

CITY OF SAMMAMISH

# 5 STEP

NEIGHBORHOOD  
ACTION KIT



PROGRAM GUIDE



# WE NEVER THINK a disaster will strike our neighborhood

or at least we hope it won't! However, it is not a question of **IF** it will happen, but **WHEN**.

**Find out what you can do to make your neighborhood better able to meet disasters head on and bounce back afterwards.**

**Use this toolkit to build a disaster plan for your neighborhood.**

Remember, you are not on your own. The City of Sammamish, King County, and many of our partner cities, non-profits and agencies have plans and resources to share and are ready to help! But, with over 2.1 million people spread throughout King County rescuers may not be able to provide immediate support to every neighborhood in need. Neighbors should be prepared to help themselves for several days or weeks – it depends on the size of the disaster!

Being prepared also means neighbor helping neighbor. Be sure to include:

- ◆ Neighbors with disabilities and others of all ages who may need help following a disaster
- ◆ Neighbors who have reduced ability or inability to see, read, walk, speak, hear, learn, remember, understand and/or respond
- ◆ Neighbors with visible disabilities such as wheelchair users, people who are blind, and those with hidden needs and disability such as heart conditions, respiratory conditions, emotional or mental health conditions, arthritis, significant allergies, asthma, and/or chemical and other environmental sensitivities
- ◆ Individuals who may lack transportation, single working parents, and those who may have limited or no ability to speak, read, or understand English and will need translated information

For additional information visit  
[https://www.sammamish.us/  
government/departments/  
emergency-management/](https://www.sammamish.us/government/departments/emergency-management/)



# NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PLANNING



## STEP 1

### DEFINE YOUR AREA

Identify a manageable area, your apartment building, one block, a few small surrounding streets, etc, that you can organize with relative ease.



## STEP 2

### RECRUIT LEADERS & PARTICIPANTS

Develop a team of leaders who can help build the plan and carry out emergency support activities when the time comes.



## STEP 3

### SCOUT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Get to know the lay of the land: what resources you have, what the landscape is, and disasters or other emergencies common to your area.



## STEP 4

### BUILD YOUR TEAM

Find out who lives in your area, how they can help in a disaster, and who may need extra help.



## STEP 5

### PLAN YOUR APPROACH

Create a plan that outlines what your neighborhood will do before, during, and after a disaster!

# STEP 1: DEFINE YOUR AREA



## STEP 1 **DEFINE YOUR AREA**



**TIP: Get to know CERT!**  
Community Emergency Response Team training prepares communities for disasters.

From Sahalee to Klahanie, Timberline to Heritage Hills, our City is comprised of many different neighborhoods.

In order for you to develop a disaster plan for your neighborhood, it is important to define the area that your plan will cover.

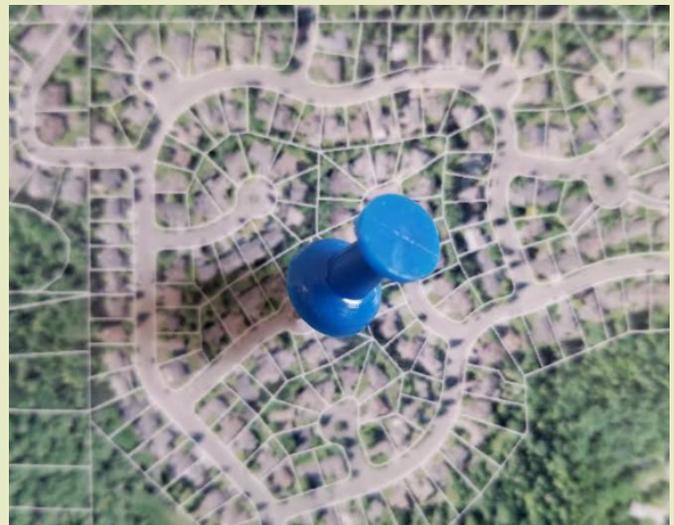
### Here are a few questions to consider:

- ◆ What size area would be easy for you and a small team to manage? **25 to 40 households is the ideal size**; however, work within existing structures and networks when available (like neighborhood watch programs, etc.)
- ◆ Will you be able to easily communicate with everyone? What languages are commonly spoken?
- ◆ Will the area allow you to practice “neighbor helping neighbor” so that you can quickly identify who needs help and provide it? If your area is larger than 40 households, divide it into smaller areas with a “block captain” for each block

### Make sure that you make note of these:

- ◆ The number of homes, businesses, schools, churches, and other buildings in the area
- ◆ The number of people in the area
- ◆ Roads and other entrance and exit points, hills, and waterways
- ◆ Earthquake liquefaction zones that may be hazardous

