



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Fire & Building Department
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: J. Kevin Nalder, Director of Fire and Building
Helen Ahrens-Byington, Deputy Fire Chief – City Emergency Manager

Date: January 9, 2013

Subject: Prepare in a Year

RECOMMENDATION:

Encourage Kirkland employees, citizens and businesses to join the City of Kirkland staff and Prepare in a Year.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

The City's Emergency Management Action Team has set a 2013 goal that all City employees are prepared for a disaster so they are ready to support the community during and after a disaster. The New Year was started with encouraging all City employees to prepare in a year by using the Washington State Emergency Management Division's program, "Prepare in a Year." Below is the link to the state's comprehensive website about disaster preparedness and preparing in a year. The site also contains links to preparedness videos and other important initiatives like Map Your Neighborhood and the CERT program.

http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prep_infocus.shtml

The primary tool for preparing in a year is an easy to use and easy to follow booklet that identifies how residents prepare in each month and contains a checklist to ensure that everything is completed. The link to the booklet as a pdf is below.

http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/documents/2011_PIY_Booklet.pdf

While the priority focus of the effort is for prepared employees, the Office of Emergency Management and the City Council Public Safety Committee also wanted to encourage Kirkland citizens and businesses to join in, help Kirkland reach our vision of promoting a community that is resilient to disasters and "Prepare in a Year." Tonight's presentation is one step in that outreach. The City also issued a press release (attached) to encourage all residents to prepare in a year as their New Year's Resolution.

News Release:

Kirkland residents encouraged to "Prepare in a Year"
State Emergency Management campaign plans for monthly preparedness activities

Kirkland, Wash. – The City of Kirkland Office of Emergency Management wants residents to consider an important New Year's resolution – to be prepared for disasters. Thanks to a preparedness program called "Prepare in a Year," the Washington State Emergency Management Division has made it easy to participate. Visit http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prep_infocus.shtml to download the activity booklet that describes 12 activities to complete over one year's time. One activity is to create an out-of-state contact so when you are separated from your loved ones after a disaster, all family members can call the contact to report their status. The booklet contains a sample contact card. Another activity is to prepare a 72-hour comfort kit that includes water, food, first aid supplies, tools, clothing and special items. The booklet contains a detailed list. Knowing how to shut off natural gas following a major disaster is a suggested activity as is practicing the "Drop, Cover, and Hold" exercise. Families and businesses are encouraged to participate. For more information or assistance, contact the Kirkland Office of Emergency Management at 425-587-3650.