



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **MethowReady Introduces “Map Your Neighborhood” Preparedness Program to the Methow Valley Conducting Two Volunteer Neighborhood Leader Trainings**

Twisp, WA (July 9, 2015)— MethowReady is launching the award-winning disaster preparedness program, Map Your Neighborhood, in the Methow Valley. It is designed to help neighbors support each other and share resources in times of disaster.

“Odds are, in a major event, you and those closest to you will be the first responders,” says Cindy Button, executive director of Aero Methow Rescue Service, who is part of a team overseeing the campaign. “We are bringing this program to the Valley because it has been proven that neighbors who work together as a team to prepare for disasters save lives, reduce the severity of injuries and trauma, and reduce property damage,” says Button.

MethowReady is offering two Map Your Neighborhood leader trainings, one in Twisp, and one in Winthrop. The trainings will teach individuals how to respond in their homes, and how to support their neighbors and share resources when a disaster strikes. Anyone who is interested in becoming a neighborhood leader or wanting to learn more about home disaster preparedness should attend one of the trainings.

#### **Volunteer Neighborhood Leader Trainings:**

##### **Thursday, July 23**

Aero Methow Rescue Service  
1005 Highway 20 E, Twisp  
5:30 – 7:30 pm

##### **Wednesday, August 5**

Red Barn, Upstairs Conference Room  
51 North Highway 20, Winthrop  
5:30 – 7:30 pm

Free pizza and dessert will be provided.

The program is free to the public but participants must pre-register to ensure adequate materials and food.

#### **To Register**

Call 509-449-5590 or email [info@methowready.org](mailto:info@methowready.org) and provide the following information:

1. Name/s of people attending
2. Workshop location/date
3. Contact phone number

**About the Map Your Neighborhood Program:**

The Map Your Neighborhood program was developed by LuAn Johnson, Ph.D, former public education program manager with the State of Washington's Emergency Management Division.

The program, which has been adopted across the United States, consists of neighborhoods led by readiness "captains." The captains or leaders collect information regarding the tools, resources, skills and special needs from each neighbor so that their neighborhoods are ready to respond to problems and help the most vulnerable when disaster strikes. The Map Your Neighborhood structure is flexible enough to accommodate rural areas.

**Goal of Program:**

To prepare neighborhoods (generally 15-20 homes in urban areas, 6-7 in rural areas) to be self-reliant during the first hours of a disaster response when traditional 9-1-1 responders are overwhelmed by demand.

**Participants will:**

1. Learn the 9 Steps to take immediately following a disaster to protect home and neighborhood.
2. Identify the skills and equipment each neighbor has that are useful in a disaster response.
3. Create a Neighborhood Map showing the locations of each propane tank (about 67% of house fires following disasters are caused by leaking gas); and the locations of each neighbor who may need extra help in a disaster, such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, or children who are home alone during certain times of the day.
4. Pick locations for a Neighborhood Gathering Site and Neighborhood Care Center.

**About MethowReady**

The MethowReady campaign is a project of the Methow Valley Long Term Recovery organization, which was formed following the historic wildfires and floods of 2014 in order to help the Methow Valley recover from these events, and to ensure that the Methow Valley is better prepared for future disasters.

**MethowReady Partners:**

Aero Methow Rescue Service  
Carlton Complex Assistance Network  
Lookout Coalition  
Okanogan Conservation District  
Okanogan County Electric Co-operative  
Okanogan County Department of Emergency Management  
Okanogan County Public Utility District  
Okanogan Fire District #6  
Room One  
Town of Twisp  
Town of Winthrop  
Twisp Police Department  
Winthrop Marshal's Office

For more information, contact Sandi Scheinberg at 509-449-5590 or visit [www.methowready.org](http://www.methowready.org). #