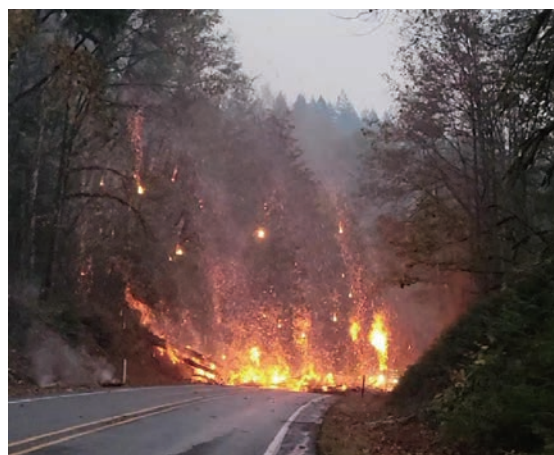


# SNOHOMISH COUNTY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

*Learn How To Get Ready, Respond, Stay Safe*

**GUIDE 2024**

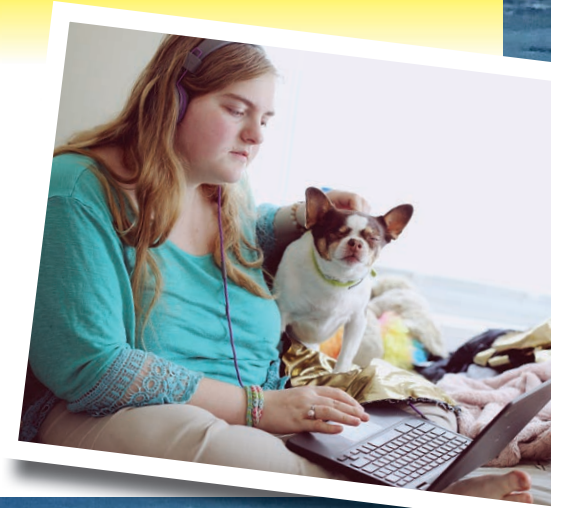




# Are you prepared for a health care emergency?

## PREPARE

- ☐ Make sure you get regular check-ups, vaccinations and recommended health screenings.
- ☐ Stay active—even short walks can help better your health.
- ☐ Have a cold/flu kit at home with a thermometer, over-the-counter medications, soup, drinks and comfort items.
- ☐ Keep copies of insurance cards or important medical records handy.
- ☐ If you rely on medical equipment powered by electricity, make sure you have a back-up power source or reliable transportation to the nearest shelter. Keep a log of models and serial numbers of your assistive devices.
- ☐ If you have pets or a service animal, prepare a kit that includes their food, water, and essentials.



## LEARN

- ☐ Learn the basics of first aid. Keep a kit in your home and car.
- ☐ Know the signs of a stroke and heart attack. Consider taking a CPR course.
- ☐ Teach kids what to do in the case of a medical emergency, including how to call 911.
- ☐ Know where to go for a minor illness or injury (urgent care) versus a medical emergency (emergency room).

## CARE

- ☐ Keep a list of household members' medications, allergies and emergency contacts handy for first responders.
- ☐ Create a support system. Check on neighbors in extreme weather (both hot and cold) and during or after emergency situations.



For more information on how to keep you and your family healthy, visit our website:



# How ready is Snohomish County for wildfire?



The Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management has launched a first-ever survey to determine just how ready area residents and businesses are to safely live with rising wildfire risks.

Results of the online survey will provide a snapshot of the area's level of preparedness and help to shape a countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan, said Lucia Schmit, the County's director of Emergency Management.

"Managing wildfire risk is not something any one organization or individual can do alone," Schmit said. "Wildfires don't care about property lines or who owns what: they burn whatever fuel they encounter. Only by working together can we deny fires the fuel they seek and better protect our communities. We need your input to do that."

The survey will remain open into November at: [bit.ly/snoco\\_wildfire\\_survey](https://bit.ly/snoco_wildfire_survey)

"The ecology of our Pacific Northwest forests has been an area of study and passion for me. The wild areas of Snohomish County are part of what makes this such a remarkable place to live, but we cannot ignore the growing risk of wildfire where our communities and forests meet," Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers said. "I hope people will take time to fill out this survey so we as a County can better understand and prepare for that risk."

A team at Emergency Management is now engaged in a two-year planning effort to comprehensively examine wildfire protection needs and strategies across the community. Key partners include area firefighters, state and federal agencies, local tribes, nonprofits, residents and landowners.

The survey is among the first public-facing pieces of the project. The work already has determined that roughly

130,000 people – more than 15% of the county's population – live in the wildland urban interface, the places where houses, farms and businesses stand amid the trees.

