



CITY OF OLYMPIA

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Fall 2018

FALL FORECAST

40% chance for higher than average temperatures and 40% chance for lower than average precipitation.

- Residents should prepare for potential wind storms, power outages and minor flooding.
- Make sure your supply kits are well stocked and that you have extra batteries for flashlights, radios, etc.
- If the power goes out keep generators and grills outside.
- Avoid using candles for lighting.
- Treat any downed power lines as if they are energized and keep a safe distance as they could be energizing the ground.

WELCOME!

This is the City's Emergency Management quarterly preparedness newsletter. Each edition will look at "Prepare in a Year" action steps, the long-range weather forecast, and several other timely topics.

PREPARE IN A YEAR

Prepare in a Year is a simple 12 step process to help you and your loved ones prepare for disasters and emergencies. Take a 60-minute step each month to be ready for storms, earthquakes, fires, power outages, etc. For a complete *Prepare in a Year* guide visit the [City's Preparedness page](#).

September

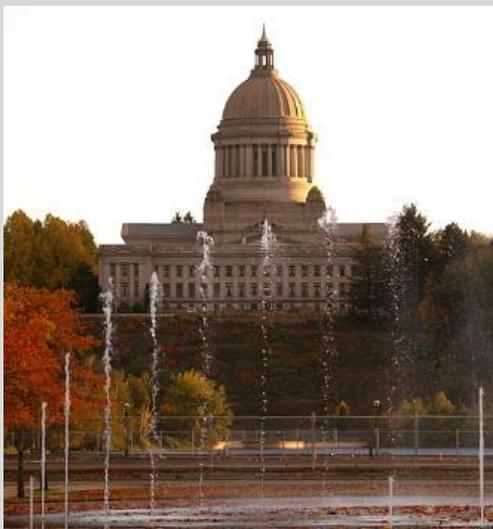
Action Plan: What you do immediately following an emergency or disaster can save lives, reduce injuries, and save property. What will you do if an earthquake happens? Do you have natural gas at your home? Do you know how to shut it off if a leak occurs? If you are visiting the coast do you pay attention to tsunami evacuation routes? In this digital age, how will you get information if your power is out? What will you do in an active shooter scenario?

October

Out-of-Area Contact: During a disaster it can be incredibly challenging to contact loved ones due to network congestion and damaged infrastructure. Establishing an out-of-area contact, preferably out-of-state, is one way to make sure you will be able to check on family and friends if you are separated during an event. If you can't complete a phone call to your out-of-area contact, try texting or use a landline.

November

Water: During a disaster water may be contaminated or supply pipes may be broken. Each member of your household will need a gallon of water per day. You don't have to buy bottled water. You can refill food grade containers, like 2-liter pop bottles, with tap water. Store in cool dark places, like under beds, in closets, or in a garage. Hot water heaters also hold large amounts of potable water. Certain types of contaminated water can be made potable through bleaching or boiling.



"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now." ~ Ancient Proverb



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DISASTER TIPS ~ SEISMIC RETROFITTING YOUR HOME

Is your Home built before 1985? Homes built prior to 1985 are typically more vulnerable to earthquake damage. Most homes built after 1985 were designed to conform to stricter building codes and are most likely better equipped to resist the force of an earthquake.

Is your home built on a raised foundation? If your house is not built on a concrete slab, chances are it's built on a raised foundation (these homes typically have a crawl space). This supporting structure under the house may not have been built to resist seismic forces and can be highly susceptible to structural failure in an earthquake.

Create a Path: Strengthening the structural frame of your house includes creating a "continuous load path" within your home. A continuous load path is a method of construction that uses a system of wood, metal connectors, fasteners (like nails and screws) and shearwalls to connect the structural frame of the house together. A continuous load path is critical during an earthquake because it helps hold the house together when ground forces try to pull it apart. A home is more likely to withstand an earthquake and stay intact when all parts of the house – roof, walls, floors and foundation – are connected together.

Retrofit Your Home Right: Before starting a seismic retrofit project you'll need to inspect and evaluate the structural integrity of your home. Hiring a professional will help ensure the retrofit is done right. There are seismic improvements that you can do on your own to strengthen your home, however, some cases may require an engineer and contractor. Knowing what is needed from the beginning will set you on the right course to a safer, stronger home. Remember when hiring a retrofit specialist, be sure they are licensed and have a good reputation.

DISASTER NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT

Olympia Amateur Radio Society(OARS): OARS was founded over 40 years ago as a place for local Ham Radio operators to meet and exchange ideas on their common hobby interests. OARS is associated with Thurston County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES). OARS and ARES provide emergency public service communications support for events such as Olympia Road Rallies, JOTA, Bigfoot Ultramarathons, MS Walk, Capital City Marathon, and other events. If you are interested in becoming a ham radio operator, or if you are already licensed and wish to join OARS, visit olyham.blogspot.com, fill out the new member form, and bring it to the next meeting. Meetings are at 7:00 PM on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at South Sound Manor - 455 North St. Tumwater, WA.

Emergency Management is available to conduct emergency preparedness training with your neighborhood, community, organization, etc. To schedule an event or for any other questions please contact: Patrick Knouff at 360-709-2701 or pknouff@ci.olympia.wa.us. Additional preparedness resources can be found at www.olympiawa.gov/fire. Follow us on Twitter! [@olyfiredept](https://twitter.com/olyfiredept)

