

PSA Educational Moment for June 27, 2019

Getting and displaying your HELP/OK sign

Tonight's educational moment is the last of four we're having in June about PSA. As you remember from the previous weeks, PSA stands for Preliminary Safety Assessment, and is an activity that the EVCNB is developing for use during a disaster or other substantial local emergency. If you missed any of the last three Educational Moments on PSA, you can find a copy on the EVCNB website in the Emergency Communication section under Yellow Radio. When on the Yellow Radio page, click on "Learning Events from Thursday's Net" to find this month's Educational Moments.

How can you be involved in safety assessments during a disaster? First, be observant about your neighborhood beforehand. Know where potential hazards and resources are, and how to address or access them. In the fall the EVCNB will offer training sessions for community residents interested in being PSA assessors for their neighborhoods - we will learn how to size up life safety issues and environmental hazards that may occur, and we will work with each YR zone's leadership to practice our skills in a drill. This information will be valuable for emergency managers to make sure we get needed assistance speedily.

We've talked over the past two weeks about information to be collected in the PSAs by trained, neighborhood residents using a one-page form found at the EVCNB website. For part of this form, the assessors will use the **HELP/OK** signs they see to aid them in identifying individuals who have injuries or otherwise need personal assistance.

Please do your part to make searching more efficient and effective by posting a **HELP/OK** sign on your front window in a disaster. While it's important to post a sign if you

need help, it's just as important to post it if you DON'T need help – emergency managers need to know how many folk are safe as well.

Do you have the bright yellow HELP/OK sign? If you do – get it out and staple 2 band-aids to the page, so you don't have to take time looking for tape in an emergency. If you do not have a HELP/OK sign, contact your Yellow Radio or cluster leader, or pick one up from your local city offices. Once you get your sign, keep it where you can find it quickly and easily in an emergency.

Our drill tonight is to try out our HELP/OK signs. Post yours in a window of your house facing the street. Now go outside and report back to your Zone Net Control during the zone check-in whether your sign is visible to someone walking down your street. If not, reposition it until it is. Having an available HELP/OK sign is one of our cornerstones of emergency preparedness – make sure you do this one easy step. And stay tuned for more information about how you can become a PSA assessor.