**Making Better Choices**

***Using the Rational-Decision Making Model***

**Your Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Step 1: Define the situation or problem**.

disaster preparedness

**Summary of the problem:**

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| I chose disaster preparedness. I chose thixs because as Hurracane season comse and goes we've had several hurricanes hit us and the community. authogh we dont get them that bad we still should prepare for what is to come. The problem is people atent preparing properly which is causing a ton of issues for people in the long run. |

**Step 2:** **Identify the criteria for evaluating potential solutions**.

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| **Question** | **Decision Criteria** |
| How effective is the solution in preventing damage or injury? | This considers the likelihood of the solution mitigating the disaster's impact. |
| How easy is it to implement the solution? | This considers the resources (financial, manpower, time) needed to put the solution in place. |
| How sustainable is the solution in the long run? | This considers the ongoing effort required to maintain the solution's effectiveness. |

**Step 3: Identify all potential solutions**.

**Potential Solution 1: Community education workshops on disaster preparedness (e.g., assembling emergency kits, securing outdoor furniture)**

**Potential Solution 2: Neighborhood buddy system where residents check on each other before, during, and after a disaster**

**Potential Solution 3: Develop a community communication plan using multiple channels (phone trees, social media) to disseminate critical information**

**Potential Solution 4: Organize volunteer groups to assist vulnerable residents (elderly, disabled) with preparing their homes**

**Step 4: Evaluate the potential solutions against your criteria.**

(Choose your two favorite potential solutions to evaluate. Enter the name of each potential solution on the lines in the top row.)

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Decision Criteria** | **Evaluation of Potential Solution:**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  (Mention at least one negative externality and how to minimize it.) | **Evaluation of Potential Solution:**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  (Mention at least one negative externality and how to minimize it.) |
| How can people in the community help with this issue? | Teaches residents practical skills for self-reliance | Creates a support network for vulnerable residents |
| How might solutions actually help the issue at hand? | Reduces property damage and injuries | Ensures everyone is checked on and receives help if needed |
| What is needed for solutions to work? | Funding for materials and instructors | Willingness of residents to participate |

**Step 5: Choose the best option**.

**Solution chosen: Neighborhood Buddy System**

**Paragraph explanation of chosen solution:**

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| The neighborhood buddy system is a strong choice because it promotes community spirit, leverages existing social connections, and requires minimal financial resources. By creating a network of people looking out for each other, the system ensures everyone is checked on during a disaster. This can prevent unnecessary risks and ensure residents receive timely assistance. To minimize the negative externality of reliant participation, neighborhood meetings can be held to establish clear expectations and build trust. Volunteers can also be recruited to check on those unable to participate actively. |

**Works Cited**

***Sample source in MLA format*:**

“Information About Sea Turtles: Threats of Artificial Lighting.” *Sea Turtle Conservancy*,

<https://conserveturtles.org/information-sea-turtles-threats-artificial-lighting/>. Accessed 20 Nov.

2021.