

Community Conversation Prompts & Example “One Step” Actions

Pick & Choose

There are no wrong choices and any place you start is great!

As the adage goes, “disasters start and end locally.” Grow your community's “resilience roots” even deeper one conversation, one relationship, and one action at a time.

Don't view this as a To Do list, view it as a “*Could Do*” list - options designed to help get you started. These are not meant to be prescriptive or feel required. Make them your own - cross off and add new ones liberally. You're on your way!

Rural Community Building

Conversation Prompts

- Individual Org - From our organization's perspective, who might be some of the “community champions” in our area who may be willing to serve in a liaison capacity or community rally-er capacity either post-disaster and/or to take on an opportunity?
- With Fellow Community Org(s) - Aside from disaster, when or for what has our community had to rely on for self-sufficiency? What insights emerged from this period or event?
- Individual Org - If/when our community had to rely on self-sufficiency in the past or experienced an “all hands” situation, for what aspects did we feel most prepared as an organization? What did we need to lean on other partners for? Has that changed since then (would our answer still be the same present day)?
- [add from event] _____

Example Actions

- With Fellow Community Org(s) - Take stock! Host an informal meeting with a few of your organizational partners to start building a very local directory of yourselves and other community groups you partner with to include what local services exist and what populations they serve. As a next step, note any services particularly useful (or could be useful) in times of disaster. Note any gaps.
 - With Fellow Community Org(s) - Consider the different ways your organization and partners reach populations in your community. Who might not be reached effectively in the event of a disaster? How can this be remedied or mitigated? Who could be engaged to fill this gap?
 - Sasquatch Step - What mutual aid or neighbor networks exist? Advocate for them to be formally built into preparedness, evacuation and recovery plans at the County or municipal level.
 - Individual Org - If 'Take stock' was worked on, consider what local gaps were identified. Would or could your organization be interested in filling them in the event of a disaster or an opportunity?
 - [add from event] _____
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From Hindsight to Insight

Conversation Prompts

- Individual Org - What could our role be in managing the flow of information, financial resources, and non-financial resources in our community following a disaster?
- Individual Org - Is our organization clear on who is representing our needs and the needs of the populations we serve to local government? To county officials? To the state and legislators?
- With Fellow Community Org(s) - What do community needs look like immediately after a disaster? What about six months and one year after a disaster? Work with fellow community members to identify several sectors engaged in this work immediately after and at a later date. Learn more about what types of skills, leadership, resource management and more is needed.

- With Fellow Community Org(s) - Ask, on a group email, virtual or in-person existing meeting, which groups have established relationships with legislators and local and state government agencies? How can groups work with these existing entities to elevate needs and opportunities?
 - With Fellow Community Org(s) - Ask: "what is the plan to manage fundraising and financial resources to ensure funds stay in our community and for their intended purpose? Who can manage state and federal funding on behalf of other partners, are they willing to do so in a disaster scenario? Which organizations have experience granting or equitably distributing money out? Who is interested in working on a "Go Plan" for attracting, holding and distributing funds to those impacted, knowing that funds will come in - often at greater amounts than previously seen - during and right after a disaster?"
 - Individual Org - Consider if your organization has the ability and desire to play any of those roles. If not, how will you support those who do? What kind of support - based on a few different scenarios - will your organization need from them?
 - [add from event] _____
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Example Actions

- Individual Org - Invite and host a community organization from a disaster impacted area to speak and share. Gather questions from the community ahead of time.
- Individual Org - Appoint someone in your organization to represent your community's needs (either once or on an ongoing basis) to act as a liaison with local government and county officials.
- With Fellow Community Org(s) - Gather a group of community leaders and organizations to plan a larger-scale version of the event noted above ("Individual Org."). Answer Essential Questions like:
 - "Where is our community most vulnerable?"
 - "What resources do we have available for this work?"
 - "What role will each organization play, if any, before, during and after a disaster?"

- “How will we ensure a diversity of funds and resources make it to our community and stay in our community? Who will manage these funds?”
- “Who will lead these continued community conversations?”

→ Sasquatch Step - From the conversations above, identify and prioritize one or more actions that can be taken to fortify your community against disaster events. Engage partners and the broader community in this “Resilience Service Project” (e.g. food lockers or double-stocking food pantry; technical assistance or professional development; educational campaign; establish or grow a Resilience Hub, etc.).

