

HOW TO PREPARE

FOR BEFORE, DURING & AFTER A DISASTER EVENT

The following preparedness tips are intentionally broad, in an attempt to cover most hazards Skagit County may experience. For more preparedness advice additional resources are listed on the back of this brochure.

PREPARE BEFORE

Preparing before a disaster is the best way to increase your safety and reduce your risk. Understanding the danger in your area is the first step, then you can begin to take precautions to ensure you and your loved ones are equipped to handle any disaster event that may occur. Creating a plan and having your own disaster supply kit are great ways to prepare.

RECOMMENDED DISASTER SUPPLY KIT ITEMS:

- At least one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days
- Three days worth of non-perishable food
- Battery powered or hand crank radio



- Flashlight & extra batteries
- Cash (ATMs & credit cards may not work)
- Garbage bags, moist towelettes and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- First aid kit



- Whistle to signal for help
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Filter mask or a cotton t-shirt to help filter air
- Special needs items such as medications



PREPARE FOR DURING

Basic guidelines to prepare for a disaster event include:

- Create a communications plan with your family that includes a meeting place, an out of area contact person, and potential shelter locations.
- Have a battery powered or hand crank radio to listen to local updates during hazard events.
- **Earthquake:** Find a safe place in each room of your home, workplace and/or school to prepare for an earthquake.
- Safe spaces include under a piece of furniture or against an interior wall. Practice drop, cover and hold for an earthquake event - do not run from the shaking.
- **Flood:** Know safe routes on high ground to and from home and work that can be chosen during flood evacuation.
- Do not drive through water covered roadways.
- **Winter Storm:** Allow faucets to drip during severe weather to avoid freezing pipes and learn how to shut off water valves in case a pipe bursts.
- **Power Outage:** Use alternative heat methods safely. Never use gasoline-powered equipment, charcoal grill, or portable propane heater indoors or in a partially enclosed space as this puts you at risk for carbon monoxide poisoning.



PREPARE FOR AFTER

- Know which associated risks such as tsunamis, power outages, and landslides may occur after hazards events.
- Check yourself, your family, and your home for damage or injury.
- If you smell gas or hear a hissing sound, open a window and leave the building. This may be indicative of a gas leak or electrical problem. Everyone in your family should know where the gas meter is and how to turn off the gas.
- After an earthquake or flood event, check buildings for damage and use caution when re-entering. After a flood, stay out of any building that has water around it; the building strength may be compromised.

WHY SHOULD **YOU** PREPARE

Your safety is important to the community and to your loved ones. Numerous resources are available within Skagit County that can help you better prepare for a disaster. Disasters happen when people are unprepared. Your family will depend on you in an emergency event, so it is up to you to take preparedness measures now. Preparing also reduces the likelihood of injury, damage to property, and recovery time. Beginning with a few simple steps listed in this brochure is a good start.

The first step to preparedness is being informed about the risks in Skagit County. It is easy to focus on the challenges that we face on a regular basis and ignore the less frequent but more severe natural hazards of this region such as earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, and severe weather.

**“Being prepared
is the best
defense against
disaster”**

- Scott C. Somers, PhD,
American Red Cross
Scientific Advisory Council

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Visit the following website for more information:
<http://skagitcountyhazardpreparedness.weebly.com/>



Skagit County
Department of Emergency Management
2911 E. College Way, Suite B
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
(360) 428-3250

A wealth of information on local hazards and hazard mitigation plans. Online resources available at:

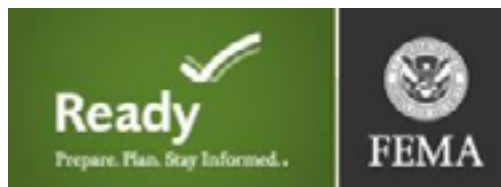
<http://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/EmergencyManagement/main.htm>



A valuable online resource with tips on how to prepare for before, during, and after all Pacific Northwest hazards.

Check them out at:

www.makeitthrough.org



An online resource through FEMA dedicated to preparing, planning, and staying informed. Visit their website at: www.ready.gov

