

**PREPARE + PREVENT + RESPOND + RECOVER + MITIGATE**

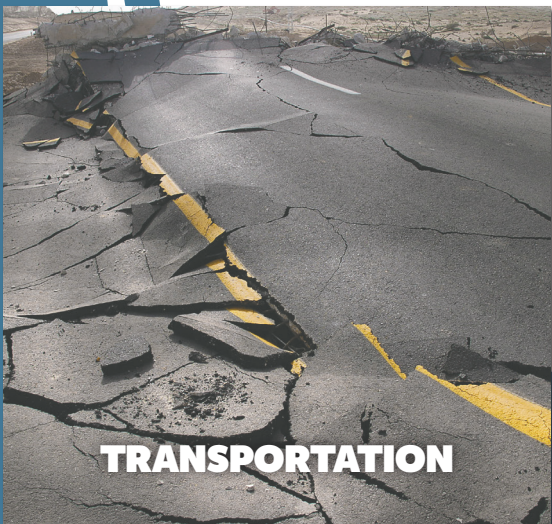


# *Peninsula* **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS 2024 GUIDE**

*Are we ready?*

*A wildfire is headed our way.*

*Do you know what to do to save yourself and your family?*



# Emergency Preparedness Tips for Medical Needs



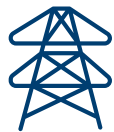
When disasters strike, those with medical needs are often hit hardest. Here are five steps to medically prepare yourself or your loved ones.



Have a backup power supply for oxygen and other electrical medical devices.



Always keep a two-week supply of medications and other medical needs on hand.



In case of a power outage, have a manually operated wheelchair available.



Identify an evacuation shelter or support system that can meet your medical needs.



If you have a service animal, make preparations for them as well.

[olympicmedical.org](http://olympicmedical.org)

## INTRODUCTION

By Blaine Zechenelly  
EMT/Disaster Planner Clallam County  
Fire District 3

Welcome to our seventh annual Emergency Preparedness Guide. Each year we try to build upon our prior years' work on this subject and update you on the latest developments affecting our community. You can see the six prior years of this series at <https://ccfd3.org>. Click on CERT Program in the banner at the top right, then click on Preparedness Tool Kit. You will see the guides located on the top right-hand side of this page.

In the prior issues we try to prepare for the worst-case scenario in our area (Cascadia Earthquake) because we can scale it back to any lesser events. This year's guide though will be a little bit different, as we will focus on a very specific threat that may be more imminent, because of this year's winter weather, and that is wildland fires.

For the first time in a while, we had less snow and the accompanying snowpack and more rain. The results were greater growth of vegetation which when the summer season comes will be more fuel for any fires. In fact, the fire service is very concerned this year about this threat and so we are devoting this year's issue to this topic. I hope you will find this issue useful to you and better prepare you for the coming summer ahead by taking some precautions now to protect you and your property.

This year's issue has drawn upon several authors to help give a broad perspective on this topic. Our authors have a wide range of experience in their background and provide a unique view on the matters associated with this year's focus. I hope you enjoy this information. ■

*Anyone with questions or concerns about this publication can contact Blaine Zechenelly at [bzechenelly@ccfd3.org](mailto:bzechenelly@ccfd3.org).*



Clallam County Fire District 3



CLALLAM READY

(Formerly known as MYN, or Map Your Neighborhood) is a disaster preparedness program designed to assist local neighborhoods, small or large, in forming cohesive groups that work together to help one another when faced with a major disaster. Sequim, and Clallam County, are part of a unique area that will be solely reliant on local resources following a catastrophic event. Let us help you create your own Clallam Ready Neighborhood, and get you the tools you will need to engage and train your neighbors. If you were previously involved with MYN, and would like updated information, we are here to assist you as well. Please contact us via e-mail at [clallamready.sequim@gmail.com](mailto:clallamready.sequim@gmail.com) or by phone at **360-670-0439**. You can also visit us at [www.ccf3.org](http://www.ccf3.org) by clicking on the CERT tab and then the Clallam Ready tab.

# THE THREAT

## *The risk of wildland fire*

By **Charles Meyer**  
Sequim Operational Area CERT Division  
Chief

Our Olympic Peninsula is a beautiful place. We enjoy a temperate climate, the sea and mountains, with forests and rivers all around us. But there are some risks as well. One risk we all should know and understand is the risk of wildland fire. Let's consider for a moment the extent of the risk of wildland fire on the Olympic Peninsula.

### What Are Our Fire Dangers?

According to the Clallam County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP: 2009), our local fire hazard is most severe in the dry summer months in the hilly areas between Port Angeles and the Hood Canal. Besides the regular occurrence of drought or dry weather, another significant fire danger is the presence of extremely dry vegetation. This is called "fuel load," which can greatly affect the size and

severity of wildfires. Dry grass, brush and trees are great fuel for fires.

A relatively warm winter with less-than-normal rainfall and low quantities of snowpack in the mountains can result in a rapid growth of brush, vegetation and fuel load. As we enter into our dry months, this fuel load may well become tinder dry and can easily be ignited into a major fire.

