



# Mark Regan

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# **How to Prepare Residents in Disaster Evacuations and conduct your own P.R.I.D.E. program**

**Preparation and cooperation  
will result in safe, efficient  
evacuations**

# Pre-Planning Procedures:

- **Review existing evacuation plan with your department**
- **Review your county-wide evacuation plan**
- **Determine your area's fire danger rating / major disaster threat**
- **Determine if your area has the need for a defensible space program**
- **Contact reverse emergency notification company (Reverse 911/CodeRed)**
- **Evaluate your radio system, a back-up amateur radio team may be needed and is recommended**
- **Determine the need for escape routes and the maintenance, security and signage of these routes. Road closures need to be evaluated**
- **Establish a plan for phone trees and assign neighborhood captains**
- **Based on your area's needs, determine the most threatening risk to your residents, which will be the focus of your evacuation**
- **Establish the objectives for neighborhood classes/education of residents**
- **After departmental review, hold regional meetings with responding agencies that would be impacted during a disaster**

# **Plan your drill with all responding agencies:**

- **Describe the scenario, be specific**
- **Name your drill**
- **Determine the area to be evacuated**
- **How many people will you evacuate**
- **Determine an evacuation center**
- **Plan incidents within incidents**
- **Follow the I.C.S. system for the drill**

# Implementing the P.R.I.D.E. Program

- **Begin implementing specific programs determined to be needed in your area...ie. defensible space inspections**
- **Evacuation Routes determined**
  - **Meet with GIS department and construct maps**
  - **Post maps at fire stations on websites and with any responding agency**
  - **Evacuation routes are assigned numbers and signs posted, labeled on each route and recorded on maps**
  - **Routes are patrolled for access/locks may or may not be needed**
  - **Attend Homeowner/community advisory meeting. Express concerns regarding the safety of your residents in the event of a disaster. Explain the desire to educate residents in the event of an emergency.**
  - **Inform neighborhood of P.R.I.D.E. classes**
  - **Post posters in neighborhoods, nearby stores, school letters, etc. notifying residents of when and where their P.R.I.D.E. classes will be held.**
  - **Press release on classes**
  - **Engine companies go door-to-door with flyers, notifying residents of their classes and training available**

# Implementing the P.R.I.D.E. Program

- Residential classes and training/preparing your community
- Invite representatives from responding agencies to attend classes
  - Emergency Manager
  - Animal Services
  - Law Enforcement
  - Red Cross
- Discuss types of evacuations
- Location of their Evacuation Center
- Establish Phone-tree Captains
  - Train Captains immediately after initial class
  - Special needs cases
  - Residents register with reverse emergency notification company (911/CodeRed)
  - Provide laptops and assistance to provide residents with the opportunity to register immediately or on the correct websites after the class

# Implementing the P.R.I.D.E. Program

- **Establish Gate-keepers**
  - **Train immediately after class**
  - **Special phone trees established for gate-keepers**
  - **Check routes monthly for access and signage**
  - **Trained on opening/unlocking gates (paging system)**
- **Maps and escape routes posted for residents to view and on website**
- **Security in their neighborhood during an evacuation and during the drill**
- **Discuss preparing the outside of their homes/defensible space**
- **Show “Living with Fire” video (5 minutes)**
- **Discuss preparing the inside of their homes**
- **Necessary items for their “to-go” bags**
- **Check off list provided**
- **How to prepare for your pet’s needs**
- **Check off list provided**

# Implementing the P.R.I.D.E. Program

- **Discuss staying informed during an emergency**
- **Explain what to expect during an evacuation**
  - **Road closures and why**
  - **Relocating/Caring for large animals**
  - **Checking in at the evacuation center...very important**
- **What to do if you are unable to evacuate**
- **Some areas may be “Shelter in Place” communities**
- **When to return to your home and what to do**
- **Provide time for questions and answers**
- **Provide specific information on when your actual drill will be held**
  - **Explain that 100% participation is needed to test the system**
  - **Provide evacuation/water supply signs**



# Recommendations for the evacuation center on the day of the drill:

- **Volunteers/staff needed to register residents and their pets**
- **Provide emergency related vendors at the evacuation center**
  - **Defensible space experts**
  - **Horticulturist to advise on vegetation suggested for the area**
  - **Roofing companies**
  - **Retrofit companies for installing proper vents**
  - **Decking Companies**
  - **Insurance Companies**
- **Bottled water donated by local stores**
- **Animal services needed**
  - **Shelters for animals**
  - **Micro-chipping available**
  - **Security at the evacuation center and in the residential areas needed**
  - **Post evacuation maps at the evacuation center**
  - **Red Cross**
  - **Activities for children**
  - **Raffles**

**Informative table for trouble-shooting/concerns of residents/areas that need to be addressed**

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# **Debriefing after the evacuation drill:**

- **Conduct debriefing immediately following the drill while all agencies are available for input**
  - **Discuss what went well and what didn't work for each agency**
- **Hold debriefing with the residents and community phone tree captains and gate keepers within one week after the drill**
  - **Review the statistics on participants, animal check in, etc.**
  - **Discuss what went well**
  - **Discuss what failed or needs improvement**
  - **What are their future needs?**
  - **Determine the plan for the next drill...what area, what type?**

# **Continue P.R.I.D.E. throughout the year:**

- **Continue annual education with residents/phone tree captains and gate keepers**
- **Conduct a different emergency evacuation drill each year**
- **On-going defensible space inspections and follow-up**
- **Informative advertising on the screens at movie theaters**
- **Billboards promoting helpful tips from P.R.I.D.E. designed for that specific area's needs**
- **Send seasonal P.R.I.D.E. tips home in school letters**
- **Community service announcements on television and radio**

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