

Neighborhood Pods and How to Form Them

In a disaster, teamwork makes the load lighter and safer.

Please remember, you may not need help, but others may need your help. None of us are getting any younger so we need to work smarter, not harder.

1. A pod is a group of households that have agreed to work together and help each other during any type of disaster: hurricane, tornado, flood, etc.

2. To form a pod, simply speak with friends, neighbors or residents within our community and see if they want to work with you in the event of a disaster; they don't need to live next door or even on the same street.

The pod model recommended by the VDS Emergency Operations Club is three to five households, but you may choose to vary that number depending on your pod's needs.

3. Your group makes a plan to determine who needs what assistance and how each of you can help if a disaster occurs. You help each other with things like clearing off your patios, putting up shutters, helping move heavy items together, and if the power goes out, providing others with pre-frozen water bottles to keep food cold longer.

4. Check on your pod immediately after an event to make certain your group is ok.

5. Each pod takes care of their group before helping anyone else!

Example of a Strong Pod:

5 households (6-10 people)

1 has impact windows, 2 have someone putting up their shutters

1 plans to do their own shutters

1 has permanent shutters

1 has a portable generator, but will need help to wheel it out of the garage after the storm.

2 have grills or campstoves (alternate cooking methods)

1 person with limited physical abilities will pick up all supply orders prior to the storm.

2 have tools to help others including a ladder, drills and knowledge

2 have limited physical abilities

3 are very fit

Everyone has a disaster kit based on their individual needs.