Lightning strikes and illegal campfires are the usual ignition sources. Unfortunately, our fire authorities are currently anticipating these very conditions emerging this winter and spring. They therefore wish to alert the public to the potential dangers we could be facing this summer.

Protect Your Property: As our local population has grown over the years, our housing footprint has expanded. Many of us now live within heavily forested areas, and our wildland urbane interface (WUI) is much larger than in the past. Such sylvan surroundings are beautiful, but should fire suddenly sweep



Source: historylink.org

see THE THREAT on page 5

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## AUTHORS

### *for the Peninsula Emergency Guide 2024*

These authors and local emergency management experts live, work and volunteer in our community and understand its needs.

+ **Blaine Zechenelly** — Clallam County Fire Protection District 3 EMT/ Disaster Planner. Formerly an IBM/Hitachi MBA executive with 25 years volunteering with Emergency Services.

+ **Jim Buck** — Former State Representative, West Point Army officer. Currently with Clallam County Emergency Management and Joyce Emergency Planning & Prep (JEPP).

+ **Charlie Meyer** — Former Air Force Academy Officer/Pilot. Worked for the National Security Agency. Currently a Sequim Operational Area CERT Division Chief.

+ **Dennis Burnett** — City of Sequim Emergency Management

+ **Andra Smith** — Executive Director, Sequim Food Bank

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PENINSULA DAILY NEWS  
305 W. First St.  
P.O. Box 1330  
Port Angeles, WA 98362  
Phone: 360-452-2345  
Fax: 360-417-3521  
peninsuladailynews.com

SEQUIM GAZETTE  
P.O. Box 1750  
Sequim, WA 98382  
Phone: 360-683-3311  
Fax: 360-683-6670  
sequimgazette.com

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# WILDFIRE RISK TO SCHOOLS

## Preparing for the 2024 wildland fire season

By **Jim Buck**  
**Clallam County Emergency Management and Joyce Emergency Planning & Prep**

Hello, folks. Most of you know me through my efforts to prepare our community for earthquakes, but in the last few years, my emergency management work matured into an effort to prepare our county for all hazards. One hazard people often worry about is wildfires. This is a valid concern because all of us live within or in sight of a forest and sometimes forests catch fire. A big concern is whether these fires threaten our schools.

The technical term for North Olympic Peninsula fire events that may threaten our schools is a Wildland/urban interface fire. These occur when a fire threatening a neighborhood involves both forest lands and structures. The level of fire hazard for wildland-urban interface fires depends on a neighborhood's:

- **Vegetative fuel load.** Does the area have standing green timber or dried out logging slash debris?
- **Topography.** Is the land flat or steep terrain that hinders firefighters?
- **Climate and weather conditions.** Is the neighborhood hot and dry, or cool and wet?
- **Fire ignition sources and frequency of fire ignitions.** Campfires, lightning or accidents?
- **Fire suppression resources.** Can fire agencies make a timely response with apparatus, resources and access to water supplies?

While no one can say our schools are safe in every instance, defensible space and firefighting resources make them highly unlikely to be in danger of a wildland/urban interface fire.

That is not necessarily the case for other homes and facilities in Clallam

and Jefferson County. Clallam County completed its Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CCWP) in 2009 (DeSisto et al., 2009). The 2009 Clallam County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (online at [rp\\_burn\\_cwpp\\_clallamco.pdf](https://www.clallamcounty.gov/~/media/2009-CCWP)) says, "Every summer, Clallam County experiences dozens of small wildfires, and every few decades we experience larger ones. Projections indicate that the Olympic Mountains may experience earlier spring snowmelt and runoff, likely causing longer summer drought periods. This suggests that eastern Clallam County could be affected more than most areas of Western Washington, due to its seasonal dry weather hazard and large WUI area. The potential for a major wildfire disaster is extremely high due to the combination of having the driest climate in western Washington (most of the population lives in the rain shadow) and some of the highest vegetative fuel loads on the planet. All it would take is an ignition under the right weather conditions."

You can find the wildfire risk maps for your home/neighborhood in Chapter V starting on page 41.

The plan presents a wealth of information about wildfire danger and how you and your neighbors can make your property and neighborhood safer. County population increased by over 20,000 people since 2009. The county must update the 2009 plan this year. You can help by joining the public process to draft the new 2024 Clallam County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Watch for announcements about the meetings later this year.