While protection challenges are believed greatest in those areas, wildfires can affect everyone. The 2022 Bolt Creek Fire, for example, scorched more than 14,700 acres across east King and Snohomish counties, forcing multiple safety closures that blocked U.S. 2. During the fire's six-week run, smoke repeatedly degraded air quality to dangerous levels across much of the community.

The wildland fire season in Snohomish County historically has stretched from early July through the rains of fall. Warmer, drier weather in recent years has brought change in fire frequency and intensity.

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan aims to prioritize wildfire risk-reduction efforts, build fire-adapted communities and improve wildfire response. Among other things, the survey will:

- Evaluate each community's level of wildfire preparedness, including prevention efforts.
- Gauge residents' familiarity and knowledge of evacuation routes and alternatives.
- Identify the level of support needed to help everyone get out safely during wildfire, regardless of mobility or medical challenges.
- Assess insurance coverage among residents.
- Find options to better support wildfire risk-reduction strategies such as community chipping programs.
- Prepare for the transportation of livestock during wildfires.

Learn more about the Community Wildfire Protection Plan project: [bit.ly/SnoCo\\_CWPP](https://bit.ly/SnoCo_CWPP) ■



## Bringing order to chaos after any disaster.



**FIRE**



**WATER**



**STORM**



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# Do you know what hazards are nearby?

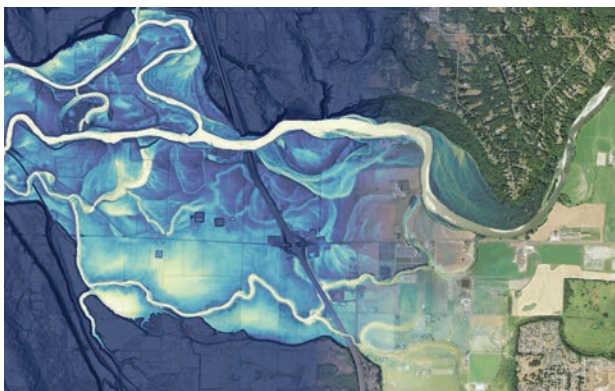
**S**nohomish County is a beautiful place to call home. Its landscape – from the steep bluffs bordering Puget Sound to the ice-clad flanks of the Glacier Peak volcano – was shaped by powerful natural forces that are active still.

Living here means living with the potential for natural disasters. Among the greatest concerns are earthquakes, severe weather, flooding, wildfire, pandemics and landslides, based on estimated risks to safety and economic damage. Human-caused hazards are also possible, including dam failure, cybersecurity threats and active assailants.

The Snohomish County Hazard Viewer is an interactive mapping tool designed to help people to better understand and to prepare for managing risks.

Information is presented online in a way that makes it easy to identify potential nearby hazards, to learn more about how these risks are likely to be encountered and to act on that information.

The viewer allows address-level searching, making it easy to focus on potential hazards where



Visit the Snohomish County Hazard Viewer:  
<https://snoco.org/hazards>

you live and work, as well as along your commute and the many other places life takes you, including schools, stadiums, shopping areas, hiking trails and campgrounds.

The Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management launched the first edition of the hazard

viewer in 2019 and upgraded in 2023. The viewer incorporates the latest data and maps being used by federal, state, local and tribal partners to guide response and mitigation efforts. It also incorporates all 13 of the community challenges identified in the 2020 update to the Snohomish County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

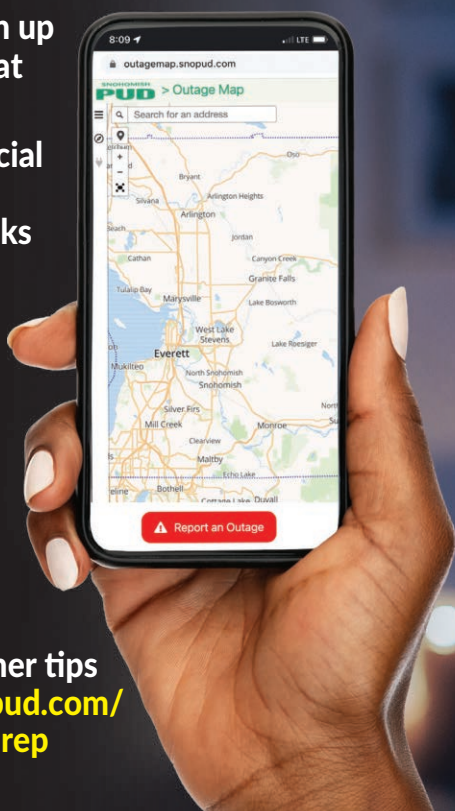
Visit the hazard viewer to learn about these hazards and more:

- Earthquake risk, including maps showing known fault lines, soils prone to instability during shaking and information on historical damage.
- Flooding, including the locations of flood plains and more dangerous floodways.
- Wildfire risk areas.
- Geologic hazards, including potential landslide zones and areas where lahar mudflows could travel during an eruption of the Glacier Peak volcano erupts.
- Locations at risk of tsunami inundation.

