



Pierce County Neighborhood Emergency Teams

PC-NET provides neighbors with the information and tools necessary to work together for an effective response following emergencies and disasters. Professional responders will not be available to assist you after a major disaster—you become the first responder. If individuals and their neighbors are prepared to mutually assist one another, lives can be saved and property can be spared. This program teaches neighborhoods how to respond to disasters through a variety of training modules taught by your local PC-NET coordinators, local emergency responders, and your appointed neighborhood block coordinator(s).

Neighborhoods interested in starting a PC-NET will begin with the training outlined the Basic Preparedness. Following the completion of basic, neighborhoods will have the opportunity to further participate in Position Specific Training. Neighborhoods choose their level of participation. *PC -NET is sponsored by Pierce County Department of Emergency Management and is **free of charge**.*

For additional information and to sign-up for PC-NET, visit www.piercecountywa.org/PCNET or call 253-798-6595.

Basic Neighborhood Preparedness

Overview of PC-NET and Preparedness (includes home preparations, utilities, car, plans) - First Training

- Gain knowledge on Pierce County hazards and personal preparedness, and receive the PC-NET handbook.
- Listen to an overview of the PC-NET program and the training offered, as well as the levels of commitment the program requires of PC-NET members.

Team Development- Second Training

- Sign-up for a disaster response team: Block Coordinator, Safety and Security, Search, Triage and Rescue, First Aid, Sheltering and Special Needs, Damage Assessment, Communications, and Animal Care.
 - Agree to team minimum standards
 - Name tags issued
- Identify neighborhood emergency response locations: Neighborhood Response Site, First Aid Station, Sheltering Center, Animal Care Center (optional), and Neighborhood Supplies Site. (Use blank map)
- Go through the PC NET handbook

Gather Neighborhood Supplies (completed by neighborhood team)- With or without Facilitator

- Gather neighborhood supplies; organize supplies for each of the disaster response teams and site locations.
- Fill-out PC-NET forms (i.e. household information, supplies inventory, equipment inventory, etc.)
- Receive an under-the-bed kit: hard hat, vest, whistle, flashlight, gloves, mask, and safety goggles

Mapping/Table Top Drill- Third Training (Schedule this event separate from equipment meeting)

- Receive a map of your neighborhood with addresses and emergency response locations identified.
- Participate in an earthquake tabletop exercise facilitated by your PC-NET facilitator.
- Walk the neighborhood as a group and visit each team members home to identify unique characteristics such as: water and gas shut-off valves, number of people and pets in the home, vulnerable structures (i.e. chimneys, decks, etc.), vulnerable neighbors (i.e. medical needs, disabilities, mobility issues, etc.) and more.
This can be done separate from the meeting, often done easily by those who know their community- include all homes in neighborhood if able.

Neighborhood Response and Fire / 9-1-1 Safety (completed by neighborhood)- Neighborhood invites local fire to meet neighborhood.

- Invite Fire Department to meet your team, this can happen anytime during the training. Some fire districts send a representative to attend one meeting and meet the team.
- Ask for fire extinguisher training
- Discuss how you will report your status to them in event of a regional disaster
 - How to know they need your status
 - Ham radio.

Functional Drill

- Allow up to two hours to test your team with a pre-established hands on drill
- Includes hands on with Disaster First Aid, setting up all neighborhood stations
- Involve neighbors to participate as patients
- Opportunity to educate neighborhood

Position Specific Training

PC-NET Academy

The PC-NET Academy offers position specific training for the eight disaster response team positions. Team members who receive this training will be better equipped to fulfill the duties their disaster response team is responsible for. Individuals interested in attending any or all of the sessions offered at the academy must register online at www.piercecountywa.org/PCNETacademy (training is free of charge). Registration will open up first to PC-NET team members, and depending on the number of registrants, will then open up to the general public.

The PC-NET Academy will be held twice annually at the Pierce County Emergency Operations Center, 2501 South 35th St., Tacoma, WA 98409, or other location as posted.

Position specific training may include:

- Disaster First Aid
- Search and Triage
- Communication Protocols and Operations
- Caring for the psychological needs during times of disaster

Neighborhood Exercise Template is available for use by your team

- Practice what you learned during training by participating in a neighborhood disaster exercise.
- After the exercise has concluded, identify what went well and what the neighborhood can improve on before the next exercise. Once follow-up actions have been made, hold another neighborhood exercise.
- Repeat this process annually to ensure the neighborhood is always ready to respond to potential emergencies.

PC-NET Train-the-Trainer

Become a PC-NET trainer to help other neighborhoods in your area get prepared. Contact Pierce County Emergency Management for more information.: PCDEMOutreach@co.pierce.wa.us or 253-798-6595.