→ [add from event] _____

Putting Resources to Work

Conversation Prompts

- Individual Org - What are a few documents your organization deems as ‘vital’ to operating and/or hard to replace? (E.g. “ink signature” contracts; deeds; bylaws; handwritten data and community surveys).
- Individual Org - Is “home hardening”/fuels mitigation work within our budget and capacity in the near future? What would this look like and who on our team is able to find out more?
- With Fellow Community Org(s) - What physical spaces in our community could aid in disaster response? What about disaster recovery? What about resilience?

→ [add from event] _____

Example Actions

- Individual Org - Scan and/or virtually back up documents deemed “vital” to ‘the cloud’ or a separate, secondary location. Start with one, add another when time allows. Repeat as you are able. This could also be a great job for a volunteer.

- With Fellow Community Org(s) - Research if there is a Resilience Hub, Resilience Network, Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) or Long-Term Recovery (LTRG) organization, or similar, in your community? [Visit OregonResilience.org/directory](https://OregonResilience.org/directory) to start your search.
- Sasquatch Step - Host an informal meeting with a few of your organizational partners to discuss joining a Resilience Hub or Network or similar, or starting one if one does not exist.
- Sasquatch Step - Often, home hardening is only effective if nearby neighbors participate too. Consider a local home hardening/building firewise campaign with resources and educational materials.
- [add from event] _____

Community Social Health, Individual Well-Being and Connectedness

Conversation Prompts

- Individual Org - How does our organization define resilience? How does our resilience and the resilience we create through our work - impact the broader community?
- With Fellow Community Org(s) - How does our community define such a broad term as resilience? What could an exercise like this - arriving at a shared version - reveal? Are there opportunities for our community to come together in groups and across groups to discuss whole-community topics like this? Would that be helpful or seem redundant?
- With Fellow Community Org(s) - Gather a group of community partners across all sectors to discuss social health and individual well-being as it relates to resilience. Who is not at the table? What populations, sectors or entity types are underrepresented?
- [add from event] _____

Example Actions

- *Individual Org* - Which community members does our organization serve who are likely to be most negatively impacted by disaster in our area? Are other organizations aware of this and able to fill this gap and reach them despite obstacles? Appoint a staff member, board member or volunteer to help share the obstacles and opportunities specific to these populations.
 - *With Fellow Community Org(s)* - Ask community organizations and other community-focused entities to answer the above question as well. How can we work together to address the priority populations identified by each partner? Who is not at the table?
 - *With Fellow Community Org(s)* - Gather a group of community partners across all sectors. Identify block captains, community leaders and community centers and map them out. Where is the heart of your community located? And/or what networks already exist? Identify one or two and talk through how they could be engaged in disaster response, recovery or prevention work. What do they need from community partners to work effectively?
 - [add from event] _____
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Long-term Resilience

Conversation Prompts

- *Individual Org* - What leadership succession planning has our organization done or hopes to achieve in the near future?
 - *With Fellow Community Org(s)* - What 1-2 assets or natural or man-made resources does our community have that contributes to its long-term resilience and sustainability? (E.g. access to waterways).
 - *With Fellow Community Org(s)* - What community resources, knowledge or groups already exist? Is there a system for formalizing and passing on this knowledge? How are others handling this? What tool or resource could we share that might make this possible, easier or more certain?
 - [add from event] _____
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Example Actions

- *Individual Org* - Appoint a staff member, board member or volunteer to look into succession planning - what 1-2 priorities or goals does our organization have with regards to succession planning? What steps can be taken to inch (or leap!) closer to those goals? Do any of our partners have advice?
 - *With Fellow Community Org(s)* - Support (financially or with human capital) succession planning and/or revenue diversification for groups or nonprofits that provide safeguards (e.g. Rangeland Fire Protection Associations).
 - *Sasquatch Step* - Interview a community that has weathered a disaster and ask them what vulnerabilities - especially surprising or unexpected ones - were uncovered or amplified that impacted their ability to rebuild or establish longer-term resilience? Ask them if and how their own community's local assets, natural- or man-made resources were a benefit or liability to the disaster's impact and their ability to recover.
 - [add from event] _____
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