



CITY OF OLYMPIA

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Winter 2018

WINTER FORECAST

60% chance for higher than average temperatures and equal chance for higher or lower than average precipitation.

- Residents should prepare for potential wind storms, power outages and lowland snow events. Flooding is also possible.
- 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.

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](#).

December

72-hour Comfort Kit: 3 days of emergency supplies is an excellent start to becoming prepared for disasters and emergencies. Your kit should include water, food, first aid supplies, radio, dishes/utensils, flashlight, clothing, toiletries, can opener, important documents, cash, etc. Also consider adding comfort items like games, books, candy, etc. Store kits in backpacks or containers that can be easily moved if you need to leave your home.

January

Important Documents: A family plan is a critical document when communication is difficult or impossible and cell phones are broken or unavailable. Include your out of area contact, family/work/school cellphone and landline numbers, emails, medical provider information, meeting place, etc. After a disaster it will be useful to have copies of financial records, wills, insurance policies, titles, deeds, photos of valuable property for insurance claims, etc.

February

Extended Events: In a catastrophic disaster you may need 2 weeks or more of emergency supplies as well as additional equipment and tools. To be ready for a major disaster include basic camping supplies like lanterns, camping stove or grill, tent, sleeping bags, rain tarps, rain gear, hand sanitizer, portable/camp toilet, etc. When consuming food supplies start in the refrigerator, move to the freezer, and finish with shelf stable products.



"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do." – Mark Twain



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IT HAPPENED

The Anchorage Earthquake. On November 30th, 2018 at 8:29 a.m. a 7.0 earthquake struck just outside Anchorage, Alaska prompting a tsunami warning that was later canceled. It wasn't the big one but it was significant due to its proximity to Alaska's largest city. "It was sort of a shallower version of the Nisqually earthquake in 2001," said Harold Tobin, the director of the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network. Fortunately, no lives were lost, a testament to Alaska's commitment to resilience following a 9.2 earthquake in 1964, the strongest in U.S. history. Although transportation routes and water systems were damaged or disrupted no large buildings collapsed. The reason: updated building requirements which properly reflect the severity of risk in Alaska.

DISASTER TIPS ~ LIQUEFACTION

Liquefaction is a phenomenon in which the strength and stiffness of a soil is reduced by earthquake shaking. Liquefaction is responsible for tremendous amounts of damage in historical earthquakes around the world including the road damage that occurred in Alaska last week. Liquefaction occurs in soils in which the space between individual particles is completely filled with water. This water exerts a pressure on the soil particles that influences how tightly the particles themselves are pressed together. Prior to an earthquake, the water pressure is relatively low. However, earthquake shaking can cause the water pressure to increase to the point where the soil particles can readily move with respect to each other. When liquefaction occurs, the strength of the soil decreases and, the ability of a soil deposit to support foundations for buildings bridges, roadways, etc. is reduced. <http://www.youtube.com> has excellent content demonstrating liquefaction in a lab setting as well as liquefaction impacts in real events.

DISASTER NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT

Thurston County Food Bank: It is the mission of the Thurston County Food Bank to eliminate hunger within our community. Their service area includes the urban core of Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater, their surrounding growth areas and underserved parts of Thurston County. The Thurston County Food Bank works as the lead agency for the Emergency Food Assistance Program, accessing food through Food Lifeline and Northwest Harvest, as well as providing food and technical support to some smaller rural operations. The food bank is a life line in our community. This doesn't change during a disaster. In fact demand for the the foodbanks services will likely increase during a disaster. For more information visit <http://thurstoncountyfoodbank.org/>.

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)