The 2009 Jefferson County CCWP shares similar concerns about Jeffco fire danger and provides great information about protecting property. Jefferson County is updating its CCWP this year. You can find how to join the process at <https://jefferson-county-cwpp-jeffcowa.hub.arcgis.com/pages/cwpp-public-involvement>. ■

School districts in Clallam County include Sequim, Port Angeles, Crescent, Forks, Cape Flattery, and the new school at La Push. Here is a look at conditions for school district property in each school district.

| DISTRICT                   | VEG LOAD               | TOPOGRAPHY | CLIMATE      | IGNITION | DEFENSIBLE SPACE       | WATER SUPPLY | FIRE AGENCY                          |
|----------------------------|------------------------|------------|--------------|----------|------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| SEQUIM                     | MINIMAL                | FLAT       | WARM & DRY   | MINIMAL  | EXCELLENT              | EXCELLENT    | FD #3 ON HAND                        |
| PORT ANGELES               | MINIMAL                | FLAT       | MODERATE WET | MINIMAL  | EXCELLENT              | EXCELLENT    | PAFD & CCFPD #2 ON HAND              |
| CRESCENT                   | NEED SOUTH SIDE BUFFER | FLAT       | MODERATE WET | MINIMAL  | NEED SOUTH SIDE BUFFER | MODERATE     | CCFPD #4 ON HAND                     |
| FORKS                      | MINIMAL                | FLAT       | WET          | MINIMAL  | EXCELLENT              | EXCELLENT    | CCFPD #1 & DNR ON HAND               |
| CAPE FLATTERY, CLALLAM BAY | MINIMAL                | FLAT       | WET          | MINIMAL  | EXCELLENT              | LIMITED      | CCFPD #5 & DNR ON HAND               |
| CAPE FLATTERY, NEAH BAY    | MINIMAL                | FLAT       | WET          | MINIMAL  | EXCELLENT              | LIMITED      | MAKAH TRIBAL FIRE DEPT & DNR ON HAND |
| QUILEUTE SCHOOL            | MINIMAL                | FLAT       | WET          | MINIMAL  | EXCELLENT              | LIMITED      | CCFPD #6 & QUILEUTE FD ON HAND       |

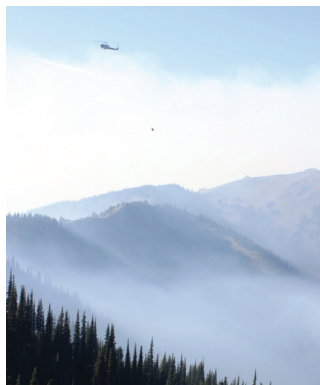
School districts in Jefferson County include Brinnon, Quilcene, Chimacum, Port Townsend and Queets-Clearwater. Here is a look at conditions for school district property in each school district.

| DISTRICT                                   | VEG LOAD                 | TOPOGRAPHY | CLIMATE      | IGNITION | DEFENSIBLE SPACE     | WATER SUPPLY | FIRE AGENCY                       |
|--|--------------------------|------------|--------------|----------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| BRINNON                                    | NEED BUFFER NORTH & WEST | FLAT       | MODERATE WET | MINIMAL  | EXCELLENT            | EXCELLENT    | BRINNON FIRE DEPT.                |
| CHIMACUM                                   | MINIMAL                  | FLAT       | MODERATE WET | MINIMAL  | EXCELLENT            | EXCELLENT    | EAST JEFFERSON & FIRE RESCUE 1-1  |
| PORT TOWNSEND HIGH                         | MINIMAL                  | FLAT       | MODERATE WET | MINIMAL  | EXCELLENT            | EXCELLENT    | EAST JEFFERSON & FIRE RESCUE 1-6  |
| PORT TOWNSEND BLUE HERON                   | NEED BUFFER ON WEST      | FLAT       | MODERATE WET | MINIMAL  | NEED BUFFER ON WEST  | EXCELLENT    | EAST JEFFERSON & FIRE RESCUE 1-6  |
| PORT TOWNSEND CHIMACUM CREEK               | NEED BUFFER ON WEST      | FLAT       | MODERATE WET | MINIMAL  | NEED BUFFER ON WEST  | EXCELLENT    | EAST JEFFERSON & FIRE RESCUE 1-3  |
| QUEETS CLEARWATER — WILDLAND FIRE CATEGORY | NEED BUFFER ON NORTH     | FLAT       | WET          | MODERATE | NEED BUFFER ON NORTH | LIMITED      | DISTANT LAKE QUINALT VOLUNTEER FD |
| QUILCENE                                   | MINIMAL                  | FLAT       | WET          | MINIMAL  | EXCELLENT            | LIMITED      | QUILCENE FIRE RESCUE              |

# WILDFIRES AND SMOKE

## Preparing for the 2024 wildland fire season

By Dennis Burnett  
City of Sequim Emergency Management



Helicopters often drop water to assist with the construction of fire containment lines when wildfires break out.

The fire season is quickly approaching, and preparedness is the answer to staying safe.

On the Olympic Peninsula, the wildland fire season usually begins in early July and typically culminates in early October when regular rain returns to the Northwest.

Fires can occur every month of the year with weather and dryness being the major factors. This winter, there was a lack of substantial snowpack across much

of the Pacific Northwest, most notably on the Olympic Peninsula. This will impact the coming fire season.

Last summer there were numerous fires in Olympic National Park and across the state with smoke settling over the Dungeness Valley for several days, creating air quality issues. In wildland fire, poor air quality is a combination of both smoke and ash. This is important for those in our community that may be at risk, including young children, the elderly and those with respiratory issues.

