish small fires, tend to the wounded, and secure the immediate area. Once a Block is secured, volunteers from that Block will report to their designated Division's Staging Area.

Also at the Block level, individuals will volunteer to monitor children, take care of pets, assist the elderly and help those with special needs.

At the Division Level

Blocks are clustered into areas called "Divisions." The island has 6 Divisions. Each Division contains 6-10 Blocks. Following a major disaster, volunteers will report to the designated Staging Area for their Division. For example, the Staging Area for Division 2 will be the parking lot at Mother's Beach. Division 5's Staging Area will be the Colonnade.

Volunteers will sign in and be assigned to teams. The teams will be deployed to Blocks and specific locations in need of additional assistance. Some teams will also take on specialized roles such as transporting the wounded to centralized treatment facilities. If warranted, each Division will have a centralized medical area where the wounded can be treated and monitored. If there are only a few injuries across the island, medical treatment may be consolidated to one Division.

Any professionally trained emergency responders (such as retired firefighters, doctors, nurses, police officers and military personnel) who happen to be on the island at the time of the disaster, will be asked if they are willing to lend their support by heading to a designated Division Staging Area. Through the relay of communications, the Incident Command Post will notify Division Supervisors who will, in turn, notify Block Captains as to where professionally trained responders are needed. The consolidation of skilled individuals will help sustain and care for wounded who may be otherwise too widely distributed to monitor effectively.

At the Island Level

Naples' Emergency Response Plan includes assistance for non-islanders who happen to be in the area at the time of the disaster. These might be visitors at Mother's Beach, customers at any of the area businesses, or even drivers passing through on 2nd Street or Appian Way. A dedicated outreach team will work with these individuals to develop specific plans to reunite them with their loved ones.

Also at the island level, volunteers will organize a Ferry Service to shuttle individuals on and off the island from designated launch points. These points will be identified and communicated island-wide as details of the given disaster become clear.



What every islander should do BEFORE a catastrophic event

- Know your Block Captain and Naples' Emergency Response Plan
- Participate in the "Map Your Neighborhood" exercise for your Block
Learn who has special needs, emergency supplies, and how each person can lend his/her unique skills following an incident
- Designate three "Earthquake Buddies"
To check on you, your family, your pets and your property
Commit to being someone else's Earthquake Buddy
- Stock up on water and food items*
Enough for every person and pet in your household for 3-7 days
- Have an Emergency Kit with medical supplies*
Including a week's worth of any medications you may need
- Have supplies and tools strategically located*
Fire extinguishers, crow bars, shoes, flashlights, generator, etc...
- Have a family reunification plan*
Including a distant contact in case local communications are overwhelmed
- Have an island-evacuation plan that does not rely upon a car

* - See appendices to this document for sample checklists and plans

What to do AFTER a catastrophic event

Following a major incident (such as an intense earthquake with extreme damage and injuries), always start by securing yourself and your family. Once you, your family, your pets and your home are safe, place a sign that reads "O.K." in your front window. If you need help and are able, display a sign that reads "HELP."

After tending to your family and home, gradually expand your circle of involvement:

- Check on your immediate neighbors
- Report to your designated Block meetup location **
- Report to your designated Division staging location **

** - CERT-trained volunteers will be wearing bright green vests and hardhats. They will be coordinating the community's emergency response initiatives.

LB CERT-Naples Volunteer Roles

Committee Roles

Committee Operations

- Committee Chair*
LB CERT Liaison
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Volunteer Recruitment
- Volunteer Relations
- Fundraising
- Community Relations/PR
- Librarian/Data Mgt
- NIBA Liaison
- LBUSD Liaison

Emergency Preparedness

- Pre-Incident Commander*
- Emergency Communication Specialist
- Search + Rescue / Fire Suppression Specialist
- Medical Specialist
- Water Rescue and Ferry Service Specialist
- Division Supervisors (6)
-
- Emotional Care Specialist
- Pet Care Specialist
- Child Care Specialist
- Elderly+Special Needs Specialist
- Non-Resident Support Specialist

At the Island Level

- Island Incident Commander
- Island Communications Leader
- Island Logistics Chief
- Island Operations Chief
- Island Medical Group Supervisor
- Island Fire Suppression Group Supervisor
- Island Search + Rescue Group Supervisor
- Island Marine Rescue Group Supervisor
- Island Non-Resident Support
- Island Planning Chief
- Island Admin Chief

At the Division Level (1-6)

- Division Supervisor
- Division Communication Deputy
- Division Logistics Deputy
- Division Operations Deputy
- Block Leaders
- Division Planning Deputy
- Check-in
- Staging
- Division Admin Deputy
- Division Emotional Care Leader
- Non-Resident Support Leader
- Pet Care Leader

At the Block Level (A, B, C,...)

- Block Leader
- Block Fire Suppression Group
- Block Search + Rescue Group
- Block Onsite Medical Group
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- Block Pet Care Leader
- Block Child Care Leader
- Block Elderly/Special Needs Leader

Incident Command Roles

Terms:

Operations - Directs and coordinates all incident tactical operations (Search + Rescue, Fire Suppression, Medical)
 Logistics - Communications, manages supplies and facilities, provides food and medical support to team
 Planning - Tracks resource status, tracks situation status, prepares team action plan, provides documentation services

Notes:

- * - Would likely be the same person

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