

## **Keyport Community Disaster Plan**

The community of Keyport has participated in Kitsap County's neighborhood disaster preparedness program 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. A major earthquake is considered the largest disaster threat to our area.

### **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 major hurricanes, recommendations for household preparedness were increased to **7 to 14 days** to account for how long it can take for government agencies to mobilize large efforts over a widespread area. So Keyport households are encouraged to store necessary supplies for at least 72 hours – and preferably 7 to 14 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 and Assembly Areas**

Because our homes are supplied with food, water, 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 emergency sheds which are our neighborhood gathering sites in case of a major earthquake:

- 1) The Gazebo in Central Park at Pacific Ave. and Washington Ave.**
- 2) The plastic shed on Claire & Jason Ward's property at 15490 Cove Point Lane**

Five search and rescue duffel bags are stored in each shed. Each bag includes personal protection items (gloves, helmets, vests, dust masks and eye protection) to be used by Keyport volunteers going door to door to check on neighbors after a major earthquake. Basic first aid supplies for bandaging and splinting are included in the kits, as well as tools for shutting off utilities and marking hazards.

### **Communication**

In case of a disaster where phones and the internet are not working, Kitsap County uses a network of amateur radio operators as an emergency communication system. The gazebo at Central Park and Keyport Fire Station at 1863 Pacific Ave. have HAM radio antennas to access the county's emergency network. Some Keyport residents have purchased MURS radios for communicating in town. Also, Poulsbo Fire Department vehicles at the fire station are equipped with fire frequency radios for department use. Kitsap County Emergency Management will release information to local and Seattle radio stations, so a battery-operated AM/FM radio can access county information without using power or the internet.

## What to Do During A Major Earthquake

**DROP, COVER, AND HOLD UNTIL THE SHAKING STOPS**  
**DO NOT try to get out of a building. Shelter in place.**

### As soon as the shaking stops:

1. Keep yourself safe. Protect your head, feet, and hands while you check on all household members and the condition of your dwelling. Move slowly and carefully to avoid injury.
2. Fill your bathtub and/or other containers with water in case the water system has been damaged. Then shut off your whole house water system.
3. If your home uses propane or natural gas, sniff for the smell of gas and listen for hissing noises, which indicate a gas leak. **If you think you have a gas leak:**
  - DO NOT use phones or any electrical switches.
  - DO NOT smoke, light a match, or do anything that could create a spark.
  - Exit the house immediately, leaving the doors open.
  - Shut off your gas meter with a wrench.
4. **If you don't have a gas leak:**

Turn off your electrical system at the breaker box by first turning off all the individual circuit breakers and then turning off the main breaker.
5. Once you've checked your house and family members, if you are able, put a sign on your front door or window that either says **HELP** or **OK** to let your neighbors know your status.
6. If you have a fire extinguisher, set it on the road in front of your house. Fire prevention is especially important, since the 911 system, roads, fire stations, and water supplies may be disrupted.
7. Take leather gloves, dust masks, goggles, a flashlight, first aid supplies, and your your radio (if you have one) and make your way carefully to the nearest Neighborhood Gathering Site. Puget Sound Energy advises staying **at least 35 feet away from all downed power lines**, which may be energized and dangerous with no sign of being charged. Electricity can travel unexpected distances through the ground, especially in wet conditions. Also, as people begin to use home generators, lines can be reenergized unintentionally by residential generators used without proper safety equipment. **Be especially careful of the high voltage lines over Elwha Terrace.**

### Keyport's Neighborhood Gathering Sites

In the case of an emergency where phone and internet service are disrupted, we have two sites where people will meet to form into emergency response teams to check on our neighbors. Because of the high voltage power lines above Elwha Terrace, we have chosen Gathering Sites east and west of Elwha Terrace:

- 1) **The Gazebo in Central Park at Pacific Ave. and Washington Ave.**
- 2) **The plastic shed on Claire & Jason Ward's property at 15490 Cove Point Lane**

The Emergency Assembly Station at the Gazebo will become the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for Keyport.

Resources of people and equipment will initially be dispatched from the emergency sheds at the Neighborhood Gathering Sites. At each shed, 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 someone able to secure utilities and assess hazards before attempting to provide aid. Each team will take a search & rescue duffel bag stored in the shed and ideally a third person with a radio to maintain communication with the shed manager. Teams will wear marked safety helmets and lime green or orange safety vests to identify themselves to community members.

A shed manager at each Assembly Station will maintain a map of completed searches, note damage and injuries discovered, keep records of the status of emergency response teams, and coordinate efforts.

Because the Fire Station and the gazebo in Keyport have HAM radio antennas, it is expected that communication with Kitsap County resources will be based at the Fire Station on Pacific Ave. or the gazebo in Central Park. Efforts will be made to coordinate with Poulsbo Fire Department and with the Emergency Operations Center on Keyport's Navy Base to obtain information and resources for Keyport's needs.

After the emergency response teams have completed their house-to-house searches and provided first aid to the injured, teams will return to the Assembly Stations to report their findings to the shed manager and help organize long-term plans to meet Keyport's needs, including:

- Ongoing medical care
- Shelter (especially if an earthquake occurs during cold weather)
- Water and food
- Sanitation
- Psychological aid
- Communication (within Keyport and with entities outside Keyport)
- General safety and temporary repairs

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

We will need to assess which neighbors have heat and cooking facilities to share. Watch for sandwich board signs at the Post Office for more information.

### **For more information on disaster preparedness**

Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management: <http://www.kitsapdem.org/>

**HELP**

**OK**