



Community Emergency Hubs *Frequently Asked Questions*

How does a Community Emergency Hub differ from an Emergency Communication Hub?

A **Seattle Community Emergency Hub** is a pre-determined location where neighbors and community members are likely to gather to begin exchanging information and resources among themselves without outside assistance from City services.



A **Seattle Emergency Communications Hub** is an enhanced Community Emergency Hub. It has a core of trained volunteers with additional skills who can collect information on local situations, needs, and resources and assist in the allocation of resources to needs. They can relay information between Hubs, the Auxiliary Communications Service, or other locations so that it reaches those in need. Hub volunteers also aid the City of Seattle in encouraging neighbors to be individually and collectively prepared for a disaster. ***The hub mission is accomplished SOLELY through community [volunteers](#).***

What will happen at a hub?

Ideally, people will meet to exchange information and resources and problem-solve with each other.

Will there be food and water there?

Generally, no. The idea is people who gather there share information on what they know. Some hubs may use message boards or other means to relay information through the neighborhood. Some may organize supplies together. It will vary depending on who is there.

Will City representatives be there?

No, but knowing where hubs are can help ensure the City gets critical information out to all parts of the community afterward.



Why is the City asking the community to designate hub locations?

Immediately after a disaster, there will not be enough City resources to help everyone who will need help. Neighbors will rely on each other for the first 7 to 10 days. Identifying hub locations ahead of time lets people know where they can meet with others to help each other.

How do I designate a hub location?

Three steps:

1. Decide what locations in your community would be natural gathering places where people would go to after a major disaster. Examples include: parks, community gardens, faith-based centers, businesses and other public or community-oriented locations.
2. Identify who will be the point of contact for the hub.
3. Fill out the on-line form at: <http://seattleemergencyhubs.org>. Your contact information will be available so other community members can connect with you.

If I am the hub contact, am I committed to do anything there during a disaster?

No, designating a hub creates no other responsibility. It does give neighbors the ability to connect with each other, and the Seattle Office of Emergency Management will know where hubs are located.



How do people find hubs in their area?

The City maintains a PDF map with all of the hubs identified. It is updated once a year and copies are printed and distributed to community members to help promote hub awareness in their neighborhoods.



How many hubs are there now?

There are about 150 hubs throughout the City. The goal is to identify hubs within a half-mile of where people live or work so everyone has a place to go to start helping each another after a disaster.

What if I want to learn more?



1. Sign up for emergency preparedness training and disaster skills workshops taught by the Seattle Office of Emergency Management. Fill out a Training Request form at: <http://seattle.gov/emergency>
2. Apply for a Small Sparks Neighborhood Matching Fund award of up to \$5000 to supplement your hub with tools, equipment or emergency supplies. Go to: <http://seattle.gov/neighborhoods>.
3. Join the “Hub Captains,” an all-volunteer group of community members who meet and train together to promote preparedness in their neighborhoods. They function independently of the City and welcome others to join them. Go to: <http://seattleemergencyhubs.org>]

For more information, contact Sophia Lopez, Community Engagement Manager, Seattle Office of Emergency Management at: Sophia.Lopez@seattle.gov or 206-403-8127. Webpage: <http://seattle.gov/hubs>