### Next, chart your defined area on a map.



**TIP:** The easiest way to accomplish Step #1 is to **walk** your neighborhood, **gathering this information.**



Once you know the area that your disaster plan will cover, it is time to identify leaders! Here is what to look for:

## People with training and experience such as:

- ◆ Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) or those active in neighborhood watch
- ◆ Neighborhood councils, human services, clergy or business leaders
- ◆ Police, fire, military, or health care personnel
- ◆ Those with experience providing care for persons with disabilities or those who may need help following a disaster

## How many leaders are needed?

- ◆ Are there a lot of people in one area of the neighborhood? Are buildings spread out?
- ◆ Match the number of leaders with the number of people who need to be led! The ideal team size is 3-7 persons



STEP 2

# RECRUIT LEADERS & PARTICIPANTS

- ◆ Here are some ideas for finding and keeping leaders for your Neighborhood Disaster Plan:
- ◆ Talk with them, face to face, at community events, meetings, and when you see them day-to-day
- ◆ Post messages on social media, neighborhood groups, and other networking websites



# STEP 3: SCOUT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD



## STEP 3 SCOUT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

### 3.1 THREATS AND RISKS

Get to know what disasters or other emergencies your neighborhood might experience. Here are some helpful hints:

#### Identify the threats.

Earthquakes, power outages, extreme weather, and disease outbreaks happen everywhere, but landslides, flooding, or pipeline accidents may only happen in some places. List the threats that might occur in your neighborhood.

#### Rate the risk.

Is the disaster very likely, somewhat likely, or not very likely to occur?

#### Assess the risk.

How vulnerable is your neighborhood to injuries, death or property damage? Classify these risks as high, medium or low. Use the directions under Likelihood of Occurrence and Level of Impact to assess your risks.

#### Likelihood of Occurrence.

**ALMOST CERTAIN:** Greater than 90% chance

**LIKELY:** 50 – 90% chance

**MODERATE:** 10 – 50% chance

**UNLIKELY:** 3 – 10% chance

**RARE:** 3% chance or less

#### Level of Impact.

**MINOR:** Some disruption of service possible. Little or no property damage, personal injury, or loss of life, injuries, and fatalities.

**MODERATE:** Disruption of some services. Minimum property damage, injury, and loss of life.

**MAJOR:** Many services disrupted and/or structures severely damaged. Multiple persons injured and significant loss of life.

Use a table like the one below to list these threats and risks.

THREAT	LIKELIHOOD OF OCCURRENCE	LEVEL OF IMPACT





## 3.2 NEIGHBORHOOD SPECIFIC HAZARDS

The City of Sammamish is subject to many disasters; decide which are threats to your neighborhood:

**Fires.** Especially risky if buildings are closely spaced or near thick brush. Fires can come from broken or leaky gas lines too!

**Earthquakes.** Every Sammamish neighborhood is at risk of an earthquake, even one of catastrophic proportions.

**Landslides.** Hillsides may be subject to landslides, especially after fires and/or rainy seasons.

**Flooding.** Flooding may result from overflowing waterways, heavy rains, or clogged storm drains.

### **Electricity, Water, and Telephone**

**Service.** These utilities may not be available for long periods after a disaster.

**Severe Weather.** The City of Sammamish is also subject to very high winds, freezing rain, and winter storms.

**Chemical Emergencies.** Industrial, roadway, or broken pipeline accidents can cause chemical or hazardous material release.

**Disease Outbreak.** Outbreaks can result in many people becoming ill and disrupt key services.

**Extreme Heat and Cold.** Children, older adults, and people with certain types of disabilities or some chronic conditions are more affected when it is very hot or very cold.

**Terrorist Attack.** Some areas are potential targets for a terrorist attacks like schools, sport settings, or retail centers.

**Local Hazards.** Be sure to identify hazards and risks that may be specific to your neighborhood, such as overhead electrical transmission lines, natural gas pipelines, chemical storage, and other localized threats.

