



# A Community Emergency Preparedness Guide

Prepared by the  
Washington State  
Emergency  
Management Division



## WHY BE 2 WEEKS READY

Because of Washington's diverse geology and extreme weather patterns, communities across the state are vulnerable to disasters.

Washington has 3,000 miles of shoreline that is at-risk of tsunamis, five active volcanoes, and the second highest earthquake risk in the United States – along with other hazards – that will leave communities isolated and relying on each other.

A connected community will be able to respond to and recover quicker from the effects of a disaster and save lives.

Communities will most likely be based on geography – neighbors helping neighbors – but they can be based on shared backgrounds, common interests, or faith groups.

**Now is the time to engage your community and work together to get prepared!**

***"It's going to be neighbors taking care of neighbors."***

– Robert Ezelle, Director, Washington  
Emergency Management Division

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### Prepare Over Time

Preparedness is a journey. Start where you are today and prepare over time.

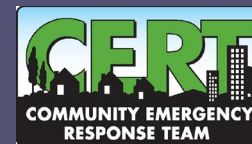


Use our Prepare in a Year guide or go at a pace that works for you!

Learn more at [mil.wa.gov/personal](https://mil.wa.gov/personal)



Learn steps you can take to prepare for emergencies. Download materials, watch videos, and continue your preparedness journey.



Check with your local emergency management office to learn about joining a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) or other training and volunteer opportunities.

Learn more at  
[mil.wa.gov/preparedness](https://mil.wa.gov/preparedness)



# PREPARING YOUR COMMUNITY

## Get started:

- Talk to your community about emergency preparedness. Don't be discouraged if it takes time.
- Set up a social event such as a potluck. Start a community plan.
- Write down the names and contacts of the people in your community.
- Print out a map of your neighborhood and mark where your members live.
- Learn what community members' needs are and what skills and resources they can provide

**What's next?** Now that your community is on board, here are three simple steps – with resources – to take to ensure your community members are 2 Weeks Ready.



## 1. KNOW HAZARDS & REDUCE RISK

A community that understands what hazards can affect them will be able to take specific actions to help reduce risk and survive during and after a disaster.

Learn more at [mil.wa.gov/hazards](https://mil.wa.gov/hazards)



Get to know your city or county emergency management to learn about trainings, presentations, events and more in your community.

- **Sign up for emergency alerts**, including local alerts, USGS ShakeAlert® earthquake early warning, tsunamis, and volcanoes.

Learn more at [mil.wa.gov/alerts](https://mil.wa.gov/alerts)



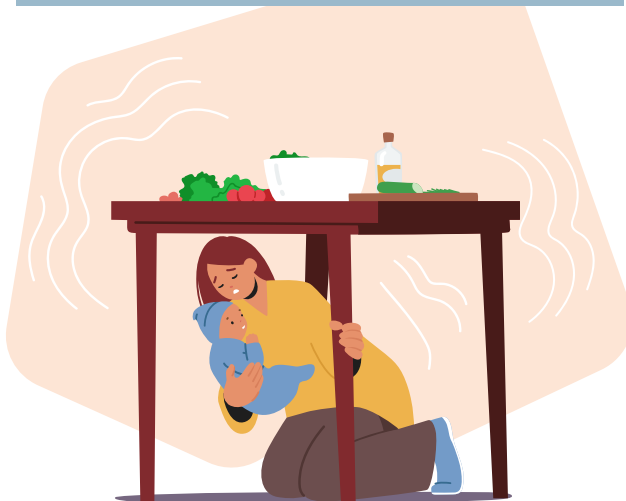
- **Register for the Great Washington ShakeOut** and use the drill to practice your community plan.

**Get Ready to ShakeOut.**

Register now at [ShakeOut.org](https://ShakeOut.org)

**Shake  
Out**

Learn more at [shakeout.org/washington](https://shakeout.org/washington)



## 2. MAKE PLANS

Neighborhoods that are prepared save lives, reduce the severity of injuries and trauma, and reduce property damage.

### Make a plan for:

- How to communicate with your community and notify them if you need help or are OK.
- How to evacuate to a safe location. Use your community map.
- How to help each other during and after a disaster.

Find resources and ideas to make your community emergency preparedness plan at [mil.wa.gov/neighborhoods](https://mil.wa.gov/neighborhoods)



## 3. GATHER SUPPLIES

After an emergency, stores may not be open to sell food or supplies and power, roads, and regular communications may be inaccessible. Communities will need to rely on each other for days to weeks.

Encourage community members to gather their personal supplies.

Every household should have a go-bag for each family member/pet and at least two weeks worth of supplies at home.

### Organize & share resources and skills:

- Identify skills and resources community members are willing to share.
- Designate a community meeting spot to share and distribute supplies.
- Develop relationships with not-for-profit organizations and local business partners.