When air quality reaches dangerous levels, the most effective way to reduce exposure and avoid health effects is to stay indoors with windows and doors closed. If you must be outside, limit your time and wear an N95 face mask. Air quality can be tracked at [AirNow.gov](https://airnow.gov).

While sequestered inside, it is recommended that air conditioners be run on "recirculate" to avoid bringing in outside air.

Another option is to use portable air cleaners or air purifiers. Both devices remove impurities in the air, but

while the air cleaner filters the air, an air purifier can also sanitize it. These devices work best when set up in what is referred to as a "clean room." A clean room is a room that is primarily used to keep levels of smoke and other particulate as low as possible during smoke events.

A clean room should be free from activities that create particles such as cooking or smoking, and the doors and windows should be kept closed. A clean room is basically a controlled environment that filters pollutants like dust, airborne microbes and aerosol particles to provide the cleanest air possible. These controlled environments protect products like electronic devices, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment.

Remember, poor air quality may last from a few days to several weeks, so stay informed. Keep up to date on weather forecasts and emergency alerts.

Further information can be found online at CalFire: <https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/get-set/wildfire-action-plan> ■

### THE THREAT from page 3

through, it could quickly take our homes with it. Homeowners should consider creating a fire-break or buffer around their homes by reducing the presence of flammable vegetation in close proximity (up to 200 feet) from their house or similar structures. Alternatively, they should consider increasing the moisture content of the existing vegetation within that buffer.

### Be Aware of the Fire Hazard

In addition to a dry climate (drought conditions) and abundant fuel load, other factors that contribute to the level of fire hazard include the slope of the terrain, the area's exposure to direct sunlight and the amount of time it would take for firefighters to reach the scene of the fire. Fires spread more rapidly uphill. Moreover, direct exposure to the sun will tend to dry the fuel load and make it even more flammable.

Finally, the limited availability of access roads and long distances from fire stations will negatively affect our firefighters' ability to contain and extinguish new fires in a timely way.

The CWPP illustration shows the WUI for Fire District #3. The pink areas depict areas having a higher fire hazard in our typically dry August timeframes. Yellow areas have a lower fire risk. Notice that the pink dots depicting past fire locations have also occurred in and among denser housing developments. Find out more at: [https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/rp\\_burn\\_cwpp\\_clallamco.pdf](https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/rp_burn_cwpp_clallamco.pdf) ■

### MORE INFORMATION SOURCES

We encourage every resident of the Olympic Peninsula to become familiar with the fire risks in this area. Here are some useful online resources for such information:



Clallam County's Hazard Mitigation Plan describes measures that can be taken to achieve greater safety for our rural and urban communities:

<https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3304/Hazard-Mitigation-Plan-2019-Plan-Update-PDF>

The Department of Natural Resources has a helpful site on wildfire dangers:

<https://www.dnr.wa.gov/Wildfires>

This site shows a DNR link to a state-wide map of current fire risk levels:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/dnr/protection/firedanger>

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# READY, SET, GO!

## *Eight weeks to get ready for wildfire season*

The International Fire Chiefs Association offers this eight-week step-by-step guide to prepare your home for wildland fire season.

### ► Week 1: Landscaping against your home



The first Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) is Zone 1, which is 0-5 feet around your home or to the property line. This zone includes

the structure itself, any deck/patio/balcony or other outside entertaining space that butts up to the structure, fencing (where it meets the structure) and immediate landscaping.

An easy way to create defensible space around your home is to remove weeds, brush and other invasive vegetation and debris. While you're doing your spring gardening, use noncombustible rock mulch around your home in place of standard mulch.

Trim grass and flowers to four inches or less in height and try to maintain that through the summer. Trim back touching or overhanging tree branches to at least 10 feet from your home.

Be sure to move any firewood or other combustible material away from your home, garage and deck/patio/balcony.

Firewood and other combustibles should be stored farther from the structure.

### ► Week 2: Vents/eaves & mesh screening



Vents and eaves are also potentially very vulnerable spots on your home, as they create a space for embers to gather and ignite combustible material.

Eaves can be enclosed to make it more difficult for embers to gather here, preferably boxing them in with noncombustible or ignition resistant material. If you don't have access to the materials to do this right now, try to accomplish this as soon as you are able. For now, clear the area of any debris that has gathered in this space, providing embers with less combustible material to potentially ignite.

Vents provide easier access for embers to enter attics or other concealed spaces where they can then ignite. When you can access the materials, use a minimum of 1/8-inch corrosion resistant metal mesh to screen all vents, particularly those in eaves and cornices, as they are the most vulnerable. For now, clear the area of any debris that has gathered in this space and be sure to regularly remove debris that collects in front of the screens once those have been installed.

As with all activities, we encourage personal safety. Wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (helmet, eye protection, ear protection, gloves, etc.), partner with someone from your household and maintain situational awareness. If you do not have the physical ability to do so or do

not feel safe attempting some activities, reach out to your neighbors or local contractors for assistance.

### ► Week 3: Your Evacuation Plan



Leaving early gives you and your family the best chance of surviving a wildland fire and helps keep roads clear so firefighters can move strategically and lend more focus to suppression efforts in a safer environment.