Find the Snohomish County Hazard Viewer here:  
<https://snoco.org/hazards> ■

## Power Outage Tips

- » Report your outage and sign up for outage text alerts 24/7 at [outagemap.snopud.com](https://outagemap.snopud.com)
- » We regularly update our social media during storms – visit [snopud.com/outages](https://snopud.com/outages) for links
- » Not online? Report your outage by phone at **425-783-1001**
- » **NEVER approach a fallen power line.** Stay at least 30 feet away and call 425-783-1001 to report the location. Call 911 if an emergency.



**SNOHOMISH COUNTY**  
**PUD**  
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1

Get other tips  
at [snopud.com/stormprep](https://snopud.com/stormprep)

## ARE YOU READY FOR THE NEXT DISASTER?



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Emergency Management



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- ✓ Customizable plans
- ✓ Preparedness resources

[www.marysvillewa.gov/preparedness](https://www.marysvillewa.gov/preparedness)

# When it is time to move, remember Ready, Set, Go!

Evacuation alerts in Snohomish County follow the Ready, Set, Go! model. They may be used during emergencies involving wildfire, flooding, hazardous materials and other threats when it may be critical to get away from danger fast. Here's how they work:

## READY

Get ready to leave; it may become necessary. Also known as Level 1, this alert occurs when there is no immediate danger to people or to property but a threat may be headed that way. This is the time for people to scout evacuation routes, to firm up their personal plans for leaving the area, to gather up necessities, to check on neighbors who may need help and to take steps to keep pets and livestock safe. It corresponds to a Level 1 alert elsewhere

### Key steps:

- Sign up for SnoCoAlerts if you haven't already.
- Monitor news, weather and other reports.

## SET

Get set to leave with little notice. Also known as Level 2, this alert occurs when there is significant risk to an area and a high probability there will be need to evacuate. People should prepare to go at any time. First responders may begin making door-to-door notifications. Those who may take longer, including older people and those living with disabilities, should leave now. It's as time to move livestock.

### Key steps:

- Make sure you are signed up for SnoCoAlerts and that your information is up to date.
- Keep your phone on and charged.
- Pack up important papers, pets and prescriptions.
- Assemble your emergency kit, including portable radio and flashlight.

## GO!

Also known as Level 3. Evacuate. There is immediate danger. People need to load up their families and pets and leave using pre-designated routes.

### Key steps:

- Leave now!
- Follow emergency instructions from any first responders you encounter.
- Drive with your headlights on.
- Once in a safe location, check in with family and friends to let them know your location. ■

## Sign up for SnoCoAlerts to stay informed, assist first responders in keeping you safer

SnoCoAlerts is the county's early warning and notification system for delivering urgent emergency information, right to your cellphone.

This robust system is relied upon by emergency managers and other first responders as one of the key tools to keep you informed during a disaster.

Signing up for SnoCoAlerts is quick and easy. Just go to this link to begin: <http://snocoalerts.snoco.org>

The system is powered by Smart911. Your zip code and street address are used to tailor alerts for where you live. You can choose which hazards result in alerts. You also can add more alerts or update your contact methods at any time.

Even if you don't use a cellphone, you still should consider signing up. Through the Smart911 portal, you are

given the option of securely providing critical information that can be shared with emergency responders. Among the data to consider providing:

- People living in your household.
- Phone numbers associated with your family.
- Pets, service animals, and livestock.
- Medical conditions and allergies.
- Medications and medical equipment.
- Property details, layout, and utility information.
- Access to vehicles, their descriptions.
- Your ability, or inability, to evacuate if necessary.
- Emergency contacts.

All of that information can assist emergency dispatchers in determining how best to get help to you and your family during an emergency. ■

## Contacting 911? Know this:

### Stay Calm

When you call, stay calm and answer the questions from the dispatcher. Be prepared to follow instructions and keep answers brief and to the point. Do not hang up until you are instructed to do so.

### Stay on the Line

If you call 911 by accident, stay on the line to tell the dispatcher you are fine. If you hang up they may send officers to check on you.