# STEP 3: SCOUT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

## 3.3 NEIGHBORHOOD ASSETS

Next, identify neighborhood assets. This includes anyone or anything that would be useful in responding to, or recovering from a disaster. Here are examples:

- ◆ Neighborhood emergency supplies
- ◆ Physical places like parks, schools, open areas, garages and carports
- ◆ Organizations like neighborhood clubs, fraternal organizations, radio clubs, churches, and disability service providers
- ◆ Persons trained in CERT, medical care, first aid, carpentry, plumbing, child care or crisis counseling

- ◆ Businesses inside or close to the area that might be able to provide supplies or equipment
- ◆ Equipment and supplies for clearing debris, snowploughs or snowblowers, communication equipment, first aid supplies, generators and other items useful during or after a disaster
- ◆ Evacuation resources, like accessible or 4 wheel drive vehicles

### How do we identify assets?

Make a list of threats and risks to the community, and identify which assets your neighborhood would need in a disaster. Is it vulnerable to damage? What can be done to reduce vulnerability? Be sure to list the location and contact information if necessary. Here is an example of a table that you can use:

ASSET TYPE	ASSET DESCRIPTION	ASSET LOCATION OR CONTACT INFORMATION

# STEP 3: SCOUT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD



## 3.4 MAP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Use an online mapping tool or other easy-to-obtain source. Make a sketch of your neighborhood. The free websites [maps.google.com](https://maps.google.com) or [maps.yahoo.com](https://maps.yahoo.com) may be useful.

On your sketch, show streets, blocks, and house/building lots. Show units and floors for apartment or multi-unit buildings. Number the lots sequentially (1,2,3). Include all address numbers and the names of occupants for each lot.

Contact information will be checked and updated if needed in Step 4.

### Include:

- ◆ All area entrance/exit routes that are accessible by foot, wheelchair/scooter, and car
- ◆ Your Disaster Support Hub (see next section)
- ◆ A location where the injured can be given first aid or assessed for medical treatment
- ◆ Possible barriers that could make entry/exit difficult (e.g., damaged bridges, trees, or power lines)
- ◆ Neighbors who may need extra help following a disaster with seeing, reading, walking, speaking, hearing, remembering, understanding, and/or responding
- ◆ You may also want to include a Neighborhood Care Center (see next section) where care can be provided for children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities who may need support after a disaster.

# STEP 3: SCOUT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

## 3.5 DISASTER SUPPORT HUB

This is a space for neighbors to organize response activities. Pick one large central area to gather and organize the next steps in your neighborhood's response. Here is what to look for when identifying a possible Disaster Support Hub:

- ◆ Easily seen so others will know this as the main gathering point
- ◆ Set in an area that is easy for everyone to be safe from flood, fire, fallen trees and power lines
- ◆ Has nearby accessible toilet facilities
- ◆ Well lit in case of night evacuation
- ◆ Can accommodate service animals and pets
- ◆ Big enough for planned number of persons and vehicles
- ◆ Is accessible to children and adults with disabilities



Register your Disaster Support Hub with the City of Sammamish Office of Emergency Management at: <https://www.sammamish.us/government/departments/emergency-management/>

## 3.6 NEIGHBORHOOD CARE CENTER

This is a place where those who may need extra help following a disaster, to include children, older adults, and persons with disabilities or other access and functional needs, can be brought and cared for. Neighborhoods should strive to create a safe atmosphere within the Care Center.

## 3.7 TRIAGE AREA

This is a place where people injured can be given first aid or evaluated for medical treatment.



## STEP 4: BUILD YOUR TEAM

The most important resources you have are one another! Follow these easy activities to build your team.

Form a Group. Make sure it represents the diversity in your neighborhood and includes homeowners, families, businesses, churches, nonprofits, schools, and local organizations **in your defined area**.

Actively include people with disabilities and others who may need help after a disaster.

Also, determine if there are human service organizations; disability service providers; or residential, community care, and assisted living facilities in your neighborhood. If so, invite them to join the planning process and discuss how you may be able to help each other.



## STEP 4 **BUILD YOUR TEAM**



# STEP 4: BUILD YOUR TEAM

**Hold a meeting.** Ask the leaders you identified in Step 2 to get the word out about the meeting. Make sure that all households are personally invited. You may also want to invite representatives from Sammamish Citizen Corps Council, City Emergency Management, or local Fire and Law Enforcement. Use the Facilitator Guide to focus the meeting.

Key meeting activities are:

- ◆ Review 5 Step Neighborhood Action Kit Facilitator Guide
- ◆ Identify the skills and equipment each neighbor has that are useful in disaster response
- ◆ Identify spoken and American Sign languages used in the area

**TIP:** Use the same phone tree, text and communications system to notify neighbors door to door. If your neighborhood is larger, have block captains (if used) lead this.