An important part of leaving early is preparing ahead of time. Take this time to put together an evacuation plan and pack "go bags" for your family.

Identify at least two ways out of your neighborhood and a safe place for you to go. Mark your potential evacuation routes clearly on a map and then practice them with your family. Make sure everyone in the family knows your safe meeting place, then let your friends and family know your plans.

Complete your Personal Wildland Fire Action Plan in the RSG! Program National Action Guide. This includes identifying important contact numbers for places your family might go during an evacuation and an out of town contact who can help keep track of your family members in the event of an emergency. You will also identify potential evacuation routes, where you will be evacuating to, the locations of emergency supply kits that you will need to take with you and any notes to your family. Post the completed plan where every member of your family can see it and become familiar with it.

Use the Emergency Supply List on page 10 in the National Action Guide to pack go bags for your family. Be sure to include water,

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food, any necessary medications, a change of clothes, spare chargers and an extra set of credit cards, cash or checks.

If you have house pets, include them in your evacuation preparation. Practice evacuating with them, ensuring that your family can safely get them in the car and to your agreed upon meeting point. Pack food for your pet(s) in your go bags and include any medications they are taking. Ensure you have a plan in place for outdoor animals or livestock.

► **Week 4: Clearing gutters/roof of debris**



Roofs and gutters are particularly vulnerable surfaces, as embers can lodge

here and start a fire. Regularly clearing your roof and gutters of debris, installing gutter guards or screens, and blocking off any points of entry on your roof will all help harden your home.

If you have access to the materials, replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or tiles. If you aren't able to access those materials right now, note the areas that need to be replaced or repaired so you can make those changes when you are able.

Shake and wood shingles are very flammable. A fire-rated roof covering (such as composition shingles, metal or tile) should be used whenever possible.

Wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (helmet, eye protection, ear protection, gloves, etc.), partner with someone else from your household and maintain situational awareness. If you do not have the physical ability to do so or do not feel safe attempting some activities, reach out to your neighbors or local contractors for assistance.

► **Week 5: Decks/patios/balconies**



Decks, patios and balconies are great spots to gather with friends and family, but they can also be a vulnerable spot on your property. Embers can collect on or under these spaces and start a fire that spreads to the home through walls, windows or doors.

Regularly clearing the area of debris (paying attention to debris that collects against the house, between boards and underneath the structure) helps harden your home, like clearing your roof and gutters. Take this time to remove any combustible items from underneath your deck or on

your patio or balcony, and avoid storing combustibles in this area. During fire season remove baskets, flower arrangements and other items that are likely to ignite.

► **Week 6: Fencing**



Fences, once ignited, offer a direct line for fire to spread to your home. If you have not used noncombustible fencing at least for the first five feet from where the fence touches the structure, consider using this time to replace that portion of your fence. If you do not have access to the necessary materials, note this project for later in the year.

Debris that collects at the base of a fence



# ARE YOU READY?

Hazards most likely to impact all or part of the Olympic Peninsula include earthquakes, tsunamis, wildfires, and acts of terrorism. These are NOT weather-related events. The three weather-related events that do affect the Olympic Peninsula are windstorms, floods and snowstorms.

Preparing for any type of hazardous event is not unlike planning for other events in your lifetime. By becoming better prepared for the previously mentioned incidents you will be a part of the solution. Develop an emergency pantry by purchasing one extra item every time you shop for groceries.

Create a plan that includes all family members. Decide on a reunification place if you must evacuate your home or are in separate locations at the time of a disaster.

If you have young children in school, ask to see a copy of the school's emergency plan. If you have loved ones in assisted living residences, ask for a copy of their emergency plan.

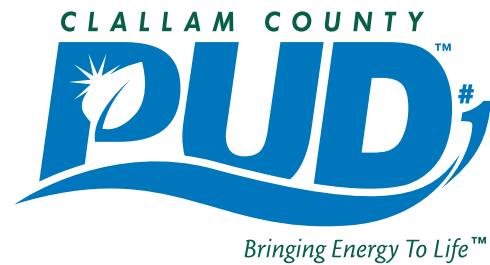
- Learn CPR and First Aid
- Plan for your pets
- Learn how to shut off utilities
- Learn how to use a Fire Extinguisher

For more information about training opportunities, contact East Jefferson Fire Rescue at 360-385-2626



More information can be found at:  
[www.ejfr.org](http://www.ejfr.org) | [www.bit.ly.thinkplando](http://www.bit.ly.thinkplando)  
 Subscribe to Nixle — Text JEFFCODEM to 888777





## Are you prepared for a real emergency?

From a power outage to a major disaster, the best thing you can do for yourself and your loved ones, is to be prepared. This can include:

### Minor event (such as power outage)

- Extra batteries
- Portable radio or hand-crank radio
- Cell phone charging bank
- Generator, if needed for medical equipment
- Flashlights/light sticks
- Ice to preserve refrigerated and frozen goods
- Extra blankets

### Major event (in addition to items above)

- Establish a meeting location/communication plan
- 30-day supply of potable water and non-perishable food
- First aid kit and 30-day supply of prescription medications
- Copies of important documents and cash in small bills
- Sanitation supplies
- Emergency whistle
- Clothing including leather gloves, thick-soled shoes and protective hat

### Don't forget emergency supplies for your pets!

Preparedness doesn't have to be overwhelming. Make the commitment to start today, acquiring an item per month. These items make great gifts too, especially for those hard-to-shop-for loved ones! For more information and resources visit:

[www.clallampud.net/emergency-planning](http://www.clallampud.net/emergency-planning)

can easily ignite from embers. Take this time to clear the base of your fence, on both sides.