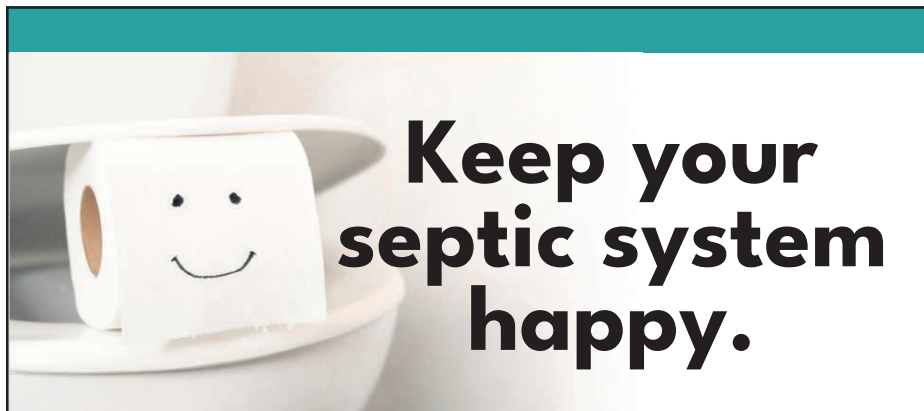
### Know Your Location

911 can't always access your location. Be prepared to describe where you are to the dispatcher. Use landmarks and street names if no address is available.

### Not an Emergency?

If there is no immediate threat to life or property but you still need 911 services, you may call 425-407-3999. Examples include reporting illegal fireworks or a past robbery.





## Keep your septic system happy.

**Snohomish County residents can earn up to \$500 in rebates for:**

**Inspections | Minor Repairs  
Riser Installation | Pumping**

### STEP 1

Take care of your system

### STEP 2

Take our Septic Care workshop

### STEP 3

Apply for rebates

**Learn more & apply at  
SavvySeptic.org**

### Questions?

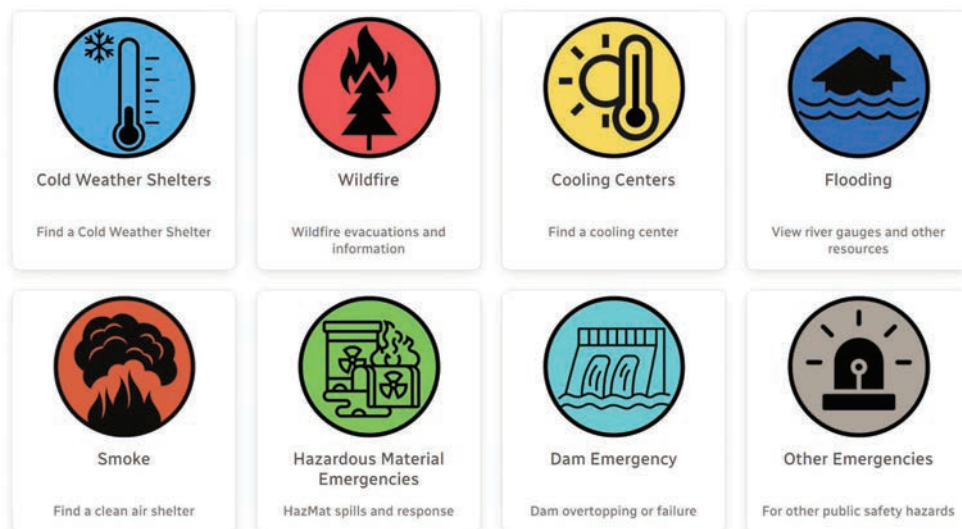
Email [savvy.septic@snoco.org](mailto:savvy.septic@snoco.org) or call 425-388-3636

**Have a failing system?** We also offer low-income grants for major repairs and system replacements for eligible homeowners. Visit our website for eligibility requirements and more information.

Funding: This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement PC-01J89801 to the Washington State Department of Health. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.



# Public Safety Hub offers real-time disaster information



Visit <https://snoco.org/safety> to learn more

**W**hen disasters happen, there is a place to check first in Snohomish County for the information you need to stay safe.

The Snohomish County Public Safety Hub is a digital space designed for sharing emergency information, including real-time mapping of hazards as they unfold. Find it here: <https://snoco.org/safety>

Snohomish County Emergency Management worked with community partners to launch the hub in 2022. It contains up-to-date information about available cold weather shelters and cooling centers, as well as advice for minimizing risk when wildfire smoke fills the skies.

The hub is built around geographic information system (GIS) software that makes it possible to swiftly create high-accuracy maps. That can be key when first responders are urging people to shelter in place or evacuate from an area. Because the hub is online, links can be included in wireless emergency alerts sent to phones, or in social

media, providing quick access to additional information that simply can't be conveyed in short messages.

Sections of the hub are ready to use during wildfires, flooding, hazardous materials events and other emergencies. During a disaster, Emergency Management works with partners to share the information people need.

The 2022 Bolt Creek Fire saw hundreds of thousands of visits to the hub by people seeking reliable, up-to-date evacuation guidance. Response personnel updated the site to continuously track the fire's footprint and reflect the latest guidance from firefighters. The hub also saw heavy use during record flooding along the Stillaguamish River in December 2023.

