

## 2004 Disaster Preparedness for Orcas Island

### WERE YOU READY?

Now that Orcas has had our first winter weather event, how would you rate readiness in your own home? Sheriff's 911 dispatch feels "everything went pretty smoothly and the community handled the weather responsibly. People drove slower and a lot just stayed home."

Every year since the BIG STORM of 1991, this phone list has appeared in every island mailbox. And every year I wonder if we are any more ready for another BIG STORM or worse... It seems the answer is yes!

When a major disaster occurs, our Emergency Services - Fire, Sheriff's Office, EMS , Public Works and Public Health - will be quickly overwhelmed. Following a catastrophic disaster, there may be minimal or no regular phone service. Roads may be impassable. And, there may not be enough emergency personnel to respond to every need right away. This means that all of us - neighborhoods, schools and businesses, may have to rely on our own resources for food, first aid and shelter for THREE DAYS or LONGER!

Being *more* prepared can begin with a simple checklist. Take a few minutes TODAY to do one thing towards being more prepared and gaining "peace of mind". And keep up the good work.

Max Jones – Orcas Fire Department

### HAVE A PLAN...

#### 1. THINK AHEAD .

- 1.Ensure that your new address number is posted where emergency responders can see it, at the entrance to your driveway. Reflective materials are advised.
2. Many phones do not work in a power outage. Have a phone that requires *only* a phone jack to operate.
3. Keep a working, battery operated radio handy to get up-to-date information.

#### 2. WATER .

1. Winterize your water pipes and/or pump.
2. Set aside drinking water just in case. Store one gallon per person, per day.
3. Remember pets need fresh water, too.

### **3. FOOD.**

- 1. Maintain 3-5 days supply of non-perishables like granola bars, canned nuts, peanut butter, canned soup and crackers. Don't forget comfort foods like hot cocoa!**
- 2. Have equipment to prepare these foods (like a manual can opener and camp stove).**

### **4. LIGHT.**

- 1. Have a working flashlight and set of spare batteries *where you can find them in the dark.***

### **5. WARMTH .**

- 1. Keep your firewood close by and your fuel tanks topped off.**
- 2. Have extra blankets, sleeping bags and warm clothing on hand.**
- 3. Keep your generator fueled and test it regularly.**

### **6. FIRST AID SUPPLIES.**

- 1. If you are on medication, have an adequate supply, (at least 7 days worth).**
- 2. Keep a first aid kit stocked and ready to go. Emergency responders may be delayed or on other emergencies. You may need to help yourself.**

### **7. HAVE EXTRA SUPPLIES**

- 1. Especially for those in your household with special needs such as the elderly, infants and chronically ill.**

### **8. GENERAL SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 1. Make sure your smoke detectors are working. Check the batteries and carbon monoxide sensor unit cartridges for expiration date.**
- 2. Fire extinguishers need yearly maintenance. Check to insure your extinguisher is still charged.**
- 3. If you plan to route generator power through your home wiring, contact an electrician to have a transfer switch installed. An improperly installed generator can endanger workers who may be repairing lines.**

### **9. PETS AND ANIMALS**

1. Plan ahead before leaving pets tied up or confined outdoors for extended periods.
2. Make sure they have adequate shelter, water and food.
3. Keep additional pet foods (and medications) on hand in the event of extreme weather or road closures.

#### **10. THINK BEFORE YOU TRAVEL**

1. Call ahead before hitting the road. Get ferry, road, airport and pass information.
2. Be prepared for cancelled ferries and flights. It can be a long trip home.

#### **OTHER WEB SITES OF INTEREST:**

Weather [www.wrh.noaa.gov/seattle](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/seattle) (click on specific county or area desired)  
or [www.nws.noaa.gov/stormready](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/stormready)

Emergency Preparedness: [www.redcross.org/services/disaster](http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster)

Earthquake Information: [www.ess.washington.edu](http://www.ess.washington.edu)

Earthquake Preparedness: [www.aap.org/family/frk/frkit25.htm](http://www.aap.org/family/frk/frkit25.htm)

#### **THINK BEFORE YOU DIAL...**

Please do not call 9-1-1 to report a power outage or for other non-emergency calls! It is very important that 9-1-1 is available for emergencies only.

Post these numbers near your phone.

#### **MEDICAL**

Orcas Medical Center 360 376-2561

Dr. Olmstead message phone 376-6707

Nurse Midwife Melinda Milligan 376-4267

Orcas Family Practice 376-7778

Eye Clinic - Dr. Chris White 376-5310

Ray's Pharmacy 376-2230  
*after hours emergency only 376-3693*

## **SERVICES & UTILITIES**

**Orcas Island Fire District Office 376-2331**  
**Opalco - Power Outages 376-3500**  
***after hour power outages 376-3599***  
**Eastsound Water Users 376-2127**  
**CenturyTel Phone Repair 611**  
**SeaTac Shuttle Service 1-800-448-8443**

## **LOCAL ROAD CONDITIONS**

**Orcas County Shop 376-2505**  
**Friday Harbor Shop 378-2114**  
**Lopez County Shop 468-2273**  
**Main Office 370-0500**

## **FERRY SERVICES**

**WSF Direct Inf. 1-888-808-7977**  
***Internet [www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/)***  
**Orcas Landing 376-6253**  
**Friday Harbor 378-8665**  
**Lopez 468-4095**  
**Shaw 468-2142**

## **MAINLAND ROAD CONDITIONS**

**WA State Travel Info 511**  
***Internet [wsdot.wa.gov/traveler](http://wsdot.wa.gov/traveler)***  
**State Patrol Road Info 1-360-658-2588**

## **ANIMALS AND PET EMERGENCY**

**Orcas Animal Clinic (all animals) 376-7838**  
***or emergency pager 1-800-212-6562***  
**Wolf Hollow (wildlife info) 378-5000**  
**Orcas Island Animal Shelter 376-6777**

## **WHERE TO TUNE FOR INFORMATION**

**School Closures and delays:**

**KGMI 790 AM, KAFE 104.3 FM, KLKI 1340 AM, KOMO 1000 AM**  
**KING TV Channel 5**

**General Orcas Road & Emergency:**

**KGMI 790 Am or KISM 92.9 FM Ferry update info: KLKI 1340 AM**