



Community Emergency Hubs Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Community Emergency Hub?

It's a place where people gather to give help or get help after a disaster.

What will happen at a hub?

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 primary 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, it simply gives the Seattle Office of Emergency Management a way to know how many hubs are located throughout the City.



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 68 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 Debbie Goetz, Community Planner, Seattle Office of Emergency Management at: debbie.goetz@seattle.gov or 206-684-0517.

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