**Encourage neighbors to attend the meeting.** A personal invitation is the best way to invite neighbors. Here are a few more ideas:

- ◆ Prepare a flyer
- ◆ Build a “Be Prepared” page on your neighborhood website
- ◆ Set up a Facebook or Twitter page or piggy back off of a site with a larger following
- ◆ Develop email lists of community leaders and organizations
- ◆ Recruit community, business or homeowner organizations

Using the chart you created in Step 3, write the following for each household/facility:

- ◆ Phone, email, text, special skills, resources, number of adults/children, pets/animals/service animals, persons who may need additional assistance
- ◆ Create a phone tree or “notification chart” through which people contact each other to relay news
- ◆ Walk the area at the end of the meeting to verify your sketch



## 5.1 TAKING ACTION

### When Disaster Strikes...

#### Make Sure Everyone in Your Household is Safe

Don't forget your pets!

#### Put Your Personal Emergency Plan Into Action

Wear protective clothing, pull out your fire extinguisher, check your utilities and take other steps noted in your plan.

#### Go to Your Disaster Support Hub

If it's safe, gather at your planned location to check in.

#### Get Organized

If the Leader in your plan is not available, choose someone to lead the overall response effort.

#### Form Response Teams

Using your plan, choose team leaders for every 3-7 people with a response role.

#### Put Neighborhood Plan into Action!

Decide what you want to do, how you plan to do it, and the time you have to respond.

**TIP:** Shut off the gas only if you smell or hear it. If it does not have an automatic shut-off, turn the valve so that the bar is perpendicular to the gas line. Keep a wrench wired to the gas meter and know the location of water shut-off valves.



STEP 5

**PLAN  
YOUR  
APPROACH**



# STEP 5: PLAN YOUR APPROACH

A practice used by first responders and CERT is to organize using the Incident Command System. The **Incident Commander** is the leader. He/she is responsible for deciding what is to be done. **Operations** carries out the decided actions. **Logistics** coordinates resources (transportation, people, supplies). **Planning and Intelligence** monitors information coming in and plans for future activities. Teams include:

**Survey and Assist Teams.** This team will look for the OK/Help signs, as well as check on those listed as needing extra help. They begin with a needs assessment to identify hazard areas and prioritize neighborhood operations. Ideal members have completed CERT Search & Rescue training.

**Care Teams.** Care Teams can consist of the Triage Team – those who determine the priority that injured survivors will receive care; the Treatment Team – those who tend to the injured; the Morgue Team – those who manage the deceased; and the Care Center Team – those who provide extra care during the disaster. Members of these teams ideally have experience in healthcare.

**Materials & Supplies Team.** This team coordinates needed materials and supplies from within the neighborhood.

**Transportation Team.** This team coordinates transportation of supplies, equipment and people.

**Communications Team.** The Communications Team listens to the Emergency Alert System, Family Radio Service (FRS)/ham radio, or National Weather Radio. The Communications Team is responsible for communicating information within the neighborhood, and to/from the neighborhood and first responders and other agencies like fire and police.

**Neighbor Information Team.** This team coordinates information about survivors and relays information about rescue progress and survivor status (injured, missing, etc.) from the Command Post to the Care Center.

**Rescue Progress Team.** This team keeps track of the rescue progress of survivors.



## 5.2 COMMUNICATION

Be sure to call 9-1-1 if you need help in an emergency.

In King County you can dial 2-1-1 for information after a disaster

**Telephones.** Don't rely on telephone service, but if you need to call someone keep the conversation brief or text.

**Ham Radios.** When planning for communications in your neighborhood see if you have neighbors who are Ham or Amateur Radio operators who can get information from the City's Emergency Operations Center

**FRS Radios.** Your neighborhood can also decide to use small Family Radio Service radios to keep in touch with one another.



# STEP 5: PLAN YOUR APPROACH

Other places residents can find emergency information include the following:

**ALERT King County.** ALERT King County is a community mass notification system that will provide recorded phone, text and email messages. Register at <http://kingcounty.gov/depts/emergency-management/alert-king-county.aspx> and click on the link to “Subscribe to ALERT King County”.

**City of Sammamish Alerts.** The City of Sammamish sends out regular email and text alerts on a variety of topics, including traffic, extreme weather, and emergency information. Register at <https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/WASAMMAM/subscriber/new>

**Emergency Alert System.** Messages will be broadcast to the public via radio and television stations. These are voice messages with text scrolling on a television screen.

**Public and Commercial Media.** Television, radio, and satellite will transmit emergency alert messages. Your car radio might be the easiest way to listen to emergency broadcasts. Listen to local broadcast station AM 540 or Channel 21 for emergency information from the City of Sammamish.

## Social Media and Mobile Applications

The American Red Cross has several mobile applications that can be downloaded for free information on earthquakes, fires, first aid and other topics. Be careful and selective of using social media for information after a disaster and always verify with a trusted agency before acting on information from non-official sources.



## 5.3 PUT IT IN WRITING

The next step is to put your plan in writing! Feel free to increase or decrease the amount of information you include in your plan – Make it Yours!

