

## HIGHLANDS EMERGENCY LOCAL PREPAREDNESS (HELP)

### Neighbours Helping Neighbours

HELP, is a recently formed group of neighbourhood volunteers, and is assisting the District of Highlands Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Mr. Val Fletcher, to set up a local emergency preparedness organization.

The Highland District Community Association (HDCA) is a provincially registered non-profit Society which has been active in the Highlands community since 1968, and took on the initiative to assist in establishing HELP neighbourhood groups.

HELP proposes to establish local neighbourhood groups to help neighbours help neighbours during the initial periods in and following an emergency such as wildfire, earthquake, and snowstorm, with possible safety alerts. Neighbourhood groups will be relatively small (15-25 homes) to facilitate emergency communication, and within reasonable walking distance of each other, when public services may have failed.

Some Highland residents have already volunteered to become Neighbourhood Group Leaders and form a HELP group, however, more leaders are needed!

The “Role” of the Neighbourhood Group Leader is to:

1. Establish contact in neighbourhood, and to organize an initial meeting of neighbours to explain the intent of HELP, and provide opportunity for questions & answers.
2. Locate and work with a Neighbourhood Group Leader Back Up, and to encourage involvement in the program.
3. Respect all neighbours privacy and confidentiality.
4. Distribute invitations, introduction sheets, and to collect information package materials and resource questionnaire sheets to be provided at the neighbourhood meeting.
5. Contact neighbours who were unable to attend the meeting.
6. Establish a neighbourhood “Telephone Tree” for emergency communication and alerts and attempt to maintain current information on an annual basis.
7. Provide completed “Information & Resource” sheets filled in by households and any updated information to the Highlands Emergency Preparedness Coordinator.
8. Serve as the primary contact between the neighbourhood and the Highlands Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for “Telephone Tree” purposes.
9. Participate in any training programs or training exercises requested by the Highlands Emergency Coordinator, and to survey neighbours for their training needs.
10. Assist in identifying potential hazards, needed resources, and alternate evacuation routes for vehicles and pedestrians, and provide this information to Emergency Coordinator.
11. Encourage the neighbourhoods to work together with adjacent neighbourhoods, communities, and organizations

To help form a neighbourhood group in your area, please contact:

Val Fletcher, Emergency Coordinator, District of Highlands, Tel. 250-479-1725