Emergency Preparedness

Presented by the Seattle Office of Emergency Management
Seattle is vulnerable to many disasters…
# Seattle’s top hazards

1. **Earthquakes**
2. Snow and Ice
3. Infrastructure/Cyber
4. Windstorms
5. Power Outages
6. Terrorism
7. Disease Outbreaks
8. Flooding
9. Excessive Heat
10. Fires
11. Tsunamis/Seiches
12. Landslides
13. Transportation Accidents
14. Water Shortages
15. Social Unrest
16. HAZMAT Incidents
17. Volcano
18. Active Shooter
Earthquakes in Seattle

The Seattle area experiences three earthquake types with three very different consequences

1. Crustal or Shallow Quakes

2. Intraplate or Deep Quakes

3. Subduction Zone or Megathrust Quakes
Seattle Hazard Explorer

www.seattle.gov/hazardexplorer
Know the reality

Earthquakes - no other hazard has the combination of likelihood and potential destructiveness

The things you rely on will be significantly disrupted

- People may not be able to get anywhere easily (roads, bridges damaged; transit will stop)
- Stores may quickly run out of supplies
- Utilities may be damaged (electricity, water, sewer)
- Gas stations and ATM machines may not work
- Hospitals may be overwhelmed
- Phones, cable TV, and internet may not work
- First responders may not be able to help you for some time
Develop a plan

Consider the following:

• How will you reunite with Family?
• Know alternate routes home and to work
• Know plans for work and children’s schools or day care
• What if you have no electricity?
• What if you have no water service?
Communications plan

Include the following in your communications plan:

• Texting is your best option

• Establish text message groups

• Social media

• Don’t make calls unless absolutely necessary
Know your neighborhood’s plan

Help Each Other

Community Emergency Hubs
Seattleemergencyhubs.org

SNAP Groups
Seattle.gov/emergency
Retrofit your home

• Secure the following:
  • Large furniture
  • Wall hangings
  • Kitchen cabinets & contents
  • Water heater
  • Washer/Dryer
  • Stoves
  • Hazardous materials

Go on a 30 min. hazard hunt

Attend a free home retrofit class
Was your home built before 1980?
Retrofit your home
See list of contractors on OEM's webpage
Sign Up for emergency alerts

When emergencies happen, be the first to know. Stay informed with AlertSeattle to receive real-time, official notifications from the City of Seattle. This is a free service.

alert.seattle.gov

Types of Alerts

Emergency Alerts

Community Notifications

• Severe weather
• Safety
• Health
• Special events
• Utility disruptions
• Major traffic disruptions
• Emergency preparedness
• Test messages
Build a kit

• Be prepared to be on your own for 7-10 days

• Think about what you use on a daily basis, and include those items in your kit

• Have a kit in your car and at work
What to do during an earthquake

Quake Advice:
Don’t run during the shaking

Drop, Cover and Hold under a desk or table

If there’s not table, find the nearest safe place beside an inside wall or lower than furnishings; get into a corner or against a supporting column

If outside and in an open area, sit down and cover your head with your arms

If in the ‘danger zone’ next to a building, try to get back into the building to find shelter
What to do after an earthquake

1. Check on yourself and your family for injuries

2. Check on your home

3. Check on others

4. Find out more information
Know how and when to control utilities

Shut off natural gas ONLY if necessary
- Only shut it off if you smell natural gas, hear a hissing sound, or dial is spinning rapidly

Shut off water at the main house valve
- Typically located right outside your house or inside
- This saves the water in your hot water heater and toilet from possible contamination
- Turn off power to the water heater – attach a hose

Check to see if your home sustained structural damage
- Rope off damaged areas so others know
Find out more information

- **Get AlertSeattle messages**
  Sign up online at alert.seattle.gov

- **Tune in to local emergency radio stations**
  AM 710, AM 1000, FM 97.3, FM 97.7 and FM 94.9

- **Tune into local television**

- **Follow City departments on social media**
  (Twitter, Facebook, NextDoor, Reddit)
  @CityofSeattle, @SeattlePD, @SeattleFire, @AlertSeattle, @SeattleDOT, @SeattleSPU, @SEAcitylight

- **Go to your nearest emergency hub**
Disaster skills training

- Know how to use a fire extinguisher
- Check on utilities
  Shut off water at the main house valve
- Shut off natural gas ONLY if necessary
  Only shut it off if you smell natural gas, hear a hissing sound, or dial is spinning rapidly
- Learn Basic First Aid skills
- Light Search and Rescue
- Find classes at www.seattle.gov/emergency
Questions?

Thank you for attending – you’ll be happy you prepared ahead of time when the next disaster strikes!