

# Seattle Neighborhood Preparedness Program

*Getting Ready, Getting Connected, Getting Strong*



The Seattle area is likely to experience a major disaster in the near future. While it is difficult to predict when disasters will happen, the consequences

of disasters are very predictable and therefore, the efforts you make to prepare yourself, your family, your workplace and your neighborhood will go a long way in improving both the response and the recovery of our community.

Earthquakes are the largest and most complex disaster we will have to face. If you and your neighbors are prepared for and ready to respond to an earthquake, you're ready for the consequences of other events such as severe weather and even terrorism.

The City of Seattle has a comprehensive Disaster Readiness and Response plan. This plan allows the City to coordinate resources to assist the needs of the community as quickly and efficiently as possible. However, the nature of disaster itself means there will not be enough resources to help everyone who needs help.

That's why it's so important to be able to take care of yourself for a minimum of three days. It may take three days or more to open a shelter in your area, or to restore City services such as electricity, natural gas or water.

Disaster preparedness is a partnership between the City of Seattle and its citizens. Preparing in advance and organizing to take care of each other will help the City utilize its resources to help the most people as soon as possible.

Benefits of organizing your neighborhood:

- You and your family become personally prepared.
- Creates an opportunity to get to know your neighbors.
- Increases efficiency of responding to the immediate needs of neighbors following a disaster.
- Gives you peace of mind knowing that you are able to take care of yourselves.
- It's Fun!

## Personal Preparedness Check List:

Be prepared to be on your own for a minimum of three days in these three ways!

- Put together a disaster supplies kit
- Have a family disaster plan
- Get organized to help yourself and others. For more information on how to get prepared for disasters:



[www.seattle.gov/emergency](http://www.seattle.gov/emergency)  
206-233-7123

Seattle Office of Emergency Management  
2320 4th Ave  
Seattle, WA 98121-1718



## Seattle Neighborhoods Actively Prepare

*“Working together  
to be the best prepared city  
in the Nation.”*

Mayor Greg Nickels

**Getting Prepared is a SNAP.**

**Telephone: (206) 233-7123**

## SNAP #1

### Getting Connected



Invite your neighbors to get prepared with you!

It doesn't really matter how many households are in your neighborhood group; however, the ideal number

seems to be 10 to 20 households. If you already have a Neighborhood Block Watch program, that's a good start.

Once you have identified the neighbors who want to be included in the preparedness efforts, create a list of names, addresses, phone numbers and emails. Choose a neighborhood leader and someone who will be the point of contact with the Seattle Office of Emergency Management (OEM).

These two contacts will be on an e-mail distribution list for receiving newsletters and other program information from the Seattle OEM to share with the rest of the neighbors in your group. E-mail your neighborhood information and your two neighborhood contacts to [snap@seattle.gov](mailto:snap@seattle.gov).

## SNAP #2

### Getting Organized

Now that you've identified your neighborhood, it's time to get organized. This is actually the most beneficial part of the program because it helps the neighborhood build relationships and a sense of "team". There are a few tasks that need to be accomplished in this step:

Task 1: Create a map of your neighborhood and identify the houses that are part of the program. On your map:

- Identify the houses that have natural gas and where the shut-offs are located. Also locate the shut-offs for the water to the house (at the house, not at the street) and the electrical panel.



- Identify a house or location in the neighborhood where everyone will meet after they have taken care of themselves, their family and their house.
- Identify a house or location where first aid will be given.

- Identify a "shelter house" where neighbors who need special attention and shelter will be taken.

Task 2: Complete a neighborhood survey, identifying those in your neighborhood who might need additional assistance. This might be people with limited mobility, sight or hearing impaired, children, etc. These are the neighbors who will be taken to the "shelter house" during the immediate response. Also identify any pets that are in the neighborhood that may need care if the disaster happens when the homeowners are not at home.

Task 3: Create a plan to respond to the disaster. The response plan is based on the types of consequences or problems you anticipate will be happening in your neighborhood. The jobs will be broken into two basic categories:

Response Team Tasks: These are tasks that require teams of at least two to accomplish. This includes Utility Control, Search and Rescue and Damage Assessment.

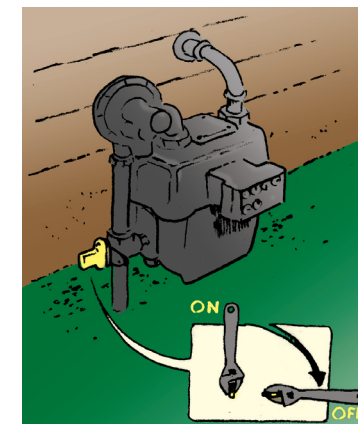
Care Team Tasks: These are tasks that involve taking care of people. This includes First Aid, Shelter and Care, and Communications.

How you organize is up to your neighborhood. Some neighborhood groups are large enough to have a team for each of the tasks listed above. Smaller neighborhoods combine tasks together so they can be accomplished with less people. Others have two groups and a leader for each. The choice is yours. There are checklists for each of the tasks on the Seattle OEM website to help you better understand each of the tasks and identify any safety equipment necessary for the tasks.

## SNAP #3

### Getting Confident

Now comes the fun part and the most important part of the Neighborhood Preparedness Program. If you never practice your plan, the chance of it working on the day of the disaster is limited. Practicing will insure that people will know their roles and responsibilities, that the mapping of your neighborhood is accurate and that you have the safety equipment needed to accomplish the tasks. When you are ready to practice your plan, contact the Seattle OEM office at [snap@seattle.gov](mailto:snap@seattle.gov) or 206-233-7123 and request a neighborhood drill kit. The kit will include directions for how to administer the drill in your neighborhood, the scenario and objectives for the drill and directions for evaluating the drill. Once you have received the drill kit, look over the objectives and have a pre-drill meeting to discuss the objectives and finalize any steps that need to be taken in order to have a successful drill. Then the neighborhood decides on the date and time of the drill and maybe even a celebration party after the event is done! The drills are designed



to take no more than one hour to complete. Afterwards, it's important to make time to talk about the drill, the lessons learned and make any changes to the plan if needed.