### Basic Plan

Should include threats, risks, your neighborhood sketch, and your basic approach to response.

### Support Annexes

“Support Annexes” provide detail that goes beyond the Basic Plan. They outline specific tasks, such as how you will communicate or notify neighbors before, during and after a disaster. Other tasks that Annexes describe could include:

#### ◆ Shelter-in-Place

Following a disaster, local authorities may determine that it is safer for individuals and families to remain in their places of residence, or “shelter-in-place”. A Shelter-in-Place Annex would detail how the neighborhood will support if required to shelter-in-place for an extended period.

#### ◆ Mitigation

Address ways that you can lessen the impact of disasters. Neighborhoods can establish “neighbor helping neighbor” programs for delivering food, medicine and water to people that are unable to get these items on their own.

#### ◆ Evacuation

If an evacuation is required, city police and fire departments will reach out to notify residents but your Annex helps get the word out to everyone in your neighborhood. Listen and take directions from officials on which evacuation routes should be used. An evacuation annex describes how the neighborhood will assist authorities to evacuate the area.



### Hazard Specific Annexes

Hazard Specific Annexes describe how the neighborhood will respond to a specific disaster like a large fire, an earthquake, winter storms, and other threats that face your neighborhood.

### Safe and Well Website

Encourage neighbors to register on the Red Cross “Safe and Well” website <<https://safeandwell.communityos.org/cms/index.php>>, or other form of social media, to let friends and family know they’re OK.

# STEP 5: PLAN YOUR APPROACH

## Emergency Signs

One way your neighborhood might track the status of neighbors immediately after a disaster is to use a sign or Emergency Door Hanger. Following a disaster, place the green side of the door hanger facing out if you are “OK” or the red “HELP” side if you need help. In this way neighbors and local responders can save time and effort when surveying your neighborhood. Emergency Signs are not appropriate for every neighborhood so discuss your plan to use them in community meetings before your plan is finalized.

Make your plans available in languages commonly spoken in the neighborhood and use email, a neighborhood website, or other ways to be sure the plan is understood by those unable to read the document.

Hold regular meetings, at least one a year, to review, improve, exercise, and update your plan.

Sample emergency signs can be found in the Forms packet available to Facilitators.





# DURING A DISASTER

you may only have seconds to make big decisions.

Do you know **WHERE** to find your disaster supplies?

Here are some examples of disaster supplies you may need:

## DOCUMENTS

- Identification: Driver's licenses, birth certificates, passports, social security cards & bank account information, recent photographs of family members
- Insurance, loan documents, wills, trusts, certificates
- A list of family members with contact information (home, cell, work, address). Copy important documents to a flash drive and place in another secure remote location

## MEDICAL

- Medical provider information
- Medications and when you need to take them
- At least a seven-day supply of prescribed medicines and if possible, copies of prescriptions
- If medications require refrigeration or special handling, make special plans (e.g., cold packs, ice cooler, mini refrigerator)

## FIRST AID KIT

- Bandages, gauze, wipes, rubber gloves
- Rubbing alcohol and hydrogen peroxide

## FOR BABY / CHILDREN

- Formula and bottles
- Diapers
- Medications
- Sanitary supplies
- Familiar toy or book
- Car seat

# DISASTER RESOURCES

## TOOLS

- Battery, solar powered or hand-crank AM/FM radio
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Wrench for turning off gas

## SUPPLIES

- Cash - at least \$100-200 in small bills per person, as possible
- Soap, toilet paper
- Toothbrush/paste
- Plastic bags
- Two complete sets of clothing and shoes per person
- Blankets or sleeping bags for each person
- Extra set of keys
- Feminine products

## WATER AND FOOD

- Water – 1 gallon per person per day including infants and children (a two week's supply labeled with expiration date)
- Non-perishable food that does not require refrigeration, preparation/cooking, and little or no water
- Extra food (remember special dietary needs)





## DISABILITY OR LIMITED MOBILITY

If you are a person with a disability, have a sensory or cognitive disability, or limited mobility, make sure your emergency kit includes items specific to your needs and have a list of the following:

- Adaptive or supportive equipment and extra batteries
- Instructions on how to operate any special equipment

## FOR PETS/SERVICE ANIMALS

- Identification tags
- Extra food and water
- Clean-up supplies
- Medicine
- Transport case
- Leash



For a listing of additional items visit <https://www.sammamish.us/government/departments/emergency-management/preparedness-resources/>

**This 5-Step Neighborhood Action Kit is adapted from a program  
created by the City of Los Angeles Emergency Management Department**