

## **Emergency Preparedness (EPREP) Overview:**

Preparing our families in advance of an emergency or natural disaster is a sensible thing to do. Hazards that could affect our area and neighborhoods include earthquake, tsunami, landslide, flood, windstorms, winter storms, power outages, pandemic illness or terrorist attack. In a major disaster, traditional 9-1-1 and First Responder capabilities such as fire, police, medics, and utility personnel will be overwhelmed and unable to immediately assist individuals.

**EPREP Planning:** Develop a plan to keep you and your family safe during an emergency. Involve all family members in your preparedness planning. Local EPREP and Neighborhood Preparedness (NPREP) organizations provide helpful planning guidelines and support.

**Food, Water, Supplies, and Tools planning:** Having an emergency supply kit is essential to making it through a disaster safely. Prepare food, water, supplies and tools that support you for three (3) days is suggested for a Grab&Go! Bag should you need to evacuate. It is suggested to have supplies on hand to last each person for 30 days in the case of a major disaster.

**Communications plans:** Develop a plan that will allow you to stay informed about your family members immediately following a disaster. Normal phone and mobile/cell communication avenues could be unavailable. A plan to communicate with neighbors and with the outside world can be lifesaving. Consider using walkie-talkies( Family Radio Service (FRS)) radios for your neighborhood. NPREP groups provide access to HAM radio operators that can communicate with the outside world during emergencies. Establish an out-of-area contact and family reunification plan.

**Preparing your home:** Staying in your home is always preferable over an emergency shelter. Start by identifying hazards in your home, and take actions to make your home a safer place to live. Know what actions you need to take, such as turning off power, water or gas utility lines. Consider storing a few key items under your bed that will help to keep you safe as you survey the house for damage.

**Secure your financial and important documents:** Prepare an Emergency Financial First Aid Kit (EFFAK) - a simple tool to assist you and your family in maintaining financial stability in the event of an emergency. It helps to identify and organize key financial records and important documents.

## **Useful EPREP online links:**

Think, Plan, Do, Repeat Guide (for EPREP planning):

<http://bit.ly/about-think-plan-do-repeat>

Basic Preparedness Kit, Grab & Go Guide:

<http://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/1104/Be-Prepared>

Emergency Financial First Aid Kit (EFFAK):

<https://www.operationhope.org/images/uploads/Files/effak2008.pdf>

Jefferson County Local2020 Neighborhood Preparedness (NPREP) org:

<http://l2020.org/emergency-preparedness/>

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