Work continues to make the hub an important part of the community's toolkit, including translation of materials into languages other than English. Some content already is available in Spanish, Russian, Ukrainian, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Korean and Tagalog. ■

# When disaster strikes: Prepare, Act, Survive

Free courses in Marysville, Snohomish



Students practice cribbing to lift a simulated collapsed structure, and improvised tools to bust through walls, including just a pencil.

**T**raining and practice can help you become more confident when faced with natural and human-caused emergencies. Register now for **When Disaster Strikes: Prepare, Act, Survive**, a great hands-on training opportunity.

Snohomish County is again working with Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service and community

partners to host sessions of this FREE 1.5 day weekend course. It is designed to better prepare people ages 14+ to help themselves, their families and others during disasters. The Marysville training is offered in coordination with the City of Marysville and the Center for Independence and geared toward students with disabilities or access and functional

needs, their families and caregivers. ■

## Register and learn more at the links:

► Marysville – Sept. 28-29, 2024

<https://bit.ly/46WVObD>

► Snohomish – Oct. 5-6, 2024

<https://bit.ly/3yA48kM>

## Flooding part of living here

**M**ore than 75,000 people in Snohomish County live and work in places where potentially devastating floods occur. The major river basins – the Snohomish and Stillaguamish – on average flood every three to five years, often at the same time. Big creeks draining through south Everett, Mill Creek, Lynnwood and Bothell also bear watching.

Since 1962, the county has weathered 18 floods large enough to be presidentially declared disasters. The worst arrived during winter 1975, causing \$42 million damage and the deaths of 3,500 head of livestock. December 2023 saw record-level flooding on the Stillaguamish River with the river rising higher and faster than predicted.

Flood season here typically begins in October and lasts into spring. The threat is greatest between late November and early February. That's when storms heading inland from the Pacific Ocean bring heavy rains and mild

temperatures, often melting mountain snows and spurring rivers to jump over their banks.

While heavy downpours can produce flash flooding, particularly in some urban neighborhoods, there usually is some warning that high water is coming. That means there is time to prepare.

The county uses SnoCoAlerts to warn people of emergencies, including flooding. Sign-up now at: <http://snocoalerts.snoco.org> ■

### Other resources:

► Snohomish County Public Safety Hub Flood Page: <https://bit.ly/snocoflooding>

► Snohomish County Real Time Flood Information: <https://snohomish.onerain.com>

► Snohomish County Flood Information Center: <https://bit.ly/3IWJegx>

► Snohomish County Road Closures: <https://bit.ly/3aJOUh6>

**Do You Really Know How Deep the Water Is?**

<p><b>6 inches</b> of fast-moving water can knock over and carry away an adult.</p>	<p><b>12 inches</b> of fast-moving water can carry away a small car.</p>	<p><b>18-24 inches</b> of fast-moving water can carry away most large SUVs, vans and trucks.</p>
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# A little preparation goes a long way in managing severe weather

In Case of Emergency

Are you Prepared?

### Alternative Water Source



A typical home water heater can provide 30 or more gallons of clean drinking water. To use the water in your tank, first turn off the electricity or gas to the water heater. Then, close the supply valve to preserve the cleanliness of the water in the tank. Next, get the air out of the tank by opening any hot-water tap such as the kitchen sink. (Caution: The water coming out of the tank may be very hot.) You can use a short water hose (e.g., the supply hose to a washing machine) to drain the water from the tank. Use a screwdriver or coin to operate the drainage valve. If you do not have a hose to transfer the water to jugs or pots, use a shallow pan to collect the water. Allow the tank to fill before restoring power to the water heater.

### Radio, flashlight and batteries



1 gallon of water per person per day.

Include a battery-powered or hand-cranked flashlight and radio and extra batteries.

### Food



At least a 14-day supply of nonperishable food and water. Add a can opener, scissors or knife for cutting open foil and plastic pouches, and disposable plates, cups and utensils. Remember food for infants, those on special diets, pets. Keep a list of dates when food items need to be replaced.

### Important Information



Phone numbers, family records, insurance and financial documents and copies of passports, identification documents, Social Security cards, medications, immunization records for people and pets, etc.

### First Aid Supplies



Bandages, washcloths, cleaning agent/soap, hydrogen peroxide/isopropyl alcohol, antiseptic cream and aspirin or an aspirin substitute.

**14 days worth of food and water.**

For more on creating a disaster preparedness kit visit:  
[mil.wa.gov/personal](http://mil.wa.gov/personal)

Everyone who lives in Snohomish County gets familiar with severe weather. Over the course of a winter, high winds, torrential rains, ice and snow can start to feel like unwelcome guests. Storms often cause millions of dollars in property damage. They sometimes take lives. Experts say the community averages at least one high-wind event annually and calculate a 58% probability of a severe winter storm any given year.

