

## **Keyport Disaster Plan**

The town of Keyport has participated in Kitsap County's neighborhood disaster preparedness program (K-PREP) since 1993. Kitsap County's Department of Emergency Management encourages neighborhoods to prepare for earthquakes, winter storms, and other community disasters through a combination of individual preparedness and neighborhood organization. In a major disaster that damages or overtaxes normal community services, neighbors are our most likely source of aid.

### **Individual Preparedness**

Preparedness at the household level is central to Kitsap County's disaster planning. Individuals are encouraged to set aside enough food, water, medical supplies, and pet supplies to see their households through a **minimum of 72 hours** without water, electricity, gas service, or access to stores. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, recommendations for household preparedness were increased to supplies for **7 to 10 days** to account for how long it can take for government agencies to mobilize large efforts over a widespread area. So each Keyport household is encouraged to store the necessary supplies for at least 72 hours – and preferably 7 to 10 days.

Individual preparedness also includes knowing how to shut off your water supply, your gas meter, and your electrical service, if necessary for safety or preventing damage to your house. Maintaining CPR certification and keeping up to date on first aid training also increase individual preparedness.

### **Community Emergency Supplies**

Because our homes are supplied with food, water, first aid equipment, tools, and supplies, we are not stockpiling supplies to fully feed or shelter our community.

However, we have stored extra first aid supplies, backboards, rolls of tape for marking hazards, and other community supplies in two small sheds -- one behind the Fire Station on Pacific Ave. and one on the Melrose's property between 1301 and 1285 Petterson Road.

Ten community disaster kits are stored in the sheds. Each kit includes personal protection items (gloves, helmet, dust masks and eye protection) to be used by volunteer response teams going door to door to check on neighbors in case of an earthquake. First aid supplies for bandaging and splinting are included in the kits, as well as tools for shutting off utilities and marking hazards.

The Keyport Bible Church stores packets of rice, lentils, and broth mix to serve 4,000 meals, in case of a large-scale emergency. The food is donated each spring to a feeding program in Africa and then restocked through volunteer donations of time and money.

### **Community Inventory**

The Keyport Improvement Club maintains an inventory of residents with medical training, portable generators, private wells, boats, RVs, 4-wheel drive vehicles, and tools that might be useful in responding to a large-scale emergency.

## Communication

**Keyport Bible Church has offered to use their bell to signal Keyport residents in an emergency. So if you hear the church bell ring for a solid minute or more, meet in the church parking lot for information if traveling to the church from your location is safe for you to do.**

In case of a disaster where phones are not working, Kitsap County uses a network of amateur radio operators to provide an emergency communication system. The Keyport Fire Station has a HAM radio antenna on the roof to keep the fire station in the county's emergency network. The Poulsbo Fire Department vehicles at the fire station are all equipped with fire frequency radios for department use. In addition, hand-held portable radios (with a one-mile radius) are available at Keyport Fire Station to maintain communication between volunteer response teams working within Keyport.

### **What to Do Immediately Following A Major Earthquake**

We are defining a disaster as a significant event that causes injuries, damages buildings, disrupts phone and internet communication, or damages the bridge into town.

Step 1: Each of us needs to make sure that our loved ones and homes are safe. This includes protecting head, feet, and hands while we check on all household members and the condition of our dwelling. Shutting off household water at the water meter will trap water in a home's system for later use. Checking for the smell of gas leaks is a good way to prevent fires. Shut off your gas if necessary.

Step 2: Once you've checked your house and family members, put a sign on your front door or window that either says **HELP** or **OK** to let your neighbors know your status.

Step 3: All able-bodied people are asked to move to the nearest neighborhood gathering site to coordinate efforts and begin forming emergency response teams to check our neighborhood.

If you have an AM/FM radio or NOAA Weather Radio, take it with you to the gathering site. **KITZ radio at AM 1400** is Kitsap County's radio station for getting out information from the Department of Emergency Management.

### **Keyport's Neighborhood Gathering Sites**

In the case of an emergency where phone and e-mail service are disrupted, we have designated gathering sites where people will meet to form into emergency response teams. Because it is possible that a large earthquake could bring down the high voltage power lines above Elwha Terrace, we have chosen sites east and west of Elwha:

Keyport Fire Station at 1863 Pacific Ave.  
The Melrose's property between 1301 and 1285 Petterson Road

**If the high voltage power lines above Elwha Terrace are intact, all able-bodied Keyport residents should assemble at the Fire Station on Pacific Ave.**

The gathering site(s) will become the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for Keyport. A leader at the gathering site(s) will maintain a map of completed searches, note damage and injuries discovered, keep records of the status of emergency response teams, and coordinate efforts. At the gathering site(s), emergency teams will be formed and assigned a section of town to walk, house to house, to assess damage and injuries. Each team will have (if possible) a medical person as well as people able to secure utilities and assess hazards before attempting to provide aid. Each team will take a disaster kit and portable radio with them to maintain communication with the EOC. Teams will wear marked safety helmets and lime green safety vests to identify themselves to community members.

Resources of people and equipment will be dispatched from the gathering site(s). Because the Fire Station has a HAM radio antenna and possibly fire department personnel, it is expected that coordination of people and equipment will be based at the Fire Station, even if downed power lines mean the west end of town is separated and has its own emergency teams and leader.

A medical care site will be established at the Fire Station or other community building, using available medical personnel from the fire department and the community.

Efforts will be made to coordinate with Poulsbo Fire Department and with the Emergency Operations Center on Keyport's Navy Base (NUWC) to obtain necessary resources for Keyport's needs.

After the emergency response teams have completed their house-to-house search and provided first aid to the injured, teams will return to the EOC to help organize long-term plans to meet Keyport's needs. Problems we expect to confront include:

- Shelter (especially if an earthquake occurs during cold weather)
- Water
- Food
- Sanitation
- Ongoing medical care
- Psychological aid and helping people cope with what has happened
- Communication (within Keyport and with entities outside Keyport)
- General safety and temporary repairs

### **Winter Storm with Extended Power Outage**

The Recreation Building at Keyport Bible Church is designated as an **American Red Cross Warming Station**. If Keyport has a power outage lasting 12 or more hours during cold weather, the Warming Station may be opened during scheduled daytime hours to provide warm meals and a warm place to spend the day. For information about the Warming Station, check for signs at the Post Office, the Keyport Mercantile, Keyport Bible Church, Fire Station 73 on Pacific Ave. and the Continental Apartments. The Warming Station will also serve as an information center to assist people in solving the problems that power outages create.