

Initial Brainstorm

Need a workshop description/title

When the S*&! Hits the Fan: How Coops Can Prepare for the Worst

Owning a home is a lot of responsibility, especially when you're trying to build a community with so many co-ops. Crises sometimes seem to be popping up around every corner. This workshop aims to prepare you for these unexpected twists in cooperative living. We will not only discuss the different emergencies that can surface in a cooperative house but also how to prepare for and respond to them.

- Who is the audience?
 - Admin/coop member leaders?
 - Staff?
 - House members?
- How much workshopping/rehashing “horror stories” vs. other stuff?
- Crisis Types
 - Maintenance/Structural
 - Fire
 - Flooding/plumbing
 - Electrical
 - Structural collapse
 - Carbon monoxide
 - Animal/insect infestation
 - Financial
 - Theft - house, personal
 - Run out of money
 - Personal/Interpersonal
 - Mental health
 - Breakdown
 - Suicide
 - Substance abuse
 - Self-harm
 - Physical harm
 - Assault
 - Injury
 - Death
 - Fight (physical and non-physical)
 - Ideological conflict
 - Drugs – using, dealing
 - External personal threat – violence, stalking, rowdy party, assault, etc.
- Tools to handle crisis

- Emergency procedures
 - Organizational standards
 - House standards
 - Regular review (1-3x annually)
- Responsibility
 - Hierarchy
 - Who in your house is “that sort of person” to deal with issues
- Crisis management process
 - Breathe
 - Think
 - Communicate and Act
 - Follow-up
 - Community healing