



# MYN for Vertical Neighborhoods

## Apartments & Condominiums

### *Initial Considerations*

Depending on the number of floors in your building, and the number of units per floor, you may want to consider organizing individual floors, or groups of floors, for a more timely disaster response. If electricity has been disrupted, the elevator will be out of service. Walking up and down between floors may be exhausting.

If you decide to organize according to floors, you also will want to plan how you will coordinate the response for the entire building.

#### **Floor Coordination Sites**

If you organize according to floors, choose a **Floor Coordination Site** for each floor or group of floors. Residents of that floor(s) will report there after they have completed MYN's Steps 1-6. Each neighbor should write the location that pertains to him/her on MYN's Handout.

#### **Neighborhood Gathering Site**

The Neighborhood Gathering Site will serve as the master response site for the entire building. Here, the more serious needs of the residents and building will be coordinated, like shutting off of the building's natural gas, treating the more serious injuries, and coordinating the setting up of the Neighborhood Care Center, or multiple Care Centers if your building is large.



## MYN: Vertical Neighborhoods

### *Neighborhood Gathering Site*

Many vertical neighborhoods choose the community meeting room as their Neighborhood Gathering Site. Others select the building lobby.

It is important to think about how neighbors will access this location following a disaster. If the electricity has gone out, building elevators will be out of service.

Also consider the feelings of your neighbors about wanting / needing to leave the building. If the disaster has been an earthquake – which likely caused the building to sway – some people may need to go outside for a short period of time to help calm themselves.

Choosing the building lobby as the Neighborhood Gathering Site, with easy access to the outside, may ease those needs.



### *Neighborhood Care Center*

Depending on the number of floors in your building and the needs of your neighbors, you may want to establish multiple Care Centers instead of just one. Sites could be established on each floor or groups of floors, reducing the number of stairs to be climbed.

It is comforting to most people to be with those they know following disasters, so always remember to invite your neighbors to the Care Center.



### *Communicating Between Floors*

Plan how you will communicate between floors and the Neighborhood Gathering Site during disasters.

You may want to purchase small walkie-talkies. These can be purchased for about \$20.00 per pair. Or, you may decide to use 'runners,' neighbors who are designated to carry information between the Neighborhood Gathering Site and each floor, or group of floors.



### *Respecting People's Need to Leave the Building*

Structural collapse is something that obviously weighs on the minds of many people in highrise buildings. Statistically, in the United States, total collapse is not likely. Its probability depends on the magnitude of the disaster, the age of the building, its quality of construction, the type of soil it rests upon, and its proximity to the epicenter of the disaster.

Nevertheless, it is unnerving to many people to be in a building that moves and sways, for example, as a result of an earthquake. Even though it may be safer to stay inside, many people will be driven to get out of and away from the building. Please respect their need to do this.

You may need to assist them in getting safely outside. Remember to dress for safety, MYN's Step #2.

Make sure you let the Neighborhood Gathering Site know which neighbors have evacuated to the outside, and exactly where they are located.



### *Transporting Neighbors Between Floors*

Identify a lightweight chair(s) that can be used to transport those who are unable to walk between floors. This can be used to bring people to the Neighborhood Care Center.

Write the location of this chair(s) on MYN's Handout, next to the location of your Neighborhood Care Center.

### *Fire Extinguishers*

Place your fire extinguishers outside your unit door, rather than on the sidewalk outside your building.

Should fire start in any one of your units, time will be critical. You will want to be able to grab several extinguishers in just a few seconds.



## Building Master Shut-off Valves

### Master Water Shut-off Valve

Locate the master water shut-off valve. Write this location on MYN's Neighborhood Map.

A cracked water pipe anywhere in the building may cause enormous damage to all units in the path of the leaking water.

If you suspect the disaster may have caused damage to your water pipes, shut off the water at the master valve to reduce damage.



### Master Natural Gas Shut-off Valve

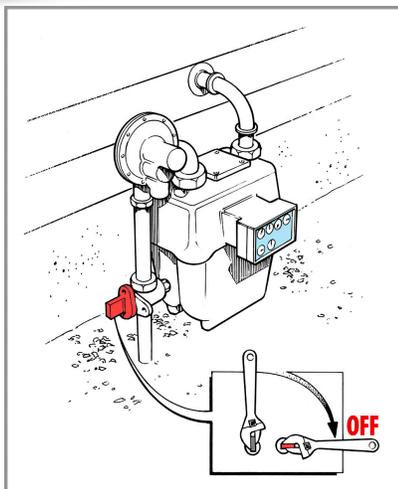
Identify the location of all natural gas meters that serve the building, and write their locations on MYN's Neighborhood Map. Also write down the location of the master shut-off valve(s).

The master gas shut-off valve is located with the cluster of individual gas meters that serve your building.

The principle for shutting off this valve is the same as for individual gas meters – turn the valve 90° so that the valve crosses the pipe.

Should any individual unit be experiencing a crack or break in their gas pipes, natural gas will quickly fill the unit. This poses a threat to the entire building. Shutting off the natural gas at the master valve is the only way to ensure the safety of the building.

Remember, once natural gas has been shut off, it should ONLY be turned back on by a qualified person from the gas company. They are the only people who know how to inspect the entire system and ensure its safety.



turning the gas valve 90° shuts off natural gas