

Dear Neighbors on (**Give the Name of Your Street**),

You may have heard about the new *Neighbor Helping Neighbor Committee* that is part of our **OHCC SERT Club** (Safety Emergency Response Team). Our mission is to encourage and assist with emergency preparedness should a disaster strike such as an earthquake or fire, etc. To achieve this goal, SERT volunteers have become Safety Coordinators and are informing all residents of vital actions for preparedness.

I was invited to volunteer to be the Safety Coordinator for **Give the Name of your Street**.

It would be wonderful to have a second Safety Coordinator so we might work together. Please let me know if you are interested!

Thank you.

Here is what we hope to accomplish:

1. The Safety Coordinators encourage all residents to keep a **Red/Green** disaster sign close at hand to hang either beneath the house number sign, on their gate or at another visible location in front of their home in case of a disaster. The **red** color side says **HELP**, the **green** color side says **OKAY**. These signs result in a faster emergency response time.  
You can purchase the **Red/Green** emergency sign by contacting the HOA office-cost \$1.00

As you are aware, “911” is always called for a life-threatening emergency. However, in the event of a large-scale disaster, “911” will probably have significant delays in answering calls and sending out emergency crews. There might even be delays of a couple of days. And that is where

our own community's Emergency Response Team (ERT) would render assistance and aid.

2. To better support one another, we are going to arrange groups of approximately **four neighbors** sharing each other's contact info. In the event of a disaster, they would check in on one another, so if someone can't hang up their own sign for assistance, someone else can do it for them.
  
3. As your street Safety Coordinator, if you feel it would be helpful for the SERT response team to know more about your medical health condition or other requirements, **ONLY THEN**, would I encourage you to fill out the attached **SERT Neighbor Helping Neighbor Resident Information Form**, giving only the information you feel comfortable with, and then return it to my tube or call me or email me and I will pick it up. That information will be shared with the SERT Response Team in an emergency. (A few examples — someone might need help shutting off the gas, electricity, or water, and a neighbor is willing to do this. Someone might have mobility issues. Or a person has a generator and is willing to help their neighbors charge their cell phones in a prolonged black-out. Someone has extra batteries for their flashlight and shares them with their neighbor. The list could go on and on.)
  
- 4- For those **individuals** willing to assist neighbors who require additional support for various reasons, those volunteers would fill out the attached **SERT Neighbor Helping Neighbor Resident Information Form** and only give their contact info.

As Safety Coordinator, I would then match up those volunteers with those who might need additional assistance. The volunteers would check up on these individuals in the event of an emergency. We want no one "left behind." Volunteers may drop off their contact information form in my mailbox tube.

*Your safety preparedness is your responsibility*—no one can do that for you, but the SERT team with its Safety Coordinators can help you become more knowledgeable and prepared by sharing information that is vital.

**Also attached to this email is a Vial of life** medical information form that everyone should consider filling out and having available in case of an emergency to provide it to first responders. This form is something you keep in your residence.

**The SERT Club website** has many helpful videos and other information for disaster preparedness. These videos include how, in an emergency, to turn off your electricity, water, and gas. If you choose to join and support the SERT Club in 2022, you will be eligible to have a Safety Home Survey right in your own home.

The link to the SERT website is: [www.ohccsert.com](http://www.ohccsert.com)  
It truly offers a cornucopia of valuable information and links to helpful websites.

If you have questions or concerns, please let me know.

Regards,

**GIVE YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

Below is a letter from Annie Gandomi (a retired nurse) the Chairperson of the Safety Coordinator program.

Dear Neighbors,

I am Annie Gandomi, Co-Chair of the Neighbor Helping Neighbor Program. Stan Katz is our new Safety Coordinator on Poseidon Way. This new program is designed to be a help to OHCC residents. It is completely voluntary. There are some people who have elected not to participate and want to go through a disaster on their own.

The HOA and Securitas have not created any plans for the residents in case of earthquakes, blackouts, or fires. SERT Club believes having a plan and encouraging preparedness among the residents will mitigate property damage and save lives, so education and preparedness is their mission along with a volunteer team to help our community in a disaster scenario.

If you agree to be linked to help another resident on your street, that would be wonderful. Again, your choice. Stan very thoroughly explained things in his introductory letter above and I won't repeat that. You just share the amount of information you want.

As for the **Vial of Life Form**, this concept has been around for years-see their website-and has proven helpful. No one sees the information until you decide to share it with EMS personnel when they respond to your 911 call. If you live alone and aren't conscious by the time they get to your home, then posting it somewhere they would see this folded form would be advantageous to you. I would put it in a drawer and put the vial of life sticker on the front of the drawer in the kitchen. If neighbors visit you see it, it is a good conversation starter that could be lifesaving to them. Vial of Life will send you stickers if you request it on their website. But many people don't use the Vial of Life and it is your personal choice.

I hope this helps clarify our program.

Warmly,

Annie Gandomi