

Clallam Ready Sequim: What Is It & Who Benefits

The Clallam Ready Sequim (CRS) equips groups of neighbors with the essential knowledge and skills necessary to prepare for and effectively respond to a catastrophic event. Participants learn how to organize and take immediate action, allowing them and their neighbors to be self-sufficient in the critical period before first responders can reach their area.

The Sequim Operational Area (SOA) that CRS, CERT and Clallam County Fire District 3 (CCFD3) cover extends west from the town of Gardiner to the “S” curves at Morse Creek near Port Angeles. Within those boundaries there are 16 CERT groups with 550+ members and 90+ CRS neighborhoods of which 70% are active.

A CRS neighborhood typically consists of 5 - 20 homes, but each community is unique and some can have up to 50 homes! They can be densely populated areas, such as the city of Sequim, expansive rural settings, or a combination of both. In the event of a major earthquake and tsunami, some neighborhoods may also be displaced due to liquefaction.

How does one get started? Contact CRS at: [360-670-0439](tel:360-670-0439), visit our website: <https://www.belleleleand.net/clallamready> or email: clallamready.sequim@gmail.com

Individuals commit to prepare themselves and help their neighbors prepare to survive a disaster or emergency. A small investment of time will ensure CRS neighborhoods are prepared for the long haul. An additional benefit is, the training and experiences will provide unique opportunities to get to know your neighbors ahead of time – we have AMAZING communities!

CRS will share comprehensive plans that provide neighbors with education and preparedness information including food, shelter, and care.

Neighbors will learn and discuss the different types of emergencies and disasters that might befall their neighborhoods including:

EMERGENCIES

Long Term Power Outage
Chemical Spill
Supply Chain Shutdown
Serious Weather Event

DISASTERS

Major Road Blockage – Landslide
Volcanic Eruption
Earthquake / Tsunami
Tornado / Hurricane

Background is shared about the Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) – What it is, how it works, and what could happen if it decides to break!

Attendees also learn about what the Federal response to a major disaster could be and how long it could take for them to mobilize and appear on the North Olympic Peninsula.

Preparing for a disaster before it happens and providing support during the critical period between a disaster striking and formal help arriving is what CRS is all about.

How CRS / CERT Collaboration Benefits All

When major disasters such as a CSZ earthquake and tsunamis occur, a 3-day clock begins. CERT team members, trained in light Search and Rescue). will first care for their own households and families and will then mobilize with their respective teams to begin canvassing the homes within their team boundaries. The ultimate goal is to canvas those homes within the first **3 DAYS**.

In neighborhoods where a CRS network is already established, CERT can operate more efficiently through critical communication and collaboration between the two entities. For example: Upon arriving at a neighborhood of approximately 20 homes, CERT can leverage preliminary reconnaissance results from CRS teams, who may have already identified the most critical needs (perhaps only 2 homes needing help). By providing CERT with completed Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) forms, CRS enables CERT to prioritize its efforts effectively, allowing personnel to move quickly to conduct light search and rescue (SAR) and provide other vital aid to assist the greatest number of people.

Once CERT teams have completed their missions, they may be redeployed to assist nearby areas with critical needs or they may return to their homes and further assist their neighborhoods.