Storms not only knock out electricity, they often leave live power lines across roadways and topple trees into homes. The populations most vulnerable to winter storms include people who are very young or elderly, those living with life-threatening medical conditions, low-income families and those who are isolated either because they live in remote areas or do not speak English.

For extended power outages, a portable generator or large portable battery pack can help power necessary equipment and appliances. The Snohomish County PUD urges against plugging a generator into your home's electrical system unless you've had a transfer switch installed by a licensed electrician. Also, never use a portable generator inside your home

or garage. Generators should be used outside in a well-ventilated area. If you purchase a lithium-ion battery pack, make sure it has UL certification.

### Be prepared for power outages

- Access PUD's 24/7 outage map to report an outage or learn more about restoration time frames: <https://outagemap.snopud.com>
- The PUD recently launched outage text alerts so customers can receive updated information when they lose power. To receive text alerts, report an outage through the PUD's outage map and opt-in to receive outages texts.
- Check generator for safety. Is exhaust directed away from the home?
- Flashlights are safer than candles.
- Avoid fallen power lines.
- No grills or camp stoves indoors. Carbon monoxide is deadly.
- Have a plan, or a backup power source, if you rely on a medical device that uses electricity.
- If the power goes out, food should be safe in your refrigerator up to four hours. After that, discard meat, poultry, fish, eggs and leftovers. If in doubt, throw it out. ■



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# Get ready for winter travel

When it snows in hilly Snohomish County, roads can quickly become difficult to navigate. Here are some tips to help you get ready for whatever the coming winter has in store:

- Winterize your car – Install all-season tires or snow tires. Check and fill coolant, also known as antifreeze. It helps keep the engine from damage during cold temperatures.
- Check road conditions and weather forecasts. Stay home if conditions are unsafe.
- Keep your gas tank topped off. You never know how long you may be stuck in snarled traffic.
- Allow extra time to get to your destination.
- Avoid unfamiliar back roads.
- Tell a friend or family member where you are headed and check in with them when you arrive at your destination.

- Build an emergency car kit and carry extra clothing, water and snacks if you use public transit.
- Slow down and increase following distance when driving on ice or snow.
- Try not to stop if you're driving up a hill (unless you have to).
- Give snowplows plenty of room. Never drive next to a snowplow. Never drive into a cloud of snow thrown up by a snowplow.
- Turn off cruise control when driving on slippery roads.
- Keep braking and accelerating smooth – steady and firm does it.
- Know your limits and that of your vehicle.

To view current travel conditions on an interactive map or search by route to get a list of travel alerts, cameras, truck restrictions and weather, visit <https://wsdot.com/travel/real-time> ■

## Winter Driving Safety:

### Build An Emergency Car Kit

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ■ Water in small bottles so it can thaw quickly | ■ Energy-boosting snacks               |
| ■ Road flares or reflective hazard triangles    | ■ Tow strap                            |
| ■ Jacket, winter hat and gloves                 | ■ Tire pressure gauge and tire sealant |
| ■ Warm blanket or sleeping bag                  | ■ Battery-operated weather radio       |
| ■ Pocket knife or multi-tool                    | ■ Tire jack and lug wrench             |
| ■ Spare mobile phone charger                    | ■ Hand warmers                         |
| ■ Snow shovel and ice scraper                   | ■ First aid kit                        |
| ■ Sand or kitty litter                          | ■ Personal medications                 |
| ■ Jump cables or portable battery charger       | ■ Tire chains                          |
| ■ Head lamp or flashlight                       | ■ Waterproof shoes                     |
|   | ■ Emergency contact list               |

## When the Big One hits, you will be glad to be two weeks ready

A recent analysis shows many roads and bridges in Snohomish County, and elsewhere around Puget Sound, likely will become impassable after a major earthquake due to collapse, fallen debris and stalled or abandoned vehicles.

The broken transportation system could isolate people in what planners are calling population islands. It may be days, weeks – perhaps even longer – before repairs are possible and normal travel can resume.

Understanding what could happen in a megaquake is the first step in becoming more resilient during such a disaster.

Snohomish County Emergency Management has created an online tool that makes it easy to learn more: <https://snoco.org/megaquake>

Megaquake Population Islands in Snohomish County is an interactive map that allows you to search for addresses and determine the likely boundaries of



Shaking intensity of a major earthquake is predicted to be Strong or Very Strong in much of Snohomish County

potential population islands. The map also contains demographic information on people that likely would be on each island and forecasts potential locations where relief efforts may be staged. The map is available in English and Spanish.

A key takeaway from the analysis is how important it is for people to try to become two weeks ready for disaster, with supplies of food and medicine and options for accessing potable water.

The map was developed as part of a

larger regional effort focused on better understanding impacts from the Big One – a magnitude 9.0 megaquake along the Cascadia Subduction Zone off the Pacific Northwest coast.

