

# Emergency Preparedness Buddies



# About the Emergency Preparedness Buddies Program

- **Who Do We Help?**

- The “recipients” of this care are elders and occasionally adults with disabilities, most of who live alone. Social workers, doctors, nurses, clergy or relatives recommend most people to us. (Once a volunteer is introduced, we refer to the elder as a “buddy”).

- **What Do We Do?**

- The Brookline Preparedness Buddies assist Brookline elders with access and functional needs in preparing for and responding to emergency situations, thereby improving preparedness and resilience among Brookline elders.

# How we started

- Tropical Storm Irene– MRC and CERT on stand-by
- Seniors needing assistance, but not known
- Council on Aging/Senior Center learns after Tropical Storm Irene of Seniors who needed assistance during storm.
- Meeting together with Council on Aging/Senior Center, MRC and CERT Coordinators to develop a plan.

# First Steps

- Created a committee of MRC and CERT leadership with Council on Aging/Senior Center to develop a plan to help seniors for emergencies.
- Developed concept/initial ideas for Emergency Preparedness Buddies.
- Contacted FriendshipWorks to discuss coordination/consultation.

# Next Steps

- Worked with FriendshipWorks to develop training manual and training using their template.
- Developed Brookline specific materials/checklists.
- Met with Emergency Preparedness Buddies Committee to review all materials and plans.
- Recruited Senior Pilot Group
- Training date set.

# Trainings

- Pilot group of 20 MRC-CERT volunteers attend December 2012 training.
- Follow-up training January 29, 2013.
- Revision needed for materials.
- Final training, May 2, 2013.
- Pilot testing beginning June 2013.

# Going Forward

- Develop easy to use evaluation tool for pilot seniors.
- Reporting form for volunteers.
- Database for reporting.
- Letter from Police Chief.
- Meeting to revise materials based on pilot testing.