Your fence likely extends into HIZ Zone 2, and maybe HIZ Zone 3, which will be incorporated into the challenge in the weeks to come.

### ► Week 7: Zone 2 (5-30 feet)



The second HIZ is 5-30 feet around your home or to the property line. This zone includes the less immediate yard and property around your home.

During your spring gardening, use non-wood, low-growing herbaceous vegetation. Break up your vegetation into different groups, or "islands," across the property. This makes it harder for flames to travel from the yard to your home. Ensure there is both horizontal and vertical separation from the vegetation around your home; creating this separation prevents ladder fuels that allow fire to climb from or travel from one area to another.

As with Zone 1, remove weeds, brush and other invasive vegetation and debris. Trim grass and other vegetation to 4 inches or less in height and try to maintain this through the summer.

Depending on the size of your property, you may need to begin looking at the impact community or neighboring property will have on your own property. Engage your neighbors in the challenge so they can harden their homes and mitigate their property, too.

Move trailers/recreational vehicles, storage sheds and other combustible items or structures out of this zone. If you are unable to move them, create intentional defensible space around them.

Trim back trees, shrubbery and other vegetation that is encroaching on your

driveway to a minimum of 14-foot clearance. This clearance is essential for emergency vehicles.

Wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (helmet, eye protection, ear protection, gloves, etc.), partner with someone else from your household and maintain situational awareness. If you do not have the physical ability to do so or do not feel safe attempting some activities, reach out to your neighbors or local contractors for assistance.

### ► Week 8: Zone 3 (30-200 feet)



HIZ 3 is 30-200 feet around your home or to the property line. This zone includes the less immediate yard and property around your home.

As with Zones 1 and 2, remove weeds, brush and other invasive vegetation and debris. Trim grass and other vegetation to 4 inches or less in height and try to maintain this through the summer.

Create and maintain a minimum of 10 feet between the tops of trees. As with Zone 2, create and maintain vegetation "islands" across your property, with both vertical and horizontal distance between vegetation so fire is less likely to spread.

Remove dead trees and shrubs.

Trim back trees, shrubbery and other vegetation that is encroaching on your driveway and access roads to a minimum of 14-foot clearance for emergency vehicles.

Wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (helmet, eye protection, ear protection, gloves, etc.), partner with someone else from your household and maintain situational awareness. If you do not have the physical ability to do so or do not feel safe attempting some activities, reach out to your neighbors or local contractors for assistance. ■



# 12 STEPS

## to protect your home from wildfire

Homes built in forests should have a minimum defensible space of 100 feet. If your home sits on a steep slope, standard protective measures may not suffice. Contact your local Department of Natural Resources regional office or fire department/district for additional information.

Here are 12 steps recommended by the Washington DNR to help protect your home from wildfire.

1. Rake leaves, dead limbs and twigs. Remove leaves and rubbish from under structures and remove vines from the walls of the home. Clear all flammable vegetation.
2. Thin a 15-foot space between tree crowns and remove limbs within 15 feet of the ground.
3. Remove dead branches that extend over the roof.
4. Prune tree branches and shrubs within 15 feet of a stovepipe or chimney outlet.
5. Ask the power company to clear branches from powerlines.

6. Mow grass regularly.

7. Clear a 10-foot area around propane tanks and the barbecue. Place a screen over the grill. Use nonflammable material with mesh no coarser than one-quarter inch.

8. Regularly dispose of newspapers and rubbish at an approved site. Follow local burning regulations.

9. Place stove, fireplace and grill ashes in a metal bucket, soak in water for two days, then bury the cold ashes in mineral soil.

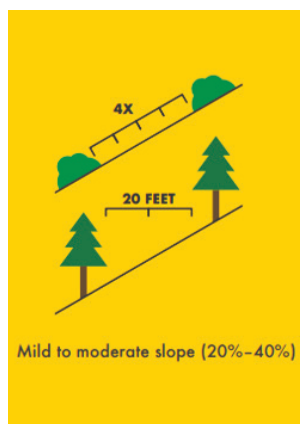
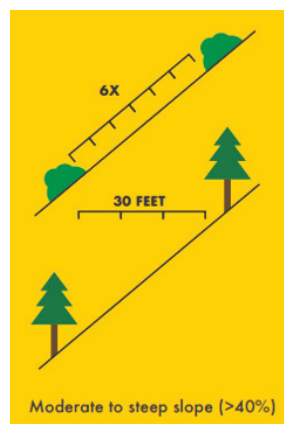
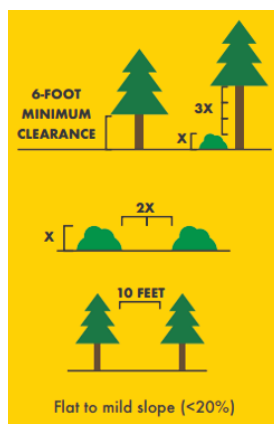
10. Store gasoline, oily rags and other flammable materials in approved safety cans. Place cans in a safe location away from the base of buildings.