Scientists say the region is overdue for a Cascadia Subduction Zone catastrophe. The fault typically cuts loose every couple of centuries, most recently in 1700. When that next occurs, the ground is expected to shake for up to several minutes. The energy released under the Pacific Ocean almost certainly would spawn tsunami waves, inundating coastal areas, including some low-lying places here.

The population island planning work was begun in 2019 under a Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Snohomish County was chosen to lead the effort, which involved eight central Puget Sound counties, five cities and the Tulalip Tribes. ■



# Emergency preparedness is for everybody

In Snohomish County, preparing for emergencies is everyone's business.

Experience shows us that many people require extra assistance responding to and recovering from disasters. That's frequently related to access and functional needs, temporary or permanent, that may limit their ability to act, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Those likely facing the biggest challenges include people who live with disabilities, those who are elderly or very young, who may be limited in their ability to speak or hear English, or who struggle with uncertain transportation and financial resources.

An estimated 35% of the population here lives with a disability or some other type of access and functional need, data suggest. Consider taking these steps now before an emergency, particularly if you or somebody you care about may require additional help:

- ▶ Sign up for SnoCoAlerts. Not only does this ensure you will receive vital updates during emergencies, you can also opt to provide first responders with information on any access or functional needs you, or others in your household, may have.
- ▶ Write out an emergency plan for your household.

Practice the plan and share it with close contacts. Consider practicing with those in your trusted social network (family, friends, close co-workers, etc.).

▶ Think through the details of your everyday life. If there are people who assist and/or interact with you on a daily basis, list who they are and how you will contact them in an emergency.

▶ Think about the modes of transportation you use and what alternatives exist. If you require handicap-accessible transportation, be sure the alternatives you identify meet your needs. Public transit agencies and transportation aid organizations, such as the Snohomish County Transportation Coalition (<https://www.gosnotrac.org>) and the Regional Alliance for Equitable Transportation (<https://www.kcmobility.org/raret>), maintain good lists of resources and helpful online tools.

▶ Create an emergency kit to be two weeks prepared. Make sure it includes a two-week supply of medication and any tools or aids you may need. For example, if you have service dogs be sure to have enough food and supplies to support them as well.

▶ If you are dependent on life-sustaining treatment or equipment, such as a dialysis machine, learn the

locations and availability of more than one facility. Communicate with the alternate locations now to determine how best to integrate into your emergency plan.

▶ Make sure someone in your personal support network has an extra key to your home and knows where you keep your emergency supplies. Teach them how to use any lifesaving equipment or administer medicine in case of an emergency.

▶ If you use a wheelchair, oxygen or other medical equipment, show friends how to use these devices so they can help you move swiftly if it becomes necessary to evacuate from your home.

▶ If comfortable, educate your employer and co-workers about any disability you may have and let them know what assistance you may need during an emergency.

▶ Your family may not be together when disaster strikes. Plan how you will contact one another and review what you will do in different situations.

▶ Think about how you may be able to assist others during an emergency. We are in it together when things get difficult and our community more resilient when each of us is prepared. ■

## Your phone can now warn you to Drop, Cover and Hold On before ground shakes

Science has yet to find a way to accurately predict when an earthquake will occur, but a monitoring system now operating in Washington can give you a few critical seconds to prepare before the ground begins to move.

The USGS ShakeAlert™ Earthquake Early Warning system became available for all mobile phones in the state in 2021. It relies on a network of sensors designed to detect and provide data about earthquakes in progress. Captured Information includes estimates on earthquake size, precise location and the shaking it may produce.

Because the alerts can travel faster than quake waves in the ground, ShakeAlert promises a few moments warning, allowing people to Drop, Cover and Hold On. Other automatic capabilities are potentially game changing for mitigating earthquake damage in the region. The system provides data that can help slow trains to prevent derailments, open fire station doors so they don't jam shut, activate hospital generators, and close valves to protect water systems.

There are three different ways you can get the alerts on

your mobile phone:

1. The Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system that can send messages to all phones, so long as the recipient hasn't opted out. Think: An Amber alert, but for an earthquake.
2. Built-in software on Android Phones
3. Via the new MyShake App.

