

PREPTalks

New perspectives for emergency managers



CENTER FOR HOMELAND
DEFENSE AND SECURITY
NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL

Neighborfest – Building Resilience
from the Block Up!

Daniel Homsey

Agenda

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Introductions (5 minutes)

Watch the PrepTalks (20 minutes)

Discussion (30 minutes)

Introduction



- Daniel Homsey is the Director of The Neighborhood Empowerment Network (NEN) for the City Administrator's Office of the City and County of San Francisco. The NEN's mission it is to empower residents with the capacity and resources to build and steward stronger, more resilient communities
- Homsey has a degree in Political Science from San Francisco State University and has spent the last 25 years as a communications professional in both the private and public sectors

Watch the PrepTalk

<https://www.fema.gov/blog/preptalks-daniel-homsey-neighborfest-building-resilience-block>

Topics

- Understanding the Importance of Social Cohesion
- Building Neighborhood Programs
- Neighborhood Action

Topic 1: Understanding the Importance of Social Cohesion

Building social cohesion also builds community resilience

- Knowing and trusting your neighbors, and being a good neighbor in return, can prevent tragedies from happening
- Simple questions, such as whether your neighborhood has an email distribution list, whether you can name the last names of ten neighbors, or whether a trusted neighbor has a key to your home, are markers of strong neighborhood ties

“It’s not just about WHAT’s in your kit. It’s about WHO’s in your kit.”

– Daniel Homsey

Topic 1: Understanding the Importance of Social Cohesion



1. What are some examples of how strong social ties can help prevent tragedy or make an incident response more effective?
2. What are ways you can determine which neighborhoods have strong social cohesion and which are more loosely connected?
3. Are there proxy measures of social cohesion?

Topic 2: Building Neighborhood Programs

NEN's Empowered Communities Program builds social capital by working with community members to create and implement tailored plans to improve resilience. NEN's success is based on the following tenets:

- Plan with people...not for them
- Design with people...not for them
- Be scalable, duplicable, and sustainable
- Offer real value for stakeholder organizations, from all sectors and at all levels
- Drive ownership at the neighborhood level by transferring power

Topic 2: Building Neighborhood Programs

NEN recommends three steps to building the infrastructure to support neighborhood programs:

1. Finding Anchor Institutions (AIs) that already serve as trusted sources in the community
2. Building a network of cross-sector organizations, businesses, and people and linking them through outreach
3. Identifying block champions, individuals at the block level

“It's your home, it's your family, it's your block...own it. No one else is going to care more about your family than you.”

– Daniel Homsey

Topic 2: Building Neighborhood Programs



1. What offices in your jurisdiction can lead the effort to build cross-sector networks at the neighborhood level?
2. Who could help identify AIs?
3. What community groups or volunteer organizations should you work with to find hub member organizations?
4. How could you recruit block champions?
5. Who will serve as their point of contact in the community, in the neighborhood, and in the jurisdiction?

Topic 3: Neighborhood Action

Neighborfest uses a block party to build social cohesion throughout the neighborhood and to include community members in identifying resources

Neighborfest:

- Introduces neighborhood members to the basic concepts of the Incident Command System through planning the block party
- Creates local team and increasing social cohesion among neighbors
- Maps neighborhood assets, such as resources, skills, and contact information, for use in response activations
- Creates plans for mass feeding and shelter
- Communicates a culturally competent manner
- Increases the level of readiness of residents and connection to first responders

“Community members find the resources in their community that are real and tangible things that we would never have known about in a million years down at City Hall.”

– Daniel Homsey

Topic 3: Neighborhood Action



1. How could you empower neighborhood leaders to build and maintain strong and resilient neighborhoods?
2. How could you replicate the Neighborfest concepts in your community?
3. What resources are available in your community to support implementing neighborhood readiness efforts, including CERT members and other community safety volunteers?
4. Could any partners who could help underwrite the minimal costs needed?

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