

Kelly Kovac-Reedy & Tracy Hopkins

Co-Founders and Co-Coordiators of the HBNW program.

OUR PERSONAL MISSION

Just four years ago, two residents of Hermosa Beach approached the City Manager and asked to join a program that prepared residents for disaster preparedness. At that time, they were informed that there was no formal program available. Kelly and Tracy were highly motivated by Hurricane Katrina and the lessons that were being learned from that disaster and chose to pursue and implement a program that would introduce disaster preparedness to their neighbors. Realizing that people only get serious about avoiding disasters only after one has just smacked them across the face, they adopted a nationally recognized program for crime prevention. Huh? Why a program for crime when the smack across the face for them was Hurricane Katrina? Well, because crime affects people on a daily basis and that was the open door.

They voluntarily designed a grassroots, city-wide Neighborhood Watch program working in partnership with the Police and Fire Departments and the City of Hermosa Beach. The goal was and is to bring information together and people together in order to draw together neighborhoods in daily crime prevention through "target hardening" tips, local crime activity awareness and to empower their Hermosa residents to prepare for a local hazard, an unprecedented Earthquake with a potential secondary hazard of a near-tsunami caused by a landslide in the Redondo Submarine Canyon or the underwater cliffs off Palos Verdes Peninsula.

They started slowly, one step at a time and launched the program on March 17, 2006. A fundraiser to sell survival kits to families in the HB City School District was accomplished and \$2,500.00 was raised for the PTO. Today, they offer survival kits through MorePrepared.com and continue to stress the importance of individual preparedness.

Weekly Introduction Block Meetings are attended by Kelly and Tracy, the Chief of Police and the Fire Chief at a new hosting Block Captain's home with their neighborhood residents. This one-on-one contact is essential to the program as it allows residents to familiarize themselves with each other and presents the opportunity to introduce the HBNW team; the coordinators of the program and the highest ranking leaders in the Police and Fire Department.

In progress, the HBNW program continues to connect residents. Through this alliance, neighborhoods get stronger as they are allowed to grow at a steady rate. The reputation that Hermosa Beach Neighborhood Watch retains today is fully attributed to the flexibility, innovation, honesty, reliability and adaptability that the HBNW team has proven to execute over the past four years.