11. Stack firewood at least 100 feet away and uphill from your home. Clear combustible material within 20 feet.

12. Review your homeowners's insurance policy and also prepare/update a list of your home's contents. ■



Courtesy of California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection



## When the lights go out

Large storms bring challenging conditions impacting entire regions. Be prepared with these tips!



**POWER LINE DOWN? STAY AWAY!**  
Treat any power line as if it is live.  
**STAY AT LEAST 50 FEET AWAY!**



**KEEP A 3-DAY SUPPLY OF WATER**  
Store 3 gallons per person, per day.  
Change water yearly.



### BATTERIES & FLASHLIGHTS

Unopened batteries have a 7-year shelf life. Keep headlamps & flashlights on-hand.



### FUEL-UP BEFORE A STORM

Fuel-up vehicles and generators in case they are needed.



### DON'T OPEN THE FRIDGE

Fridges & freezers are insulated and keep cold better if unopened during outages.



### STAY INFORMED VIA MOBILE

Follow the PUD on social media channels for latest updates.



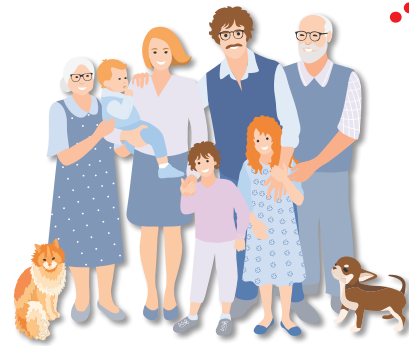
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California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection

# REMEMBER THE SIX P'S

*People & pets, Papers, Prescriptions, Pictures, Plastic, and Personal computer*



**PEOPLE & PETS**



**PAPERS**

Important documents & phone numbers



**PRESCRIPTIONS**

Medicine, vitamins, & eyeglasses

# P



**PICTURES**

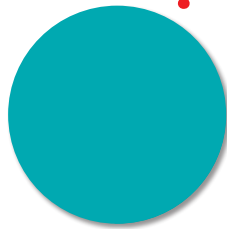
Photographs & irreplaceable memorabilia



**PLASTIC**  
Credit cards & cash

**PERSONAL COMPUTER**

Hard drives & flash drives



Courtesy of WA State Department of Natural Resources

# SAFETY TIPS

**COMPLETELY EXTINGUISH THE FIRE BEFORE YOU LEAVE**

**DON'T LEAVE** (Illustration of a hand dropping a lit match)

**OK TO LEAVE** (Illustration of a hand dropping an unlit match)

Attend the campfire at all times

**KEEP THE FIRE SMALL**

10 FT. OR MORE (Distance from debris pile)

3 FT. MAX (Distance from campfire)

**LEARN BEFORE YOU BURN**

- Check local regulations.** A permit may be required in your area.
- Check conditions.** Don't burn if it's windy.
- Do not burn** garbage or any materials that emit dense smoke or create offensive odors.

- Keep a shovel and water hose nearby.
- Your burn site should be surrounded by gravel or soil at least 10 ft. in all directions.

**EXTENDED ZONE**  
30-200 FEET AWAY FROM BUILDINGS, DECKS, AND YOUR HOME'S EDGES.

**INTERMEDIATE ZONE**  
5-30 FEET AWAY FROM BUILDINGS, DECKS, AND YOUR HOME'S EDGES.

**IMMEDIATE ZONE**  
0-5 FEET AWAY FROM DECKS AND YOUR HOME'S EDGES.

**THE MAJORITY OF HOMES LOST TO WILDFIRE ARE LOST DUE TO EMBERS**

Debris pile & campfire safety

Create a defensible space. Protect your property's perimeter with zone-by-zone actions.

# FOOD EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

## *A guide to ensuring nutrition security in times of crisis*

By Andra Smith  
Executive Director, Sequim Food Bank

In times of unforeseen emergencies such as natural disasters, power outages or other disruptions, ensuring a stable and sufficient food supply becomes paramount. Being prepared for such situations is crucial for the well-being of individuals and communities. With COVID we learned just how fragile our food system is on the Olympic Peninsula.

Learning from that experience, we suggest the following practical tips on food emergency preparedness to help you navigate through challenging times.

### Build a well-stocked emergency food supply

Be proactive and maintain a stock of non-perishable food items with a long shelf life, such as canned goods, dried fruits, nuts and grains. Ensure you have enough water, estimating at least one gallon per person per day for at least three days.

Plan for your pets as well and maintain a stock of pet food items and water for them.

