

Disaster & Emergency Preparedness for the Child Care and Early Learning Community



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WA is at High Risk for Disasters

But **there's a lot we can do** to positively impact the outcome of events.



Preparation matters.



Who depends on you?



Make sure you are prepared at home

- Create a safe environment
 - Bolt, anchor, strap
 - Utility control
- Have a plan
 - Out-of-area contact number
 - Local emergency contacts/helpers
- Store food, water, & other critical supplies

Emergencies vs. Disasters

- Emergencies – generally can expect outside help from first responders
- Disasters – expect to be your own first responder(s) – may not have help from outside agencies for days

Non-Emergencies

www.kingcounty.gov/linksbyzip



www.kingcounty.gov/linksbyzip

➤ **Information for 98 ___ - City/Unincorporated Area**

9-1-1 is for emergencies only: Call 9-1-1 only if you need an immediate response from police, fire or medics.

➤ **Utility Companies**

➤ **Police**

➤ **Fire and EMS**

➤ **Roads, Transportation and Traffic**

➤ **Health and Human Services**

➤ **Other Services**

What might happen at your site?

- Know what events your site is vulnerable to
- Be aware of initial response to different events
- Be prepared for essentials after all events
 - Communication
 - Life safety
 - Ongoing basic needs – water, food, elimination, etc.
 - Shelter-in-place vs. EVACUATION

WHERE COULD YOU GO IF YOU HAD TO LEAVE YOUR SITE?



Relationships

- Establish them before an event
 - local emergency management
 - neighbors
 - local schools
 - others?





Communication

- Have redundant means of communicating with parents and staff
 - Landlines
 - Cell phones
 - Email
 - Pen and Paper
 - Out-of-area contact #s
 - Others?



Additional Considerations for Children with Special Needs

- Create written plan for child around routine and emergency needs. Use resources for general information, but tailor plan to child's individual situation.
- Organize 'personal support network' around child – people familiar with child and aware of child's needs/plan of care.
- Ensure that crucial supplies are available everywhere the child spends time. Include plan/instructions, medications, and any special equipment.

It's Also Worth Remembering:

Children take their emotional cues from adults - so *how* we talk about disaster is important



Talking about potential traumatic events can bring up past life experiences for people – especially traumatic ones

Take care of yourself - remember to breathe

Schools, child care, and other early learning and support programs are vital to the community

What you do everyday is so important



After an event, your preparation

- Allows parents/guardians to return to work and keep community functioning
- Provides a sense of “normalcy” to the children in your care

Preparedness is an ongoing activity

Supplies expire... Staff change...
Families change... People forget...

Prepare as a community.
We're all in this together.



Share your stories!

We love you to hear about your lessons learned and good ideas!



Helpful Websites

- www.seattle.gov/emergency/
 - Seattle Emergency Management
- www.kingcounty.gov/health/childcare
 - Child Care Health Program
- <http://emd.wa.gov/>
 - WA State Emergency Management Division
- <http://www.fema.gov/>
- <http://www.redcross.org/>
- <http://www.pnsn.org/recenteqs/latest.htm>
 - Pacific NW recent earthquakes

Presenter Information

- Seattle Emergency Management
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