The MyShake App must be downloaded and installed to work. Likewise, it is a good idea to check your phone to confirm that it remains configured to receive WEA messages. Learn more: [mil.wa.gov/alerts](https://mil.wa.gov/alerts)

If shaking from an earthquake is expected at your location, the message to your phone will say:

- **English:** Earthquake Detected! Drop, Cover, Hold On. Protect Yourself. -USGS ShakeAlert
- **Spanish:** Terremoto detectado! Agachese, cubrase, sujetese. Protejase. -USGS ShakeAlert

The Pacific Northwest Seismic Network has a detailed explanation of ShakeAlert and its capabilities: [pnsn.org/pnsn-data-products/earthquake-early-warning](https://pnsn.org/pnsn-data-products/earthquake-early-warning) ■



**Fire & Water - Cleanup & Restoration™**  
SERVPRO® of North Everett / Lake Stevens / Monroe

**(360) 243-8313**  
[tlong@servproeverettwa.com](mailto:tlong@servproeverettwa.com)  
[servproeverettwa.com](https://servproeverettwa.com)

**MEMBERS OF THE DISASTER RECOVERY TEAM**

<b>Restoration:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fire, Smoke and Soot</li><li>• Water Removal and Dehumidification</li><li>• Mold Mitigation and Remediation</li><li>• Catastrophic Storm Response</li><li>• Move Outs and Contents Restoration</li><li>• Electronics and Equipment</li><li>• Document Drying</li><li>• Contents Claim Inventory Service</li></ul>	<b>Cleaning:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Air Ducts and HVAC</li><li>• Biohazard, Crime Scene and Vandalism</li><li>• Carpet, Upholstery, Drapes and Blinds</li><li>• Ceilings, Walls and Hard Floors</li><li>• Deodorization</li></ul>
<b>Construction Services:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rebuild</li><li>• Remodel</li><li>• Custom Repairs</li></ul>	



# Plan ahead to take care of your pets and animals



**P**lan to take your pets with you in an emergency. If it is not safe for you to stay, it is not safe for them either.

- ▶ Know which hotels and motels along your escape route will accept you and your pets in an emergency. Call ahead for reservations if you know you may need to evacuate. Ask if no-pet policies could be waived in an emergency.
- ▶ Most Red Cross shelters CANNOT accept pets because of health and safety concerns and other considerations. Service animals that assist people with disabilities are allowed in Red Cross shelters.
- ▶ Know which friends, relatives, boarding facilities, animal shelters or veterinarians can care for your animals in an emergency, including livestock. Having spent time considering everything, including loading and transporting animals, will be key when time is short.
- ▶ Check ahead for pet-friendly hotels/motels. Prepare a list with phone numbers. Do the same for locations where you plan to take livestock.
- ▶ Although your animals may be more comfortable together, be prepared to house them separately.
- ▶ Include your pets in evacuation drills so they become used to entering and traveling in their carriers calmly.
- ▶ Make sure your pet's vaccinations are current and all dogs and cats are wearing collars with securely fastened

and up-to-date identification. Many pet shelters require proof of current vaccinations to reduce the spread of disease.

- ▶ Consider having your pet "microchipped" by your veterinarian.
- ▶ The behavior of pets may change dramatically after a disaster, becoming aggressive or defensive, so be aware of their well-being and protect them from hazards to ensure the safety of other people and animals.
- ▶ Watch your animals closely and keep them under your direct control as fences and gates may have been damaged.
- ▶ Pets may become disoriented, particularly if the disaster has affected scent markers that normally allow them to find their home.
- ▶ Be aware of hazards at nose and paw or hoof level, particularly debris, spilled chemicals, fertilizers and other substances that might not seem to be dangerous to humans.
- ▶ Consult your veterinarian if any behavior problems persist.
- ▶ Bring pets inside so you won't have to search for them if you have to leave. ■



## Portable Pet Emergency Kit Checklist

- Important pet documents (Shot records, ownership papers, microchip registration, phone numbers of your vet and "pet buddy" and a current photo of each pet).
- Water, food, and bowls
- Disinfectant and cleanser to handle animal waste properly.
- Cat litter, disposable litter pans and plastic bags.
- Pet carrier
- Towel and blankets, toys, brushes and combs.
- Medications
- Leashes and collars with current license, identification and rabies tags.
- First aid supplies including bandages, adhesive tape, scissors, gauze, antiseptic, ice pack, tweezers and antiseptic ointment.



# Message from the Snohomish County Executive

# DAVE SOMERS



Dear Fellow Resident,

Our summer months are generally very dry. Our winters can bring snow and deep freezes. Spring brings torrential rain. Falls can bring any of the above. Wildfires, winter storms, and floods are perennial hazards. We also need to worry about volcanoes, earthquakes, and other catastrophic disasters. Even with these threats, we aren't defenseless. We can be prepared, and there is no time like right now to start on your preparedness journey.

If you need to know how or want to make your family even more resilient, then you have come to the right place. Look no further than these pages and our emergency management website: <https://bit.ly/3RvRilQ>.

We hope that nothing bad happens to us, Snohomish County, or our region. But hope isn't going to make us resilient or help our families survive when disaster does strike, as it inevitably will. That's why we have the Department of Emergency Management working day (and night) to ensure we are as prepared as possible. Please do your part, and together we'll make it through whatever comes our way.

Sincerely,

*Dave Somers*  
Snohomish County Executive