Remember to rotate your emergency food supply regularly to prevent expiration. When donating non-perishable food items to a food bank, check the dates and make sure the expiration date is less than one year old.

### Create a customized emergency meal plan

Develop a well-balanced meal plan that considers the nutritional needs of all family members. Include a variety of food items to ensure a mix of essential nutrients, including proteins, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins and minerals. Factor in any dietary restrictions or special needs when planning meals.

### Invest in emergency cooking equipment

Have alternative cooking methods available, such as a portable camping stove, a solar cooker or a grill, in case traditional



cooking appliances are unavailable. Stock up on fuel sources compatible with your chosen cooking equipment.

### Preservation

Use airtight containers to store dry goods and grains to prevent spoilage and pest infestation. Consider vacuum-sealing or freezing certain food items to extend their shelf life.

### Stay informed and plan accordingly

Stay updated on weather forecasts, community alerts and potential emergency situations. Be aware of local resources and emergency services that can provide support during food shortages.

### Collaborate with neighbors and community

Foster a sense of community preparedness by collaborating with neighbors to share food resources and information.

### Learn basic food preservation techniques

Acquire basic knowledge of food preservation techniques such as canning, dehydrating and pickling. Preserve seasonal produce when available to supplement your emergency food supply.

dietary needs, such as infant formula or medical dietary restrictions.

Our local emergency preparedness agencies suggest you store at least a 30-day supply of food for your family. By taking proactive steps to prepare for food emergencies, you can help safeguard the health and well-being of yourself and your loved ones. Remember that being prepared not only involves having the right supplies but also staying informed and fostering a sense of community resilience. ■

*Sequim Food Bank is located at 144 W. Alder St. in Sequim and can be contacted at 360-683-1205 or via email at [info@sequimfoodbank.org](mailto:info@sequimfoodbank.org) or online at [www.SequimFoodBank.org](http://www.SequimFoodBank.org).*

### Prioritize health and nutrition

Consider including vitamin and mineral supplements in your emergency supplies to ensure adequate nutrition. Plan for special


SOUND  
COMMUNITY BANK

## FINANCIAL PREPAREDNESS

Prepare yourself financially for any disaster or emergency with these 3 tips.

- 

**Savings**

  - Set up an emergency savings account.
- 

**Access & Compile**

  - Consolidate all your essential financial documents and contacts into a single location, such as a binder.
- 

**Safeguard**

  - Store paper and electronic copies of all files in a safe location.
    - Store paper copies electronic copies (flash drive or external hard drive) in a fireproof/waterproof box or safe.



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# ROAD REQUIREMENTS

## for firefighting access

Access roads need to allow adequate access to the building and room to set up and perform manual suppression operations.

Fire department access roads require 20 feet of unobstructed width, 13.5 feet of unobstructed vertical clearance and an appropriate radius for turns in the roads and dead ends for the vehicles apparatus to turn around.

The minimum 20-foot width allows for two-way vehicular traffic and for one fire apparatus vehicle to pass while another is working at a fire hydrant or conducting aerial operations while the 13.5-foot vertical clearance ensures that fire apparatus can safely pass under power lines, bridges and other obstructions.

Bridges need to be designed to be able to support a load sufficient enough to carry a fully loaded fire apparatus, and the vehicle load limits need to be provided at both entrances to the bridge.

The grade of the road also must not exceed one foot of elevation change every 20 feet, or whatever the design



limits of the local fire apparatus dictate. As determined by the Agency Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), certain parts of the fire department access road are required to be marked. These marked portions of the fire department access roads are called fire lanes. ■

— National Fire Protection Association



## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONTACTS

### CLALLAM COUNTY

Clallam County Emergency Management (CCEM)

223 E. Fourth St. Ste. 12, Port Angeles

▶ **LORRAINE SHORE**

360-417-2262

lorraine.shore@clallamcountywa.gov

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

For western Clallam County and Port Angeles, west of Deer Park

▶ **JUSTINE CHORLEY**

360-417-2525

justine.chorley@clallamcountywa.gov

### JEFFERSON COUNTY

Jefferson County Dept. of Emergency Management

ERT & MYN for Jefferson, except for Gardner and West Discovery Bay

81 Elkins Road, Port Hadlock

360-385-9368

▶ **WILLIE BENCE**

360-344-9729

wbence@co.jefferson.wa.us

jcdem@co.jefferson.wa.us

### JOYCE

Joyce Emergency Planning & Preparedness (JEPP)

▶ **JIM BUCK**

360-808-2105, buckdj@olympen.org

### SEQUIM OPERATIONAL AREA FIRE & RESCUE

Clallam County Fire District 3

For questions regarding insert materials or for group presentations, contact us.

323 N. Fifth St., Sequim

▶ **JUSTIN GRIDER**

360-683-4242, ext. 112, jgrider@ccfd3.org

▶ **BLAINE ZECHENELLY**

bzechenelly@ccfd3.org

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

For Eastern Clallam County, Gardner and West Discovery Bay

▶ **CINDY ZECHENELLY**

czechenelly@ccfd3.org