

## Ideas for Block Meetings

1. **Get Acquainted** – At your first meeting, you'll want to allow lots of time for neighbors to get to know one another. You can introduce the idea of capturing basic contact info in a Neighborhood Directory and can discuss whether you wish to have other meetings or an annual Block Party. Burlingame Neighborhood Network leaders are happy to send a representative to your meeting to introduce neighbors to free information and free training classes offered by the city.
2. **Create a Directory** – Some Neighborhood Networks like to create a Neighborhood Directory together. It's simple: Just provide each person with a grid of the homes in your Network and then invite each person to supply basic contact info, which all those at the meeting capture on their personal maps of the neighborhood.
3. **Block Party** – A Block Party can be as simple (bring your lawn chair and whatever you wish to drink) or more elaborate (ice cream social, barbecue, potluck). Note: You'll need a permit from the city.
4. **Earthquake Kit-Making Party** – A local resident, Suzanne Tatoesian, gives presentations on emergency preparedness that include creating a family plan and a list of essential items for emergency kits in your home, office and car. She offers emergency kits and supplies at a discount to Burlingame residents through her business, Earth Shakes. There is no obligation to buy. You can reach Suzanne at [suzanne@earthshakes.com](mailto:suzanne@earthshakes.com) or 650-548-9065.
5. **Neighborhood Drill** – Burlingame Neighborhood Network leaders can help you simulate a disaster in your neighborhood and walk neighbors through the steps of assessing damage and injuries.
6. **National Night Out** – This community-building event is held throughout the U.S. on the first Tuesday in August. Its purpose is to increase awareness about police programs in communities, such as drug prevention, Neighborhood Watch and anti-crime efforts. No special planning is needed: Just grab some lawn chairs and chat with your neighbors. Burlingame police officers will visit every group that registers in advance with the Burlingame Police Department at 650-777-4100.
7. **BNN Fliers** – Meeting topics can be organized around the fliers that the Burlingame Neighborhood Network has developed, such as water access during emergencies and earthquake preparedness tip for families with children and pets.
8. **Get Ready** – Meeting topics can be developed around different sections of the Get Ready manual offered by the Central County Fire Department, such as how to turn off utilities and basic supplies needed for an emergency kit.
9. **Emergency Training** – The Central County Fire Department can provide training on specific Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) topics to neighborhoods, such as first aid and damage assessment.
10. **Crime Watch** – The Burlingame Police Department will present crime prevention and security tips. Call 650-777-4100.
11. **Fire Prevention** – Invite the Central County Fire Department to offer advice.
12. **City Development** – Invite a Burlingame City Council member to discuss current city issues.
13. **Utility Shut Off** – Invite Pacific Gas & Electric to discuss gas and electrical hazards and demonstrate shut-off procedures.
14. **Map Your Neighborhood Exercise** – The Burlingame Neighborhood Network can provide booklets and a DVD to help you identify who's in your neighborhood and the skills and resources they may provide during a disaster.
15. **Ice Cream Social**
16. **Fourth of July Party**

- 17. Election Coffee** – A couple of weeks before an election is a good time to invite neighbors to come and discuss the issues and candidates. Be sure to make it clear that you plan to have an open conversation with all viewpoints welcome so that everyone can vote smarter.
- 18. Halloween Pumpkin Carving Party**
- 19. Holiday Caroling** – Some neighborhoods like to go door to door singing holiday carols.
- 20. Make a Snowman** – You can buy “snow” from Peninsula Ice (650-344-5667) and invite children in the neighborhood to build a snowman, while adults sip hot apple cider.
- 21. Soup Potluck** – A winter social event can be organized about a simple supper.